

sion in the Assembly. The management of that institution is in competent hands, and it is evident that the Principal is not only admirably qualified to discharge the duties incumbent upon him, but he is enthusiastic in his work. The Church at large needs no assurance that the extensive operations of the Board are managed with a high degree of prudence, economy and energetic enterprise. The names of Principal MacVicar, Dr. Warden, Rev. S. J. Taylor, the accomplished and painstaking secretary, and the others associated with them sufficiently guarantee the wisdom and competence of those entrusted with the management of its operations. Attention is directed to the following communication:—

By appointment of the General Assembly the annual collection on behalf of French Evangelization takes place on Sabbath, July 31. Copies of the annual report have this week been mailed to every minister and missionary and also to the superintendents of Sabbath schools, addressed to the care of the minister. It is greatly to be desired that a summary of the report be given from every one of our pulpits, as well as from every Sabbath school superintendent's desk, so that the people may be kept informed of the work being done.

The report is very encouraging, and indicates good substantial work. Several new openings have recently been taken advantage of for the establishment of mission day schools. In the village of St. Gabriel, county Hochelaga, one was commenced two months ago, and is now largely attended, chiefly by the children of French Roman Catholics. Still more recently one was opened in Chambly. For the past two winters several young people from this district attended the Pointe-aux-Trembles School, and received spiritual good. They returned home and told their friends and neighbours about the Gospel, and through their instrumentality a missionary was sent for, and a school opened which is already attended by about twenty children from French Catholic homes.

The church and school building erected in Hochelaga three years ago has been a great blessing to the community. The school-room has desks for forty pupils. These are all occupied, and benches have had to be secured to accommodate the increasing number who attend. The colporteurs report encouraging success in the greater accessibility they have to the houses of the people and their greater readiness to hear the message. There is quiet, steady growth in most of the regular congregations and missions. Last year the congregation at Ste. Anne became entirely self-supporting, and it is hoped that St. Johns Church, Montreal, may ere long reach this position.

The attendance at the Pointe-aux-Trembles Mission Schools was last session the largest in their history, there being 188 resident pupils, ninety-seven of whom were from Roman Catholic homes. Of the 188, upwards of sixty-five are communicants, and of these twenty gave their hearts to Christ during the winter and publicly confessed Him. During the past year in connection with the work of the Board there were ninety-five preaching stations with nine hundred and forty-two French Protestant families, besides large numbers of Roman Catholic families under the influence of the missionaries, and attending more or less regularly their services. Thirteen colporteurs distributed 1,860 copies of the Word of God and some 26,000 religious tracts and magazines. Seventeen French students are at the Presbyterian College, Montreal, preparing for the work of giving the gospel to their fellow countrymen. The outlook is most helpful, and it is earnestly desired that there may be a liberal response to the appeal of the Board for funds with which to carry it on. It is hoped that in every mission station and Sabbath school a collection will be made on the 31st inst., as well as in all regularly organized congregations throughout the whole Church. All contributions should be sent to Rev. Dr. Robt. H. Warden, Dominion Square, Montreal.

### THE GAMBLING VICE.

THE vice of gambling has grown to gigantic proportions. Like every other evil tendency of corrupt human nature it has secured an evil ascendancy over innumerable victims. It is difficult to see what could be possibly urged against its unmitigated condemnation. The apologist of the gambling evil who could command a patient hearing has yet to appear. True, Churches, both Protestant and Catholic, pressed to raise funds for charitable and religious purposes, have yielded to the temptation to play upon the weakness of people, with no higher ethical ideal than their own, for the purpose of raising much-needed funds. The best possible defence is that such persons, who could be induced to contribute in no other way, have been beguiled into paying certain sums into the Church's coffers that would otherwise have been spent foolishly. Even so, the motive enlisted has been of the lowest, and the cost of the experiment is too much for the sacred cause of religion to endorse. By descending to such methods of money-raising, Churches have exposed themselves to the scorn and contempt of the world and to the heart-felt sorrow and shame of their best friends, while the contributors to the lottery bag delude themselves with the notion that they have performed a virtuous act by partaking in a religious act of gambling. They also take heart of grace from the sanction given and are confirmed in the idea that gambling cannot be so awfully bad since the Church itself is disposed on

occasion to resort to its nefarious practices, especially if funds are low, and professed Christian people cannot be induced to contribute directly and with a willing mind.

It is with no little satisfaction that a better and more healthful feeling is beginning to prevail in the Christian Church. Questionable methods of money-raising are more generally condemned than they were a quarter of a century ago. As a consequence they are much less frequently resorted to, and the development and application of the principles of systematic beneficence have brought the miserable methods of the raffle and voting canes to popular individuals, and settling by vote who is the most popular young lady in a rural community. The Church has much to answer for in indirectly contributing to the gambling propensity. It is therefore a hopeful and encouraging sign when prominent dignitaries in the English Church are raising their voices in earnest protest against the continuance of practices that lead large numbers to ruin. The numerous suicides for which the gambling hells of Europe are responsible, and the moral and social wrecks visible wherever the gambling mania prevails, brings this moral pestilence under the significant statement of the apostle, "The end of these things is death."

't is difficult to understand why such a wretched and sordid pastime should have the slightest attraction for any one endowed with an ordinary allowance of common-sense. Frequenters of the gaming table are easily snared. The gainers are few, the losers many, and it would be difficult to say whether the winners or losers are more to be pitied. The winners dishonestly accept money for which they have given no equivalent. They have not earned it, and someone as foolish as themselves has lost it. It is a miserable business all round, and the person who gives way to the gambling habit falls into toils from which it is extremely difficult, almost impossible, to escape. No matter how insignificant and trifling the stakes, the young person who invests in a game of chance is on the downward road.

It was with no small degree of interest, therefore, that many watched the progress of the Criminal Law Bill through the Dominion Parliament. In several respects the law relating to gambling has been made somewhat more stringent than it was formerly. It is now more difficult to keep gambling houses open, and frequenters of such places are liable to summary punishment. Greater facilities have been provided for police surveillance of such places, and the operations of bucket shops and trading on margins, in other words, betting on non-existent commercial commodities, is prohibited by law. Gambling in public conveyances is suppressed, and reasonable precautions are taken to secure its prevention. Betting and pool-selling on contingent events are declared to be unlawful, and proper penalties are provided for infractions of the law forbidding these too common practices. This section of the Bill which has passed the Commons, and with which the Senate did not interfere, has been nullified by the inconsistent and illogical clause now placed on the Statute Book of the Dominion. It is in these words:—

The provisions of this section shall not extend to any person by reason of his becoming the custodian or depository of any money, property or valuable thing staked, to be paid to the winner of any lawful race, sport, game or exercise, or to the owner of any horse engaged in any lawful race, or to bets between individuals or made on the race course of an incorporated association during the actual progress of a race meeting.

The incorporation of a certain class of sportsmen makes it legal for them to indulge in practices that the law condemns and punishes in others. Lotteries are also placed under the ban of the law, but here too a similar inconsistency was sought to be enacted. They have national lotteries in the Province of Quebec, sanctioned by the Provincial Legislature. These it was desired to exempt, so that they might be permitted to carry on their operations unhindered. Thanks to the earnest efforts of the Hon. Alexander Vidal in the Senate, supported by the Hon. Mr. Power, who remarked that "they might as well enact that stealing was no crime if committed in the Province of Quebec, which was the only Province where a provincial lottery existed," this clause was eliminated from the Bill. Both Senate and Commons have been a little more lenient to the so-called Church and charity bazaars. It is wrong for anybody to raffle, but at a Church or charity bazaar it is quite proper and possibly meritorious if the sum involved does not exceed \$50. Why were these exemptions permitted to pass? There ought to be no place in the Statute Book of Canada for legalized iniquity.

## Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This the oldest and the best eclectic magazine supplies its thousands of readers with an adequate presentation of the best current literature of the day.

THE Illustrated News of the World contains weekly a large number of finely-executed pictures of prominent occurrences, portraits of persons who occupy public attention and reproductions of the chief artistic works of the day. Writers of eminence contribute regularly to its pages.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—If little readers are less critical than older ones, they are far more easily delighted with what is really good. This admirable monthly steadily seeks to do its best for its wide and most interesting constituency.

BOOK NEWS (Philadelphia: John Wanamaker) for July is rich in illustrations from new books, and presents life-like portraits of Colonel Alexander McClure, of the Philadelphia Times, and of Richard Harding Davis, the Young Philadelphian, whose stories of life in American cities have made him famous. Colonel McClure's book on "Lincoln and Men of War Times" is reviewed at length, and an article on Professor Smyth's "Philadelphia Magazines" also has in it much of interest. Mr. Hole's letter tells the publishing news from Boston, and Mr. Williams' article gives his usual discriminating views on picked books of the month.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY. (Montreal: Sabiston Publishing Co.)—The July number of this Canadian magazine contains much that is relevant to the season of the year. The illustrations are of varying degrees of excellence. It opens with a story, "The Renunciation of Grahame Corysteeen," by Jessie A. Freeman. Frank Veigh concludes his papers on "A Centenary of Legislation." It is illustrated by good pictures of the old Parliamentary buildings on Front Street, Toronto, and the figures giving animation to the scenes are readily recognizable. There are papers on camping and yachting, and other features that cannot fail to interest the readers of a home literary production that deserves the support of the Canadian people.

THE YOUNG. (Montreal: Presbyterian Offices.)—The children's paper, authorized by the General Assembly, is ably conducted by the Rev. E. Scott, editor of the Record. In the opening article he requests from his readers an expression of their opinion on the new title selected for the publication. His own proposal is to substitute the title named at the beginning of this notice for *The Children's Record*. The selection is an excellent one, and it appears to us that it would not be easy to find a better. We shall, however, see what will be the result of the plebiscite. It is a good idea that of taking his readers into his confidence. The reading matter of the magazine is selected with judicious care, and we wish heartily the prosperity and usefulness of this monthly so well fitted to interest and benefit the young.

THE ARENA. (Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—Among the contributors to the July *Arena* is Mrs. M. French-Sheldon, who writes a finely-illustrated article on scenes and experiences in the wilds of Africa; M. Fred Aldrich, who contributes a richly-illustrated paper on Julia Marlowe, J. F. Muirhead, who bids fair to distance Max O'Rell as a brilliant essayist. Mr. Muirhead writes humorously on a Briton's impression of America, but there is no bitterness in his raillery. Edwin Reed opens what promises to be the most scholarly and complete discussion of the Bacon-Shakespeare controversy ever written. Hon. William E. Springer, the leader of the Democratic House, Hon. J. C. Burrows, of Michigan, and Hon. Thomas E. Watson discuss the pending Presidential campaign. This issue is one of the most brilliant numbers yet published.

THE LADIES' HOME JOURNAL. (Philadelphia: The Curtis Publishing Company.)—The art of giving lawn parties, and a score of new ideas for all sorts of outdoor fetes, make the subject of an excellent paper by Mrs. A. G. Lewis in the July number, the same magazine presenting another striking feature in Mrs. Potter Palmer's exhaustive paper on "Women and the World's Fair." Mrs. Palmer, as President of the Board of Lady Managers of the World's Columbian Commission, speaks with authority upon a subject with which she is entirely familiar. An article which will likewise elicit interest is "A Day in an Adirondack Camp," by Jessamy Harte, the eldest daughter of Bret Harte. Miss Harte makes her literary debut in this number of the *Journal*. Miss Fanny M. Johnson contributes a sketch, with portrait, of Mrs. Edward Bellamy, the wife of the celebrated nationalist. Much else that will be interesting and instructive will be found in the current number of this deservedly popular magazine.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: 11 Richmond Street West.)—The *Homiletic Review* for July comes to us in a brand new cover, of lighter tinted paper and new designs. The number contains some noteworthy articles from the pens of eminent writers on both sides of the Atlantic. The Review Section opens with a timely and able paper by Professor Godet, of Neuchâtel, on "The Minister's Duty to the Church at the Present Day." Dr. James M. Ludlow draws some interesting deductions from the use of the Septuagint by our Lord and His Apostles as well as from the character of the quotations from the Old Testament in the New. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson follows with an article in which he traces the influence of modern evangelistic movements on the organic life of the Church. The names of the late Professor Latimer, of Hampden Sidney; Henry Varley, Bishop Westcott, Dr. MacLaren, Canon Fleming, and others assure the interest of the Sermonic Section. A thoughtful paper on "The Ethics of Politics," from the pen of Professor Thompson, of the University of Pennsylvania, is of peculiar interest at the present juncture. Chaplain Bateman, of the United States Army, contributes a very readable discussion of the work of the army chaplain. The subject of "Lynching" is treated in the Editorial Section as an issue demanding the consideration of the pulpit in view of the recent outbreaks of the spirit of lawlessness in different portions of the land.