

fatherless children. Very often minister's wives are unpaid pastors' assistants.

The Sabbath schools and young people's committees prepare and oversee all work for the training of the young.

Assembly, Synod and Presbytery funds pay all expenses of the business of the church, such as distribution of probationers, statistics, preparing hymn books, printing, etc. No other business is so economically managed as church business. The reason is, ministers pay much of the expenses out of their own pockets. Management costs 3 1/2 per cent.

The action of Orangeville Presbytery is timely and it is to be hoped that similar steps will be taken by other Presbyteries, for methods of finance in many Presbyterian congregations stand greatly in need of reformation. The weekly offering system for all purposes, wherever adopted, has demonstrated its efficiency.

#### A CHRISTMAS THOUGHT.

Our school histories need to be rewritten, not indeed omitting the great wars, but setting forth the awful cost and sacrifice involved. Let the pupils know by the hospitals, the soldiers' homes, the pension list, the great army of widows and orphans, that even victory is not all glorious. How many know that the government of the United States spends over \$5,000,000 per month upon its navy; or realize that if this vast sum for only one year were used for building up men, instead of preparing for the work of destroying men and property, each one of six million illiterates over ten years of age would get a three years' schooling? The world is slow in learning what Longfellow taught fifty years ago:

"Were half the power to fill the world with terror,

Were half the wealth bestowed on camps and courts,  
Given to redeem the human mind from error,

"There were no need of arsenals or forts."  
A distinguished English Canadian, Prof. Goldwin Smith, in an address lately delivered to the convention of trades and labor unions of Canada at Ottawa, spoke of "the enormous waste of labor in furnishing the implements of strife," and pointed out the indisputable fact that the means devoted to the prosecution of the recent destructive war in the East had been "wring from labor." One of the United States statisticians, Mr. Atkinson, has estimated that each family of five people pays for the expense of warfare twenty-five dollars a year. Is it not wicked, says The Interior, for a country that has no enemy to fear, to spend so much money on armaments? Battleships and forts cannot protect us from the army of illiterates within our own borders. Is it too much to hope that in some not very distant day the more advanced nations of the world will vie with each other, not in the size of their standing armies and the number of their warships, but in the number and efficiency of their schools and libraries and other institutions for the good of the people, as well as in the work of helping to uplift and develop the weaker races?

Philadelphia Methodist: Much so-called supplication of God has such a metallic sound that it is evident the lips are but an articulating prayer machine. The whole being should be under tribute in the worship of God. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent take it by force." It is the fervent prayer of a righteous man that availeth much.

The men who make the wars ought to fight them. Let czars and autocrats go to the front and there will be fewer wars.

#### \*CHRISTIANITY AND PATRIOTISM

In this hour of crisis in the history of a great nation when the eyes of the whole world are directed towards Russia, this little volume of Essays from the pen of Count Leo Tolstoy has appeared most opportunely. All through the late war with Japan and now during the subsequent social revolution every expression of opinion from Tolstoy has demanded the attention and respect of the press of Europe. Indeed one of the essays of this volume contains his views on the war, translated for the London Times. It is not that the views of the venerable author have received even general acceptance. That is rendered impossible by the far-reaching, almost revolutionary character of his essential ideas. But everyone who knows anything of Tolstoy and his writings must feel something of the magnetism and great earnestness of the man, who stands as one of the most striking figures in the ranks of modern men of letters. His portrait which forms the frontpiece of this volume pictures at once his great strength and something of the defect of his point of view.

The first of the several essays, Christianity and Patriotism, gives us a sort of summary of Tolstoy's views on war, government, the press, the clergy, etc. The central idea of the essay is to prove that "Patriotism in its true sense has neither material nor moral grounds for existence," that is to say, that it is incompatible with Christianity. This is a strange, almost startling doctrine in our country where so much is made of patriotism. At first we are tempted to believe the man foolish to talk thus. And yet, as we read on, we feel that there is a deep truth lying beneath what he says. However, we still believe that this is not the last word. What he says is colored by circumstances and conditions which we can scarcely appreciate, and the patriotism which he describes is not worthy of the name. It seems to be little or more than what we would call jingoism, that poor, gaudy, hollow mockery of a real, pure love of country that is so greatly to be desired. We agree with Tolstoy that we are better off without that kind of patriotism, and yet we believe that there is a love of country, like that of Jesus or St. Paul, which is one of the most beautiful expressions of Christianity and in no sense inconsistent with universal love and brotherhood.

However, though forced to criticize, we must still admit that we are quite in sympathy with the task which Tolstoy is thus striving to perform. There is much to admire, much to lay to heart in the stinging words from this strange man, in his rude peasant garb. This essay, as well as the others in the series, is well worth reading by all, whether interested in Tolstoy himself or not.

#### The Oldest Country in the New World.

Everybody is talking about the high-class special excursion which the Grand Trunk Railway System are organizing for Mexico, and which will leave Montreal 9.00 a.m., January 29th, 1906, in special Pullman cars on the "International Limited." These cars will be attached to the private train that will be occupied throughout the tour at Chicago the following morning. All expenses included in rate. Tour will last about forty days, and will cover the most interesting portions of the "oldest country in the New World." Apply to any Grand Trunk Agent or to J. Quinlan, Bonaventure station, Montreal, for all information, descriptive matter, rates, etc.

\*Christianity and Patriotism, with Pertinent Extracts from Other Essays by Count Leo Tolstoy. Translated by Paul Berger and others. Chicago, The Open Court Publishing Co., London, Kegan Paul, Trench, Trubner and Co., Ltd., 1905.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

THE REPRESENTATIVE MEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT; By Geo. Matheson, D.D., LL.D., F. R. S. E. Edinburgh. Hodder and Stoughton, London. G. B. Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto. Price \$1.75.

Those who have been fortunate enough to read Rev. Dr. Matheson's two volumes on "Representative Men of the Old Testament," will be glad to learn that his "Representative Men of the New Testament," is now available for the reading public. The first two volumes were fine specimens of Biblical literature, thoroughly evangelical in tone and as thoroughly orthodox as any devout Presbyterian could wish, furnishing at once very instructive and exceedingly entertaining reading, in marked contrast with many semi-religious works of fiction which from time to time are placed on the book market.

The new volume, "Representative Men of the New Testament," is quite equal to its two predecessors and equally as deserving of the patronage of the reading public. In his preface the author reminds his readers that the first two volumes of his gallery of portraits exhibited "phases of character," while the new volume exhibits "revolutions of character"—the "studies are mental, not critical nor historical." The list of portraits indicates the scope of Dr. Matheson's pen-portraits.

John, the expanded (the Baptist); John, the self-surrendered; Nathanael, the invigorated; Peter, the emboldened; Nicodemus, the instructed; Thomas, the convinced; Philip, the disillusioned; Matthew, the exalted; Zaccheus, the conscious-struck; James, the softened; Barnabas, the chastened; Mark, the staid; Cornelius, the transplanted; Timothy, the disciplined; Paul, the illuminated.

The above is a striking gallery of portraits. The author, in beautiful and chaste language, pictures the message which each life brings to the men and women of our day. Such literature cannot but be helpful. We have no hesitation in commending this volume to the reading public.

A FOREST DRAMA. By Louis Pendleton, Author of "The Sons of Ham," etc. Poole Publishing Co., Toronto.

This volume is not exactly thrilling, but it describes some rather exciting situations, and is on the whole romantic and interesting—a tale of Canada's western wilds in which tourists, French habitants, Indians and escaped convicts played a prominent part. All's well that ends well—the heroine of the piece was united to the man of her choice after passing through a kidnapping experience, and the escaped convict was sent back to England to suffer for his misdeeds. On the whole a very readable book.

A CHRONICLE OF CHRISTMAS by Jeannette Grace Watson, the Saalfeld Publishing Co., Akron, Ohio, New York and Chicago. This is a compilation of Yuletide literature, beautifully printed with colored borders, rough edges, etc., making a most acceptable gift book at this holiday season. The scope of the work is seen in the table of contents, which includes sections from well known authors, while the story of Christmas is quaintly told by Jeannette Grace Watson. Price \$1.00, boxed.

Presbyterian Standard: One reason why the people are insisting more and more on the management of their own public utilities is that the high prices for water, gas, etc., bear hardest upon the poor. It makes one's blood boil to think that such an essential of life and of health as water should be made to cost more through interest charges on bonds than some high financier manipulated in order to line his own pockets with the proceeds.