

rendered, has enabled him to retain when covered with defeat, blamed and defamed a confidence and love which could never be shaken or weakened by one iota, is his high moral character, his purity, sincerity and elevation of purpose. The greatest mistakes in judgment which, in the opinion of many, very many good and truly patriotic men, he may have made, have never been able to shake this in the estimation of the great mass of his fellow-country men and of his admirers all over the world. It strengthens men's faith in righteousness and goodness, and is and should ever be a great encouragement in the practice of them, that bad as the world is, where it finds those qualities and attributes existing in reality, and not in name only, it pays them homage, they still command confidence and respect. Of all the services that Gladstone has rendered his country and his time, perhaps the very greatest is the purer, higher tone and standard which by his exalted moral character and purpose he has impressed upon public official life in Great Britain, and to some extent, though all too feebly we have to confess, throughout the whole empire.

The home and domestic life of Mr. Gladstone has during a very long life been an object of affectionate interest throughout the whole English-speaking world. Here especially Mrs. Gladstone has shared with her husband the confidence, respect and esteem of his numberless friends and admirers, and been indeed in every respect a worthy even a model helpmeet as wife and mother. What society, in every stratum of it from the lowest to the highest in Great Britain, and by means of it, wherever the English language and manners govern, owes to this example of pure domestic life in the home of the real ruler of the realm, of its first citizen, penetrated and permeated by the spirit and practice of true piety, and of the same domestic virtues all but equally conspicuous upon the throne, it is impossible to overestimate. To the Queen upon the throne and to Gladstone next to it, and to her who in this respect has been his second self, a tribute of gratitude for service rendered in this regard is due from all good men which it is impossible fully to pay, and for which alone, occupying the high place they do, their memory will be embalmed in the grateful recollection of good men to distant generations. Happy is the people that are in such a case as to have such men and such women occupying the highest places in the land and making the healthful influence of their pure example radiate over the whole extent of an empire, the vastest and mightiest in many important respects which the world either ancient or modern has ever seen.

A PRAISE SERVICE.

A SERVICE under this name is, as all know, becoming quite frequent in every branch of the Protestant evangelical church. Christian people have become so accustomed to the idea and the practice of praise, that it is not apt to occur to them that this is a thing peculiar to the worship of the one living and true God as revealed in His word and in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. In heathen religions there are here and there found hymns to some of their deities, but nothing whatsoever corresponding to the Christian service of praise. Patriotism has produced noble songs to fire enthusiasm and love of country, but it has never grown into a practice for assemblies to meet and spend hours together in singing patriotic songs. Humane and philanthropic societies of every kind have multiplied wonderfully in our day; but none of them have ever gathered around themselves a body of song to be employed in a service of praise. Scepticism, agnosticism, and all forms of unbelief are songless. It is only as we come near to the heart of the great Father, to know and fully realize that we are cared for by Him, to live in His smile, that the heart breaks into a song, and heart answering to heart makes possible a united and continued service of praise. It was so under the Old Testament. It is very significant that the first great outburst recorded of sacred song was when this care and goodness and power of Jehovah as Israel's God, was so conspicuously displayed in the crossing of the Red Sea in safety and triumph by His ancient people, and the destruction of their enemies in its returning waters. "Then sang Moses, and the children of Israel, this song unto the Lord, And Miriam, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and dances, and Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the Lord, for He hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath He thrown into the sea." From this time the tide of sacred song undoubtedly rose

higher and higher, until we have its fulness in the Book of Psalms and in the song service of the temple.

Under the New Testament and in the Reformed church and her service, the place of song and praise has been growing more and more prominent and important as a means of grace and worship, until in our own day we can scarcely think of united, social worship apart from the exercise of praise. God as more fully revealed in the New Testament and especially in His incarnate Son, in the work of redemption, in the bond of brotherhood in Christ, and fellowship in the Holy Spirit, in the social worship of the Christian church and all the transporting glories of the state of future blessedness, has provided the most ample materials, and furnished constant occasion for gratitude and the utterance of praise. The fruitfulness of the religion of the gospel of grace and salvation in themes of praise has, in the sanctified genius and glowing affections of redeemed men and women, provided a body of hymnology so fully expressing every varying shade and phase of Christian feeling, every attribute of God, the human and divine nature and the whole work of Christ, reaching forward to the joys of the future state and onward throughout eternity, that praise has naturally come to occupy a very large part in Christian worship, with the prospect as the church becomes more filled with the spirit of Christ and more like the church triumphant, of taking a still more important place in her worship. Nowhere else, in no other connection, is anything like this to be found. It gives a character all its own to Christian worship, imparts to it an elevation, a brightness, a gladness and a social quality distinct from everything else, lends itself especially to a service of praise, which inspires and elevates and binds into one glad whole the different members of the body of Christ, and makes this service, properly conducted, one of the happiest, most profitable, inspiring and elevating of all the forms of Christian worship.

THE BILL TO TAX CHURCHES AND GRAVEYARDS.

IN view of the bill now before the Ontario Legislature, to abolish the exemption from taxation of churches and graveyards, a meeting was called last week of the Presbyterian Council of the city by the chairman, John A. Patterson, barrister, to consider what action should be taken with regard to it by at least the Presbyterian body in the city. The meeting was well attended. After much discussion of a friendly kind, during which the feeling of those present became somewhat clearly shown, a motion moved by the Rev. Wm. Burns was carried to the effect that, "This meeting is opposed to the bill on the ground that it does not deal fully with the whole question of exemptions." The chairman, with two or three others, were then appointed to wait upon Sir Oliver Mowat in conjunction with representatives of other denominations in the city who were also taking action in the matter. On Friday afternoon a large deputation met the Premier by appointment and laid the case before him and the grounds for their present action. Before the business was finished other members of the Government entered the room. It is unnecessary to say that the deputation was courteously received and patiently heard. After the deputation had been heard, Sir Oliver said, "he had been much interested in the statements made by the gentlemen who had spoken, and playfully remarked that he would have to say to this large deputation what he had on such occasions usually to say, that the matter would receive the most careful attention of the Government." Continuing he added, that "while it was his duty to hear both sides of this question, he had somewhat strong impressions on the subject which had been laid before him, and that these were adverse to the action proposed by the bill to abolish the exemptions referred to." So far as can be judged from what was said on the occasion of this meeting with the Premier, it does not appear very probable that the object sought by the bill will be obtained for the present at least, nor for some time, if the opinions expressed by the representatives of the different bodies are shared in by the large denominations for which they spoke.

Corus, Lancers and Waltz, by John Gowan, published and printed nicely by the well-known music store, Butland, 37 King St. west, Toronto.

Books and Magazines.

The March *Century Magazine* abounds with articles generally short and therefore to most all the more readable. A subject of almost perennial interest, "The Tuilleries," in this number under the Second Empire. "A Pilgrimage to Lourdes," that place famed for pilgrimages is by Stephen Bonsal. "The Timber Crusier," "Drowsy Kent," "Edward Grey," "The Imagination" by James Russell Lowell, "The City Tramps," "The Madison Square Garden," "Earthquake, and How to Measure them," "The Continuation of Pudd'nhead Wilson," by Mark Twain, have all an interest of their own. The Suppression of Bribery in England and the Anti-Catholic Crusade are by Jeremiah W. Jenks and Washington Gladden, respectively. The last mentioned article is of special interest to us just now in Canada, as well as timely in the United States. The Century Company, New York, U.S.

The review section of the *Homiletic Review* for March is contributed by such writers as Dr. Smythe, Edward Judson, D.D., Wayland Hoyt, D.D., and others. The sermon section is largely influenced in its selections by the Lenten season and Easter, and those desiring or needing help in this line will be sure to find it. Light on scriptural truths from recent History and Science will be found helpful and in view also of the prominence now being given to the subject, that on "Sociology and Comparative Religion" is suggestive. In the miscellaneous section is an article giving a very gloomy account indeed, too well justified we suspect, on the "Present Aspect of the Church of England." Funk and Wagnalls Company, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York.

The March number of *The Missionary Review of the World* well maintains its place of excellence as the best periodical, the fullest and most living of its kind. Dr. Pearson's article is "Christian co-operation and the Social Mission of the church." India gets two articles, and the Nez Percés Indians one. "The Christless Toilers of the City and the Duty of the Church," and "Stundism in Russia," complete the first department. The other departments, the international, the "Field of Monthly Survey," the editorial and the general intelligence are all, as usual, packed full and fresh. Funk & Wagnalls Company, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York.

The *Methodist Magazine* for March begins with two interesting articles by the editor, "The Italian Lakes, and Tent Life in Palestine." Other papers of no little interest are "Thomas J. Comber, Missionary Pioneer to the Congo," "Hard Times, their Causes and Remedies," "Lord and Lady Aberdeen," by W. T. Stead, from the *Review of Reviews*. A short article to be followed by a larger one appears on the death of Rev. Dr. Douglas. The stories, "A Singer from the Sea," and "The Dragon and the Tea-Kettle" are continued. Much other interesting matter may be found in this excellent magazine.

The March number of the *Canadian Magazine* is particularly good and embraces a large amount of varied, interesting and instructive reading. Where so many contributions are good it may appear invidious to select any for special mention. We do so simply because our space forbids us to notice all. Some of the more important articles are, "A Physical Catastrophe to America," a fictitious sketch, "The Canadian Premier and the United States President," "The Garden of British Columbia," "Mexico and its People," "Vancouver and Hawaii," "The Death Penalty." Ontario Publishing Co, Toronto.

The March number of *Knox College Monthly* is of special excellence from beginning to end. Professor Hume, of University College, Toronto, Rev. Dr. Laing, of Dundas, and Rev. R. P. MacKay, B.A., are the chief contributors, the following articles appearing from their respective pens, "Socialism," "The Scripture Doctrine of the Ages of the Kingdom," and "The Missionary Conference." Shorter articles are the Post-Graduate Session, and "The Relation between Natural Science and the Bible," by J. M. and James Skeene, respectively. The John E. Bryant Company, Toronto.

The Cosmopolitan for March begins with an article by Lyman Abbot, "The Son of the Carpenter," Jesus of Nazareth of course, written in a graphic and graceful style. Besides this it is rich in other articles grave and gay, for instruction and to delight. To turn over and examine its illustrations is an education in art of one kind at least, nothing less can be said of them than that they are marvels of beauty as the whole magazine is a marvel of cheapness. *The Cosmopolitan Magazine*, Sixth Avenue, Eleventh Street New York, U. S.

The Biblical World for March. This valuable periodical edited by Dr. Harper, Chicago, contains besides editorial notes, important contributions on "The Theology of Paul and John compared," "Paradise and the First Sin," "Hinduism's Points of Contact with Christianity," "The Duties of Man as taught in the Book of Proverbs," "Wisdom in Teaching Critical Results," together with many notes on a variety of interesting subjects. The University Press of Chicago, Ill., U. S.

Queen's University Journal for March keeps all its departments well with general literature, college news and odds and ends, all in keeping with such a journal. Its editorial notes begin with a reference coming to examinations casting their shadows before to the great disquiet, if not even terror of the students who have been taking things easy which many in other universities besides Queen's will very well understand. *Queen's University Journal*, Box 1109, Kingston.

Book News, March, 1894, appears to us to be a specially interesting number. One who has ceased to be able to give himself the gratification of buying books, can always to some extent, recall the delicious sensation by conning over the pages of the *Book News*. John Wannamaker, Philadelphia, U. S.

Received from the secretary, A. M. Rosebrugh, M.D., the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Prisoners' Aid Association, containing the addresses delivered at the annual meeting and other interesting information.