

Literary Notes.

Expression. (Expression Company, Room 19, Pierce Building, Copley Square, Boston). This is a new periodical devoted to what we may call "the higher education." It is conducted by a specialist in this department, and has a good literary tone. Among other good things the present number contains an article on "Boxane in Cyrano de Bergerac." The price of this small quarterly magazine is \$1.00 per annum.

Appleton's Popular Science Monthly is an interesting number. The article by Dr. S. Smith on "Vegetation a Remedy for the Summer Heat of Cities," is very important, as it seeks to show that trees in cities are good for comfort, health and ornament. Among many contributions of special interest we note a chapter on "The Great Bombardment," explaining how "four hundred million meteorites bombard the earth every twenty-four hours." There are the usual "fragments of science" and book reviews, and the editor stands always on his watch tower to defend Darwinism, and to show the omniscience of Mr. Spencer. This has its uses; but it is as well to remember that there were great thinkers and workers before Darwin and Spencer, and that there will probably be some in after days.

A Scottish Philosopher. (Thomas Reid, by A. Campbell Fraser. The Famous Scots Series, Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.) This is a brief biography of an able Scotsman who may be fairly classed among the philosophers. If any one says that his arguments for the validity of "common sense" was not philosophy, well, of course, that is the point in dispute. Some think that, besides being more modest, it is more philosophical for settling man's relation to the "absolute" and the "ultimate." At any rate Thomas Reid is an important name in the history of Scottish thought, and, in this little book his career is clearly sketched, and we are told what he really meant by "the common sense" of mankind. The author is quite competent for the task, as he has been a professor of philosophy for many years, and has written several important books on various branches of the subject. He says: "This little book is an attempt to present Reid in a fresh light, and in his relations to present-day thought. It deals with the Scottish character in the enduring alternation between agnostic despair and endeavor after perfect insight, which seems to be a law of the philosophic progress of mankind."

The January number of the Bibbot (T. B. Mosher, Portland, Maine, 50c, a year) contains the first part of a story by the late Wm. Morris, entitled "Gertha's Lovers." Morris as a master of words is beyond any need of our commendation; but we may point out that those who wish to get this monthly instalment of choice literature would do well to send their subscriptions now.

This selection from the "Earthly Paradise" is given on the front page:—

Think, listener, that I had the luck to stand
A while ago within a flowery land;
Fair beyond words; that thence I brought away
Some blossoms that before my footsteps lay.
N-4 plucked by me, not overfresh or bright,
Yet, since they minded me of that delight,
Within the pages of this book I laid
Their tender petals, there in peace to fade.
Dry are they now, and void of all their scent,
And lovely color, yet what once was meant,
By these dull stains, some men may not desecry,
As dead upon the quivering leaves they lie.
Behold them here and mock me if you will,
But yet believe no scorn of men can kill;
My love of that fair land wherefrom they came,
Where midst the grass, their petals once did flame.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of St. Andrew's Church, Sherbrooke, the pastor, Rev. Wm. Shearer, in the chair, and Mr. J. F. Kerr acting as secretary. The Session report indicated that only about half the members attended communion. The pastor had baptized 29, married 13 couples, and buried 15. Mr. J. W. Eddie made a strong plea on behalf of the prayer meeting, expressing the hope that more of the men would turn out. The Sabbath school report showed the receipts had been \$1.00, expenditure \$123.98, leaving a balance of \$8.63. Mr. James Davidson read the Senior Ladies' Aid report. The total income from this branch of church work was \$325.10. The Young Ladies' Aid Society made from all sources \$128.74. Mrs. M. Bartlett gave in the East Sherbrooke Ladies' Aid report. They had held many successful meetings during the year, and had handed into the church treasury \$100. Rev. William Shearer reported on behalf of the W. F. M. S., which showed the receipts were \$125.99. The report of the Y. P. S. C. E. was read by Mr. J. Keith Edwards. The total amount of moneys raised for church work, including the above, was \$3,066.08. The debt now on the church is \$5,300. It was decided that an effort be made to raise \$1,000 at the next anniversary service. The retiring managers, Messrs. J. F. Kerr, J. K. Edwards, and J. W. Eddie, were re-elected, and Mr. A. D. Brodie and Mr. James Hall were appointed managers in room of Messrs. A. S. Johnson and C. J. Digby, removed from the city.

OTTAWA AND VICINITY.

Rev. R. Whillans, of Hintonburg, conducted the services in Merivale last Sunday.

In Stewarton Presbyterian Church on Sunday Rev. Mr. Herbinson preached a sermon in memory of the late Lizzie Carruthers.

The Presbyterians of Ottawa have presented a petition to the Council asking that no by-law be passed permitting the running of street cars on Sunday.

The Ladies' Aid of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, gave an at home in the church parlors to the teachers and pupils of the Presbyterian Ladies' College. Refreshments were served and a good programme presented.

In Bethany Church, Hintonburg, Rev. Robt. Eddie strongly denounced professional singing in churches. "God," he said, "had given the singers their voices, and therefore they should be only too willing to sing his praises free."

At the morning service in St. Andrew's Church last Sunday the five newly elected elders, Dr. Gibson, L. H. Alexander, Prof. Robertson, Gilbert Allan and J. A. Gemmill, were ordained, Rev. W. T. Herridge officiated, assisted by the other elders. Mr. Hemidge preached strongly on the nearness of Presbyterian principles to Bible truths.

Rev. Dr. Armstrong last Sunday, in referring to the new Catechism, said that "its production indicated two things, first, the substantial agreement of these churches in regard to its fundamental doctrines of Christian religion; second, the strong current that is setting towards unity instead of separation in these communities. Dr. Armstrong compared the new with the Shorter Catechism, the latter being more logical and comprehensive, but the new Catechism, in his opinion, is better adapted to modern theological education.

Deaths.

At his home in Bradford, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on February 16th, Archibald McLean, Treasurer of the City of Bradford. Deceased was a son of the Rev. D. McLean, Glenarthy, Scotland, and brother of Mrs. D. D. McLeod, Barrie.

McKEEN—At the manse, Orono, Ontario, on Feb. 15, 1899, Mary Dinwoodie, only daughter of the Rev. J. A. McKeen, in the 12th year of her age.

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NOTICE.

ON ACCOUNT of the lamented death of the Rev. Dr. Cochrane, the late clerk of the Synod of Hamilton and London, I have requested the Rev. Dr. Laing, of the approaching Synod of Bradford. Presbytery clerks and others are respectfully requested to address all communications bearing on Synod business to Dr. Laing.

(Signed), F. McCUAIG, Mod. of S. of H. & L.

Welland, January 28, 1899.

J. YOUNG, (ALEX. MILLARD.)

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