

advantageous to the interests of the Mission in the Australian Colonies. It was further agreed to accept Mr. Robertson's report, with expression of gratitude to God for his health and that of his family, for the work, and for the progress made during the year.

Respecting the labour traffic, the Secretary was directed to correspond either with Mr. Inglis or with the Secretary of Committee of Foreign Missions of the Free Church, and to ascertain whether they thought anything further could be accomplished by appealing either to the Local or Colonial authorities in reference to this drawback to missionary success. Rev. J. W. Mackenzie having stated in the letter read, that he intended to leave his daughter in Sydney for her education, it was agreed to authorize the payment of \$75 per annum to aid him in carrying out his design, and to invite Ladies' Societies or others wanting special objects to contribute to formation of a small fund for the education of the children of missionaries in the New Hebrides.

TRINIDAD MISSION.

The reports of Rev. Messrs. Morton and Grant for the year 1879 were read, with letter from Mr. Morton and a paper in explanation from Mr. Grant. The reports of Mr. Christie and Miss Blackadder had not come to hand. The accounts were then submitted and read, shewing that very respectable sums had been raised on the Mission field, and that, while more work had been accomplished than had been shadowed forth in the estimates of last year, in no case had the estimates been exceeded, consequently there were no balances to pay.

In reference to the reports it was agreed: That the Board regards them as highly encouraging, and hereby expresses its gratification at the wisdom and efficiency with which the Mission has been conducted, with acknowledgment of the goodness of God in the prosperity granted during the past year.

The accounts also appeared satisfactory, but in accordance with our usual custom, were referred for examination to a committee consisting of Rev. A. McL. Sinclair, Rev. E. A. McCurdy and Mr. H. Graham.

The estimates were submitted as follows:

ESTIMATES FROM TRINIDAD.

	1879	1880	Reduction.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
San Fernando	510 7 4	385 7 4	125 10 0
Savana Grande	437 9 6	397 9 6	40 0 0
Couva	129 17 4	81 3 3	48 14 1
Totals	1078 4 2	864 0 1	214 4 1

On motion these were accepted and sanctioned, and it was agreed to express gratification at the continued liberality of the planters and other gentlemen resident in Trinidad, by whom the Mission has been aided, at the liberal aid furnished by the Government to schools, and especially at the liberality so largely developed among the native Christians, resulting together, in the diminution of our estimates for 1880 to the extent of £185 stg., and the secretary was directed to call the attention of the Church generally to the fact that, notwithstanding this decrease of expenditure by us, the work to be carried on during 1880 greatly exceeds that of any previous year. The Secretary read a report, transmitted by Mr. Grant, on the training of a native ministry. This consisted chiefly of ministers of the Presbytery of Trinidad, shewing the syllabus of subjects for examination which the Presbytery had adopted, shewing further that Lal Behari and Joseph Annajee had appeared as candidates, had been examined by the Presbytery on a part of the course of study prescribed, and had acquitted themselves well, and that the examination was to be continued at next meeting of Presbytery.

After consideration, it was agreed to approve of what had been done, to encourage further progress in this course, and to report the facts to the General Assembly for their consideration and approval.

P. G. MCGREGOR.

WE understand that the second annual meeting of the Knox College Alumni Association will be held on the 7th of April next, the day on which College Session closes. Particulars will be given next week.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—Dr. Reid has received from a student for Home Missions, \$2; and from the executors of late Mr. Alexander Muirhead, York Township, \$50, for Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund; also from the executors of the late Mr. James Thomson, King, \$240, for the Home Mission Fund.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Brain-Work and Overwork.

Philadelphia: Presley Blakston. Montreal: Dawson Brothers. Cloth, 50 cents.

A glance here and there at the pages of this book results in a resolution to employ our earliest leisure in giving it a careful perusal for our own personal benefit. Meantime, we can commend the volume to the attention of all others concerned, and to that of the general public, for it belongs to a series in which we have great confidence—the "American Health Primers."

The Gospel in all Lands.

New York: A. D. Randolph & Co.

The extended notice which we would wish to give of this new illustrated missionary magazine is precluded by want of space. The first number (February, 1880) contains somewhere about one hundred articles, all connected with mission work, many of which are accompanied by fresh and well executed illustrations, bringing the scenes of heathen lands and the surroundings of missionary life vividly before the reader's mind. Its circulation will greatly assist the cause of missions.

The Scot in British North America.

By W. J. Rattray, B.A. Toronto: Maclear & Co.

The appearance of the first volume of this work fully justifies the favourable notice given in this paper some months ago on the strength of the prospectus and specimen pages. The subject which the author has undertaken is indeed a vast one, but the industry and ability abundantly evidenced in the pages of this volume furnish ample guarantee for its accomplishment in a worthy manner, while the mechanical execution of the work is all that could be desired. It is to be completed in four volumes, demy 8vo., price \$2 per volume.

Publications of the Religious Newspaper Agency, New York.

It would be extremely difficult to find a more truthful index of current religious thought than "The Preacher and Homiletic Monthly." The number for March contains No. VI. of Dr. Taylor's excellent series of papers on "Expository Preaching." The publishers of this magazine, Messrs. I. K. Funk & Co., are lending their aid to the work of crowding out pernicious cheap literature by publishing standard works at a low rate. We have now before us a specimen of "Class A" of the "Standard series," being "The Manliness of Christ," by Thomas Hughes, price 10 cents; and of "Class B" of the same, containing Macaulay's Essays, unabridged, at 15 cents.

Life of Alexander Duff, D.D.

By George Smith, LL.D. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: James Campbell & Son.

A very large number of memoirs are heavy, cumbersome and uninteresting. Their length is out of all proportion to the importance of the individuals whose histories they narrate, while the exaggerated tone of hero worship and absurd laudation which runs through the whole is generally as disagreeable as it is ridiculous. Respectable men, whose lives had been fairly useful, but of little general interest, and with no permanent or wide-spread influence for either good or evil, have in this way suffered very undeservedly at the hands of injudicious admirers, while bulky volumes made up of all sorts of odds and ends, have tried the consciences of friends and the tempers of readers in ways, and to a degree, that can only be appreciated by painful and personal experience. But while many lives have thus been sketched with very unnecessary minuteness, and many more have had public attention called to them which never ought to have been sketched at all, even in the faintest and least laboured fashion, it does not follow that all lengthened memoirs are necessarily as "heavy and dull" as they are "long" and minute. An individual rises up every now and then of sufficient force of character not only to excuse but to justify a somewhat laboured and lengthy narrative of what he was and what he did, of what he said and what he felt, of the training he received, the triumphs he secured, the sufferings through which he passed, the opposition he provoked, the friendships he enjoyed and the wide-spread and permanent influence which he exerted. Of such an one's life almost the minutest details will be found interesting and so far important. By general consent, Dr. Duff takes his place, of right, in the select and pri-

vileged company of those of this class whose memory posterity will not willingly let die. Whether or not he is to be reckoned, as Dr. Taylor says he is, among the "first three" in the roll of missionary "mighties," we shall not say. It is beyond all doubt, at any rate, that he is far up in the list of the "thirty," while his particular place may be left to be determined by those who at a greater and more advantageous distance will be able to settle with greater accuracy than those of the present generation can be expected to do, the relative importance of his work, and the true position he is therefore permanently to occupy among those who have done noble work for the cause of Christ and the good of the race. The narrative of his life as given by Dr. Smith in those handsome volumes, is long, but will not, we think, by the great majority of its readers be thought too long. Some of the details, perhaps, might have been shortened with advantage, and some of the rather excessive eulogy altogether dispensed with, but, upon the whole, it is one of those memoirs that can be read from beginning to end with sustained interest and undoubted profit. Dr. Duff's work, both in the East and West, was of such a character and exerted so wide and varied an influence that in order to describe it with any measure of justice and intelligibility it was necessary to give a tolerably full account of the general state of things both in India and Scotland during the whole of his career. For doing this effectively Dr. Smith's past experiences and labours have specially fitted him, and he has performed his task in a workmanlike fashion, with an evidently minute and accurate acquaintance with the several points he describes and discusses and a hearty and enlightened sympathy with the aims and efforts of the man whose trials and triumphs he so lovingly and successfully sets before his readers. Our space will not allow us to give even the shortest outline of those volumes, or to attempt to set before our readers the man and the missionary, the philanthropist and the statesman, the educator and the organizer, the popular orator, the wise counsellor, the tender, sympathizing friend, and the devout and ever growing saint, as he is described in these at full length, and with affectionate, some might say even exaggerated, enthusiasm. What must strike every reader of this narrative of Dr. Duff's life is the singular unity of purpose and aim by which it was characterized throughout. "One thing he did" with an energy which seemed to know no weariness and a concentration of purpose and effort from which he was never successfully tempted to turn aside. In this respect, what he was when he went forth comparatively a boy, as the pioneer missionary of his Church, he was when he had measured out his three score years and ten, and when with solemn emphasis he could say, *Vixi*. In one way or other he made everything subservient to the attainment of the one great object for which he lived and for which, as long as life lasted, he continued to labour, if not with the buoyant elasticity and tireless energy of his prime, at least with as unquestioning a faith and, according to the measure of his strength, with as unwearied an assiduity. We can well believe that some thought him overbearing, and that there was sometimes about him a certain masterful air which was rather trying to those who had high notions about Presbyterian parity. Seeing, as he thought, very distinctly the importance and reasonableness of his own plans and the mighty issues involved in their being carried successfully through, it is possible there might have been occasionally an impatience of opposition and a certain fervour of expression which some who did not agree with him might not altogether like, and to which they might not be altogether willing to submit. Dr. Smith protests most strongly that this was not the case, and that on the contrary no man could have been tenderer, more considerate and more forbearing than Dr. Duff was with younger and weaker brethren. It may have been so, but at any rate the tendency and the temptation of the *perservidum ingenium* must have been in that direction. We hope that this Life will be widely circulated and will greatly help in the diffusion and deepening of that earnest over-mastering evangelistic spirit by which this redoubtable Highlander was so remarkably and sustainedly characterized. At the same time we cannot help adding that an edition say at half the price of the present one would pay the publishers better and do indefinitely more good. Many who would like to have a copy of Dr. Duff's Life can't afford four dollars and a half for such a purpose.