

being read, and in some cases serving as an advertisement even aid their circulation."

Mr. Sidney summarizes in the following concise list the most urgent of the reforms which he believes some future pope will have to institute:

"(1) The restoration of the cup to the laity, at holy communion.
 "(2) Permission to married convert clergymen to take holy orders, on joining the Roman Church.
 "(3) The resignation of a pope on reaching the age of seventy.

"(4) The surrender of all claims to the temporal power.

"(5) The appointment, in every country, of a commission to examine into the authenticity of the relics preserved for the adoration of the faithful.

"(6) Raising the age limit of confirmation for children, and thereby preventing their approaching the altar for communion, and entering the confessional too soon.

"(7) Restriction of the powers and numbers of the Society of Jesus.

"(8) The publication of an annual balance-sheet, minutely showing the distribution of the funds collected under the name of "Peter's Pence."

"(9) The abolition of the taking of 'final vows' by monks and nuns. By this I mean vows binding men and women, young or old, to conventual seclusion for the whole of their lives."

Mr. Sidney detects already signs of a coming storm within the Roman Catholic communion. "Americanism" and "Liberal Catholicism," he points out, are movements gradually growing in intellectual force and vivacity. Although from time to time denounced and retarded, they revive and continue to flourish. He concludes:

"Until a pope, such as we have now described, shall sit in Peter's chair, all schemes so constantly discussed concerning the so-called reunion of Christendom, and re-union with Rome, can never assume any practical form. In the sixteenth century Rome fell from her proud position, simply because she refused to grant reasonable concessions to the reformers, and unless some great liberal pope be elected in this century, or early in the next, her further fall will be by then far more disastrous than it was in Luther's day. It will not be a further decline, but a complete collapse."

"Christianity is now the prevailing religion of the world," says The Church Economist, which continues: "Its adherents, according to Dr. Roberts, amount to 477,080,158. The next religious faith in point of numbers is Confucianism, with 256,000,000 adherents. Hinduism is third with 190,000,000 and Mohammedanism fourth with 176,834,372. Buddhism is given 147,000,000. The various smaller heathen faiths count up only 118,129,470. This is on the basis of a population of the globe of 1,430,000,000. In other words, the adherents of Christianity comprise just about one-third of the world's population."

STATE OF THE FUNDS.

The following statement shows the receipts to 11th February 1904 and 11th February, 1905, and the amount still required for the respective schemes:

	1904.	1905. required.	Still
Home Missions	\$ 71,829	883,095	\$46,905
Augmentation	12,613	14,153	15,647
Foreign Missions	39,069	62,500	43,959
French Evangelization	12,074	12,168	11,832
Pointe aux Trembles	6,256	7,439	4,561
Min. Wid's. & Orp's	5,914	7,004	7,906
Aged & Infirm Mins'	5,746	6,978	7,022
Assembly Fund	3,980	4,719	2,781
Knox College	2,917	3,188	8,812
Queen's College	1,405	1,855	3,645
Montreal College	1,456	1,061	3,939
Manitoba College	2,204	2,290	1,410

It is encouraging to know that the total receipts to this date are some \$40,000 in excess of those at the corresponding date last year. The Foreign Mission receipts alone are \$23,000 in advance. This is largely owing to the special effort on behalf of the deficit. The amount yet required for all the funds before the close of this month, is about \$160,000. There are, however, somewhere about 500 congregations from whom nothing has yet been got and a considerable number of other charges with two stations where the one station has forwarded a contribution but the other has not. Although only a fortnight of the year remains yet if every one of these non-contributing congregations or stations forward generous gifts, the full amount required may be got. As in some cases treasurers do not know when the year closes, will ministers personally enquire and kindly see that all contributions are forwarded so as to reach Toronto on or before the evening of Tuesday, 28th inst.

A promising publication reaches our table for the first time this month. We allude to the Canadian Forestry Journal, which will be devoted to the interests of the Forestry Association, and will aid in enlisting popular sympathy and support for the more effective carrying out of its aims. The initial issue contains several suggestive articles as well as an appreciation of the late John Bertram, who was a warm and intelligent friend of Canadian Forestry, and had contributed valuable papers on such subjects as "Forest Management in Ontario," and "The Economic Management of Pine Forests." Mr. R. H. Campbell, the managing editor, has done his work well, and the progress given in this number form a useful addition to the still rather scant literature of what promises to be an important work for Canada.

OUR MAGISTRACY.

Canadians are justly proud of their judges and magistrates. No country under the sun has a better class of men administering the laws, and as a consequence within our borders purchased legal decisions, mob violence and lynching are unknown. It is universally felt that under the aegis of Britain's flag the person and property

of every subject is safe from arbitrary or unjust disposal; and all this is in marked contrast to what obtains in Russia or even in other countries, possessed of good laws but badly administered. We are led to these reflections noting in our exchanges that Mr. Alex. Bartlett, of Windsor, has completed fifty years as police magistrate of that city. He has always been a model official, intelligent, fair and fearless. As a representative elder at the meetings of church courts, Mr. Bartlett always takes his share of the work, and on committees, he ever gives efficient service. Long may his bow abide in strength!

Another of our older magistrates, also an elder of long standing, is Mr. A. F. Wood, of Madoc, Ont., who was for several years in the Provincial Legislature, and who has given the country valuable service in several capacities. It will be remembered that Mr. Wood was the magistrate who presided at the recent "bogus ball" investigation at Belleville, where he gained a good deal of ill-will and not a little abuse in certain quarters because of his determination to get at the bottom of the iniquity, no matter who suffered. Magistrates, such as Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Wood—men who discharge their official duties ably and impartially—are numerous in Canada. But few have worked so long or are as well known, as the gentlemen above named.

BONDAGE OF RITUALISM.

It is interesting, not to say surprising, says The Interior, to find from the pastoral letter of the Bishop of Salisbury, what are the "burning questions" that just now disturb the slumbers of the English establishment. The bishop has lately been called upon to testify before the Royal Commission on Ecclesiastical Discipline, and he reports that this investigating committee has found few disorders arising from defects in ritualistic observances but many arising from excess of the same. He therefore advises his rectors that "no more than two lights should be lighted over the holy table during the celebration" of the communion. He instructs his ministers that they must pour water into the wine at the celebration of the eucharist, not the wine into the water, and that the wine "must be more than half of he whole." During the reading of the epistle the congregation must not rise, and during the communion service no hand-bell must be rung. He "emphatically disapproves" of boy-servers, and he will not have children pressed to attend communion either individually or in a body. Warnings so serious as these upon trifles so indifferent, bespeak the bondage of ritualism.

Current Literature is a useful publication for busy people. It gives a birds-eye view of what is doing in the world of contemporary thought, and does it in an attractive manner. The February number is well up to the mark; and a valuable feature is the department devoted to reviews of new books. The Current Literature Publishing Co., New York.