

Correspondence.

Dr. Paton's Mission.

Editor of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

SIR,—The question has recently been asked, "What is Dr. Paton's Mission?"

For the benefit of any of your readers interested in the work of that noble servant of Christ who require an answer to that question, allow me a brief answer.

He is now, and has been for some years the missionary agent of the Federal Assembly of the Presbyterian churches, Australia, engaged at home and abroad in stirring up interest in mission work among the cannibals of the New Hebrides, and in raising the funds necessary for carrying on the work of these churches there. The collections taken up at his meetings while on this continent were devoted to that object, and afforded most timely aid while Australia was convulsed with financial panic.

While in Canada he also sought to enlist the sympathies of the Sabbath schools that he visited, in the support of a new steam auxiliary, Dayspring, for service as a mission vessel among the New Hebrides. Readers of his autobiography know that for years £6,000 have been on hand for the building of the vessel. The increased expense of a steamship over a sailing vessel has held the project back. He is now seeking to provide the necessary addition to the annual revenue for this purpose. The work on the group is much crippled in the meantime. The project was regarded with favour in many places visited, and J. K. Macdonald, Esq., Confederation Life, Toronto, kindly consented to receive and transmit moneys on that account. Since Dr. Paton crossed the Atlantic he has received so much encouragement in this matter, that there is hope that the full amount required will be secured within a few months.

So much interest was awakened in Britain by his autobiography, that an independent movement has been set on foot there known as "the John G. Paton mission fund," the object of which is to provide means "to evangelize the non-evangelized portions of the New Hebrides." The movement is going forward successfully, one missionary has been recently engaged, and other suitable men are being sought for. His self-sacrificing contribution of the large profits of his book, to the cherished object of his heart, the complete evangelization of the group, has given a powerful stimulus to the movement. Let us hope and pray for its speedy realization.

Yours etc., J. W. MITCHELL.
TORONTO, Feb. 16th, 1894.

S. S. Library Books.

Editor of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

SIR,—Will you please insert the following: If any of the Presbyterian S. S. of the city have books in their libraries they can part with, will the librarian please communicate with W. C. Smith, Knox College.

Yours truly, W. C. SMITH.
TORONTO, Feb. 21st, 1894.

At Public Meetings.

Editor of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

SIR,—Do you not think that some attention should be called to the exceedingly rude manners frequently displayed by so many people at public meetings. At the last public meeting of the Knox College missionary society I was much struck by the inaccuracy (entirely unknown to himself, of course,) of a remark made by the chairman at the close of one of the addresses. He said he was sure everyone present had "listened" with great pleasure and much profit to the interesting and instructive address which had just been delivered. Had this statement of the chairman been correct, there would have been no occasion for me to address you this letter, but such I sincerely regret to say was not the case. Immediately across the aisle from me there sat two ladies, who, during nearly the whole time occupied by the speaker, and other speakers also, maintained an almost continual conversation. Three seats to their rear were a lady and gentleman who spent a great deal of the time conversing with one

another, while three seats in front of me were two other ladies who offended in the same way. No one who occasionally attends meetings of this kind but has been more than once annoyed and lost the point of many a good argument, by such exhibitions of ignorance and impoliteness, both to the speaker and to those who for the time being are their forced companions.

Surely this can only be the result of that thoughtlessness which latterly seems to be so prominent a characteristic; or, can it be that it sometimes arises from necessity or convenience? Are some of these persons so situated that the attendance at these meetings is no more than a concerted arrangement to give them an opportunity to meet, exchange news, and discuss social and other matters? If so, I sympathize with them most heartily, but do not think that even this gives them the right to rob numbers of others of the entertainment or information they may have come at considerable inconvenience to receive.

Yours etc.,

GEO. H. SMITH.

TORONTO, Feb. 19th, 1894.

Literature.

OLD TESTAMENT STUDIES IN THE BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. By W. G. Moorehead, D.D.

THE author is well and favourably known in Canada through his occasional presence at the Niagara conferences. We shall always remember with pleasure a discussion by him of the covenants on one of these occasions. All who heard that, or others of his addresses, will expect to find in this volume a clear and satisfactory analysis of the contents of each book, and will not be disappointed. Dr. Moorehead's mind is eminently methodical. His analysis is always clean cut, leaves no ragged edges; his style is clear and forcible, without a superfluous word. This work is not a commentary nor an attempt at historical criticism. It gives us the results of a critical study of the authorship, purpose and contents of the books of the Old Testament without the processes by which the results are arrived at. Any one who takes up this book expecting to know the Bible by reading it, will be disappointed. There can be no substitute for the Bible itself in the endeavour to become acquainted with its contents, but to any student or Bible class teacher, who wishes to get a comprehensive view of a whole book in order to intelligently study it in detail, it will prove an invaluable aid. And after the section in hand is carefully studied, verse by verse, the student will then see between the lines, as he cannot at the first reading, that our author has grasped and condensed the results of accurate and profound scholarship. Dr. Moorehead is a conservative, and for that reason will, by some, be set down as behind the times. In fact, with many, the only evidence of being abreast with the scholarship of the times, is the acceptance of the views of those who are known by the name, "Higher Critics"—an assumption that all sound scholarship leads to their conclusion. But all Bible scholars are higher critics, for Higher Criticism is a method of study. Dr. Moorehead is a higher critic, and, because he is a higher critic, like many other able scholars, still believes that Moses wrote the Pentateuch; that Job was a real historic character, and that Isaiah spoke the prophecies that go by his name. There are many able books intended to assist the student in an understanding of the Word of God, somewhat after this fashion, by such distinguished scholars as Edersheim, Godet, Goikto, Driver, Fraser, etc., but none that we have seen is so suitable as this for the ordinary student or Bible class teacher. The key note of the whole is given in the introductory chapter, on "The temper of mind with which the Scriptures should be studied." As the word of God we should be reverent and devout in its study—recognize its authority and allow its teaching to have supreme sway.

MISS IDA M. TARBELL has written for McClure's Magazine for March, a comprehensive account of the French method of identifying criminals. As invented and perfected by M. Bertillon, of the French police depart-

ment, this method has a scientific accuracy that makes it infallible. No offender once brought to record under it, can possibly escape identification if ever he is brought again; and Miss Tarbell, before writing of it, went to the Paris police headquarters and saw it, in all its details, practically applied. Her article will be illustrated with numerous pictures from photographs provided by M. Bertillon himself.

OUR NEW HYMNAL, FOR GENERAL USE AND SPECIAL SERVICES. By Philip Phillips, Mus. Doct., and Philip Phillips, Jr. Cloth, illuminated, with extra stout boards. Square, 2mo, 800 pp., \$1.00. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

THE churches of every denomination will be glad of this book. Its title, "Our New Hymnal," indicates the character of the contents, which are adapted for use of every Christian congregation, so that each one can call this new hymnal its own. It has, also, other important features which make it of still greater value, supplying a choice selection of hymns for every occasion, for the Church, the Sabbath-school, Evangelical Meetings, Prayer and Gospel Meetings, for Christian Associations, Epworth Leagues, King's Daughters and Sons, for Mission Work, National Occasions, etc. There are in the volume 530 hymns, ancient and modern, (the text printed in beautiful brovier type) representing more than seventy different authors. The topical selections for special occasions, such as Christ in Song, Salvation in Song, Thanksgiving in Song, Children's Service in Song, Temperance in Song, etc., are accompanied with connective Scripture readings, which feature also is indexed.

An admirable aid, for those who shall use this new hymnal, is its complete Concordance Index, whereby any pastor or leader can find and select, at a glance, the right subject or sentiments needed for any religious occasion. In this index the alphabetical arrangement of the most suggestive words in all the hymns with the lines in which they occur, enables anyone to readily find any hymn, if only some important word therein is recalled. There is also an alphabetical index of hymns by their first lines, and an alphabetical index of tunes. Its compilers and editors, Philip Phillips & Son, are men of song who are known the wide world over in the line of sacred song, and none, perhaps, are better fitted for the preparation of such a book as this. Taken as a whole, many of our churches will, no doubt, see good reasons for changing their present books to use "Our New Hymnal."

REV. GAVIN CARLYLE, M.A., formerly editor of The News of the Churches, and author of a "Memoir of Adolph Saphir, D.D.," is arranging for the issue of a monthly missionary journal, to be called The Missions of the World. It promises to take a wider survey than the monthly magazines of the churches and missionary societies, while it will derive much of its information from them. The first issue is expected to appear in the middle of March. We believe there is a place for such a journal, and we wish it all success.

ON the evening of Tuesday, February 6th, the people of Claude gathered at the manse, taking its occupants completely by surprise. Every one seemed to be in the best of spirits as if possessed of some pleasing secret too good to reveal. In due time, however, the mystery was solved, as Mr. D. McDougald, in the name of the congregation, read an address warmly expressing appreciation of the services of their pastor and his devoted partner. Hardly had the words been spoken when the young ladies appeared laden with a fine astrachan coat for Mr. Farquharson and a pair of Persian lamb gauntlets and two beautiful hanging lamps for Mrs. Farquharson. Though thoroughly surprised Mr. Farquharson made a suitable reply, warmly thanking them for this, which he said was only one of a series of kindnesses which, during all the period of his pastorate, had cheered him in his work. After lunch, served by the ladies, the happy party broke up, everyone evidently delighted in being the means of making their pastor and his wife so happy.