

who understands the work of a journalist would for a moment consider this as railing. That we have ever uttered a sentiment, or written a line expressive of our own feeling towards or opinion of the Established Church of Scotland, which even approaches to railing we most emphatically deny. We should be untire to ourselves did we do so, for we have not, we have never had, any such opinion of or feeling toward that church as would lead us to rail at her or her doings. We have too much respect and even affection for many fathers and brethren of our happily united Canadian Church, whose antecedents connect them with the Church of Scotland, to indulge in so cruel and wanton a thing as railing at what is dear to them.

What constitutes "reforms in churches and church services" is a matter upon which there is room for a wide difference of opinion. Frankly, we would not consider the opening services at St. Cuthberts, as reported in the newspapers, to be reforms, but our feeling with respect to them is one of such pained sadness and sorrow at so great a departure from simplicity in our forms of service and worship as to leave no room in our heart for railing.

Much may be said, we admit, in behalf of some addition to our form of church service, of the permissive use of set forms of prayer, or of some simple liturgy. These would not necessarily, however, in the nature of things, promote personal piety, more godly living, active zeal in Christian work, or entire consecration to Christ. We do not fear comparison, in these respects, of the mass of Presbyterians, whose forms of worship are so few and simple, with the members of churches who have a much greater amount of the form and ritual which many wish to see introduced into the Presbyterian church. The forms we now have are so often and so completely robbed of all devoteness, impressiveness and expressiveness by an indifferent, slipshod, perfunctory, slovenly observance of them that we would dread giving any more scope than there is at present for such neglect to be exercised upon. Before adding more we could wish to see every minister making the most and very best, and they are capable of much, of the few and simple forms which have long marked our Presbyterian service.

We have also "sneered at the gown, which we are pleased to call clerical millinery." If we remember rightly "clerical millinery" was also an expression used in some old country exchange; if not, many will regard it as not far from the truth. We have no wish to sneer at the gown. We do not feel like it. It is purely a matter of personal taste and preference. We do not object to anyone who wishes to wear a gown. For ourselves we prefer that everything should be avoided that appears to make of the ministry a caste. We do not share with Old-Fashioned Churchmen the hope that in the near, or even in the distant, future the Assembly will give a deliverance on this subject, instructing or advising all its ministers while conducting public worship to wear this historic, dignified, becoming and comfortable insignia. On the contrary we hope that, for a very long time to come, our Assembly will have its hands full of matters so much more important that it will have neither time nor inclination to trouble itself with gowns or hoods.

As for the matter of dignity, we humbly think this must be found in the man himself rather than in the man plus the gown. When a minister enters upon the performance of his public duties with the decorum, the reverence and devoutness born of a due sense of the responsibility, sacredness and solemnity of his office, as leading his people into the audience chamber of the great God, there will be no lack of dignity. If this be wanting, while a gown may make his solemn trifling more pitiable and unbearable, neither the Geneva gown, nor any other kind of a gown, will give dignity to him, to his work or his office.

One word in closing about being "sectarian." If this is how others see us, it is not as we see ourselves. We distinguish between being sectarian and having an honest and intelligent belief in and advocating the claims of Presbyterian doctrine and polity. We believe Presbyterianism has something in it distinctive which is worth standing up for, and this we mean to do. If this is being sectarian, then so be it. It is not what we understand as such. While we love all who love the Lord Jesus Christ by whatever name they may be known, this is a Presbyterian paper. It is our aim and most earnest desire to bring it, and keep it, in close and sympathetic contact with the branch of the Church which it lives to serve—to spread her doctrines, to defend her interests, to advocate the claims of all her benevolent

schemes; and, at the same time, to work hand in hand with all bodies of Christians who are willing to work with us in building up and extending to the remotest ends of the earth the Redeemer's Kingdom. This is what we aim to be and do; if we have failed we sincerely regret it, and now ask an Old-Fashioned Churchman—Presbyterian, we should have preferred to say—to help us to do better.

OUR MISSION FUNDS.

ALREADY, only four months from the meeting of the General Assembly, a note of warning is beginning to be sounded with regard to the state of our mission funds. We trust that this will be listened to by the church. According to the statement of our Foreign Mission Secretary, in our last issue, the church is now carrying, and paying interest on, a debt of \$27,235. The executive of our Home Mission Committee at its last meeting made grants to the amount of \$35,000. In connection with these grants we are told that, "after lengthened consideration of the state of the funds, and the prospect of the grants made exceeding the revenue, the following was agreed to:—The committee earnestly press upon the Synods of the Northwest and British Columbia, and the Presbyteries within their bounds, the absolute necessity of reducing their claims upon the fund, either by the grouping of stations or otherwise, as they see fit, in view of the fact that the revenue of the committee is altogether inadequate to meet the demands of the present year, the expenditure of the past six months being nearly \$6,000 in excess of the corresponding six months of last year."

There is food for much serious reflection on the part of Sessions and Presbyteries, and of all thoroughly interested in the mission work of our church, in the above statements. It was only by the most persistent efforts of many earnest men that the funds of our church last year, when the General Assembly met, did not show very considerable deficiencies in the case of several of our schemes. In the nature of things such special efforts cannot be repeated every year, and they ought not to be necessary. Every minister and session of the church which gives any thought to the subject must see that, in order to hold our own, to make ends meet this year, and have our work vigorously prosecuted, a steady and determined effort to this end will be needed over the whole church. Our officials are giving timely warning so that no one will be able to plead ignorance of the state of the funds as an excuse for not doing all that it is possible to do, to secure whatever is necessary for the carrying on of our work. The Foreign Mission Secretary makes a practical suggestion which, if it were only carried out, would, of itself, give some relief, and save for our work much money which is now if not lost at least sunk in interest. There are considerable sums of money in the hands of many congregations now lying idle, or drawing the smallest interest, intended expressly and solely for our church's work. If that were sent on promptly, it would, as Mr. Mackay says, give much relief, and that immediately. Besides, if this were done regularly and generally all over the church, it would enable our committees, instead of going on blindly for the greater part of the year, to have a somewhat clear understanding from month to month how they stood financially, and accordingly to conduct the work much more intelligently than they can now do. It is for every minister and elder and session, especially, to cherish a sense of personal and individual responsibility in this matter, and, if that is felt to the extent in which it ought to be in these quarters, it will through them reach and be felt throughout the whole church; and, when this is done, we shall not need to fear for the result at the close of our financial year.

The spectacle of two great Pashas—one the president of the Legislative Council—sitting in the dock with Bedouins, on a common charge of being the buyers and sellers of Soudanese slave girls, has dumbfounded the people of Egypt. They cannot realize the idea that the law strikes at the great as well as the little.

The principal articles in the *Sanitarian*, for this month, are "Yellow-Fever, the American Plague—Thorough Drainage and Municipal Cleanliness the only Means of Insuring its Extinction," by J. C. Le Hardy, M.D.; "Proceedings of the American Climatological Association" (concluded); "Sanitary Topography"; "Climate and Mineral Springs of New York"; "Medical Men and Preventive Medicine," and "Oxygen." To these are to be added, "Medical Excerpt"; "New Books and Book Reviews." The Sanitarian, The American News Company, New York.

Books and Magazines.

JOHN BROWN AND HIS MEN, WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF THE ROADS THEY TRAVELLED TO REACH HARPER'S FERRY. By Col. Richard J. Hinton (Contemporary and Co-worker of John Brown). Illustrated with 22 authentic portraits. Cloth, 12mo 752 pp [Vol. XII. American Reformer's Series] \$1.50. Funk & Wagnalls Company, 11 Richmond Street, West, Toronto.

The story of "John Brown and His Men" possesses a sort of sad fascinating interest. If we mistake not, it is an interest which will increase as time goes on, and he will take his place amongst those of whom the world was not worthy. The author, himself their contemporary and fellow laborer, was in Kansas, correspondent of the *Boston Traveller* and *Chicago Tribune*, at the same time when John Brown there began his career as an active abolitionist. In addition, for thirty years the author has been collecting the material for this 752 page book in which he contributes the best account of the birth, ancestry, training, national life, and death of John Brown, together with entirely fresh and exhaustive monographs on his men, all given in a spirit of earnest patriotism, in which these ardent abolitionists are held as heroic exemplars of a true reformer's courage. The volume contains considerable matter never before published; is full of fascinating reading, and is of inestimable historic value. It is supplemented by a good index.

THE BOOK OF NUMBERS. By the Rev. Robert A. Watson, M.A., D.D., author of "Gospels of Yesterday," etc. Hodder and Stoughton, London. Fleming H. Revel Company, Toronto.

This is one of the well-known series being published under the title of the "Expositor's Bible," and to which Dr. Watson also contributes the volume on the "Book of Job." This series has employed the pens of so many able and distinguished divines that it is almost superfluous to draw attention to the different volumes composing it. In its treatment of Numbers, it necessarily follows the order of events there narrated, and, in its interpretation and application of them to the circumstances of our own time, the book will be found helpful and suggestive. The author in the introduction sets forth the point of view from which he treats the book, and it is one of spiritual helpfulness rather than one rigidly critical. The style of the book is simple, popular and readable, not only by the scholar, but by the common people, a merit not always found in commentaries and expositions, intended for them. An index adds much to the convenience of the book for consultation on the subjects treated.

REGINALD HEBER, BISHOP OF CALCUTTA. By A. Montefiore. Fleming H. Revel Company, Toronto.

Every one would like to know something of the writer of the best known and most inspiring missionary hymn in the English language, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains." This can be well done in a very interesting biography of him by Arthur Montefiore, author of "David Livingston: His Labours and His Legacy," etc. The publishers are the well-known Fleming H. Revel Company. The book is written in an interesting and graphic style, plentifully and beautifully illustrated, in good paper, type and binding, and at a price, fifty cents, which brings it easily within the reach of all readers.

The October *Presbyterian Quarterly* discusses several important subjects. W. M. McPheeters, D.D., takes up "Dr. Driver" on Isaiah xiii and xiv. "The Theology of Hosea and Amos as a Witness to the Age of the Pentateuch" is dealt with by Edward Mack, M.A. Thos. C. Johnson, D.D., founds upon Acts i. 8 an article on "The New Testament Law for the Church's Effort at Propagandism." The *Lambeth Ultimatum* discusses in a trenchant style the "Historic Episcopate," as conceived by Anglicans, and insisted upon as an indispensable requisite to the unity of Christendom, for which they affect a great anxiety. The writer is Jas. A. Waddell, D.D., LL.D. "Conditions of Success in the Gospel Ministry" and "The Determination of Value in Morals" are two other leading articles. These are as usual followed by "Notes," "Criticisms and Reviews" and "Notices of Recent Publications." Anson D. F. Randolph & Co., New York.

The valuable monthly, *The Biblical World*, for October, comes to hand full of varied and useful matter for the biblical student. An interesting likeness of Dr. Augustus Dillman is followed by a sketch of his life and work. Isaiah and the inexhaustible book of Genesis form the subjects of two articles by Prof. Geo. W. Davies, D.D., and Dr. Harper, of the University of Chicago. Prof. J. S. Riggs, of Auburn Theological Seminary, contributes "Studies in Palestinian Geography," and the important subject of "The English Bible in Theological Seminaries" is dealt with by Rev. Geo. W. Gilmore, Bangor Theological Seminary. "Comparative-Religion Notes," "Synopsis of Important Articles," and "Book Reviews" make up and complete the number. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

The *Canada Educational Monthly and School Magazine* for October, edited by Archibald MacMurchy, M.A., Toronto University, contains articles on a number of subjects important to the teaching profession. Among them may be noted: "Some Errors in Text Books on English Grammar," by A. Stevenson, B.A., Priu. H. J., Arthur; "Post-Graduate Courses in the University of Toronto," by Prof. J. Squar, B.A., University College; "Restful Teaching," by Annie Payson Call; "Composition," by Catherine H. Shute, N. S., Boston; "The Fuller Study of Geography," by Arthur Montepore. To these contributed articles are added selections from different magazines and brief discussions of subjects interesting to teachers. The Canada Educational Monthly Publishing Co., Ltd., Toronto.

The Rev. C. H. Parkhurst, D.D., is a man who just now attracts a good deal of attention. A fine likeness of him forms the frontispiece to the *Altruist* for this month. "Mary Clement Leavitt," a character sketch; "The Monthly Round Up"; "Winnings"; "Among the Weeklies"; and some short sketches, chief amongst which is "Fishin' Jimmy," make up a newsy, gossipy, readable melange. The *Altruist*, Chicago, Ill.