

labouring under a sister church, having no field of our own, now a large body of trained, well-equipped Canadian missionaries employed in various departments of work, having under or in connection with them a large native force. Indore and Formosa, only at the beginning, the former occupied at one point only and little known, now occupied at many points and largely explored. Then work confined within narrow limits, zenana visiting and a small, very small school, now many day and Sunday schools with hundreds of scholars and work branching out into many and continually enlarging spheres of effort of whatever kind they be, but always carrying blessing with them invariably. To Indore and Formosa have been added, the Indians of our Northwest, Trinidad, the New Hebrides, British Guiana, Honan, all reaping blessing from, and all bearing witness to the beneficence of the labours of the society. The Lord hath done great things for it. The total income the first year was \$1,107.99, but this channel of benevolence once opened has widened and deepened until it has swelled up into many thousands, and like the river which Ezekiel saw in vision continues still to rise and carries blessing with it wherever it reaches. Such is a brief and general view of the growth of this woman's society which was at first regarded with apprehension, and in some quarters met with opposition.

And now its work. It is inspired and penetrated through and through by the spirit and aim of unselfish love, seen in its sublimest manifestation in the work of redemption begun and carried on by God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. It is done from pity and love for those whom God first pitied and loved; it is done in a spirit of loving obedience to the Saviour's last command, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." It carries only blessing with it for time and eternity to all its objects, blessing so great and lasting that eternity will only reveal its fulness. And it returns rich blessing to those engaged in it. Again and again do the reports of all engaged in it bear glad testimony to what good they have themselves reaped in doing good to others. In seeking to save and lift up others they have themselves been lifted into a higher, holier and happier atmosphere of Christian life. Bright as the past history of this work has been, it will be eclipsed in the far more glorious history of the future. What a prospect it opens up to the eye of faith as it goes on from age to age. It is work for eternity, and as those who are now engaged in it shall look down upon the labours of those who follow them with joy and thanksgiving to the Lamb who was slain, so do the sainted ones, whose names in succession rise up in memory from the past, who are now resting from their labours, and whose works follow them, rejoice in the work still growing, and to grow; gathering in from year to year a richer harvest of souls saved by the instrumentality of this society in whose records their names are embalmed, in which they served Him, whom they serve still in a better world, and with higher, holier service.

REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

WE have to thank the Minister of Education for a copy of his valuable report for the year 1893. The first part of it is sub-divided under ten heads such as Public Schools, Roman Catholic Separate Schools, High Schools, etc. After these come many valuable appendices and tables all brimful of information on this important department of the public report service. We hope to refer to this from time to time; in the meanwhile from its opening pages on the public schools we glean some items of information which may be of interest to our readers. Under the first head the report at the outset gives a comparative table of the school population from 1867 to 1892. From this it is shown that the school population from the ages of 5 to 16 in 1867 was 447,726, from 5 to 21 in 1892 was 595,238. In 1867 the average attendance was 163,974, in 1892, 253,830. The percentage of average attendance to the total number attending in 1869, 41; in 1892, 52, a favourable showing as regards the desire for education shown by parents. A comparison of the percentage of pupils enrolled in public schools out of the whole population is made with several of the States of the Union, favourable in every case to Ontario. The average number of days the schools of the United States were kept open was only 134 against 208 in Ontario. The highest average attendance in rural districts is found in the county of Waterloo, being 58 per cent. of pupils of school age; in towns, Bowmanville, 75 per cent.; in cities, Hamilton, 75 per cent.

Interesting comparisons are also made under the head of Public Schools between Ontario and the other points of the Dominion lying east of us. The percentage, for instance, of adults able to write in Ontario is 90.4, of persons from 10 to 20 is 94.32, being in this respect considerably in advance of the other provinces, except in the case of Prince Edward Island which comes next. According to the proportion of children under 10 years who can read, P.E.I. stands first, Ontario second, between 10 and 20 who can read Ontario is first, P. E. I. second. The same comparison made as to writing shows Ontario first of all the Provinces in the Dominion.

In compliance with a very general demand, the teaching of temperance and hygiene has been introduced into the common schools, and it is encouraging to notice the progress made in this respect. In 1882 the number taught on these subjects was 33,926, in 1892, 171,549, or an increase of 405 per cent. "In 1893," the report says, "the subject was made compulsory for entrance to High Schools and Collegiate Institutes, so that no pupil who pursues his studies so far as the fifth form can fail to be reasonably well acquainted with the conditions on which his health and physical vigour depends, as well as with the dangerous tendency of stimulants and narcotics to produce weakness and disease." We may add, to show the wide-spread sense of the importance of these subjects, that physiology and temperance are compulsory subjects in 37 States of the Union, and in 22 is enforced by penalties.

In 1882 the system of Kindergarten schools was first introduced into Ontario, and in 1885 it was made a part of the public school system. The rapid advance made in this department shows that it has met a felt want in the country. Last year the number of these schools had increased to 85 with 200 teachers and 3,056 pupils under 6 years of age. Provision is made for systematic instruction being given in the Provincial Normal schools in Kindergarten teaching which cannot but be helpful in every part of the teacher's work.

Assistance is also given to high schools in connection with our common schools. The report unhappily shows a falling off under this head in 1892 as compared with 1891 from 36 to 32 schools, with a corresponding decrease in teachers and pupils.

As few subjects are of more general importance, and to people of intelligence of more interest than our educational standing, we hope to refer further at some future time to this report, and we doubt not a fuller examination of it will show an encouraging state of things in this Province as regards a matter which vitally affects the highest and best interests of the Province, and through that premier Province the whole Dominion.

THE APPROACHING GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

NOW that the time for the Assembly draws near it may be interesting to our readers to know the arrangements that have been made for transit.

If 300 attend possessing Standard Certificates, or their equivalent, they will return free. In every case Standard Certificates, or the one furnished in the envelope, should be obtained. Tickets will be extended three weeks after the close of Assembly to afford the delegates an opportunity of seeing the Eastern Provinces. Side trips will be arranged for. One delightful trip will be through the "District of Evangeline," costing \$4.80; Grand Pre and return, or to Halifax and return, \$7.60. Each delegate has been provided with an envelope for enclosing his Certificate, and a card to record his attendance.

The Richelieu Co. will grant return fares; from Toronto to Quebec, \$17.33; intermediate in the same proportion. The wives of Commissioners will be entitled to travel at the same rate. These facilities with the pleasure of a cool, fresh atmosphere during the Assembly, should make the trip a very popular one. Commissioners from the North-West will receive round trip tickets at lowest rates. Delegates west of Port Arthur and east of Quebec are urged, for the sake of others, to secure the signing of the Certificate furnished in their envelopes, so that the "300" may count. There will be choice of route as between the boats, the Grand Trunk and Intercolonial, and the C.P.R., short line.

Should a sufficient number leave Toronto on the morning of Tuesday, the 12th of June, special arrangements for train will be secured. Further information, should it be necessary, may be given in subsequent issues.

Books and Magazines.

UNION. A STORY OF THE GREAT REBELLION. By John Musick. Illustrated by F. A. Carter. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls. Cloth. 12mo., 505 pp.; \$1.50.

This volume completes the series of twelve books entitled the "Columbian Historical Novels," most, if not all of which, have been from time to time noticed in these columns. The one before us is perhaps one of the most entertaining of the series. The plot is natural, the incidents more or less amusing when not exciting, and the interest is admirably well sustained to the very end. The illustrations are numerous and include portraits of Lincoln, Johnson, Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Harrison, Cleveland, John Brown, Jefferson Davis, Grant, Meade, Sherman, Hancock, Butler, Gen. Lee, Horace Greeley, Samuel J. Tilden, James G. Blaine, and William McKinley. The usual historical index closes the volume.

THE HOOSIER SCHOOLMASTER. By Edward Eggleston. With twenty-nine illustrations. New York: The Orange Judd Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

It was "The Hoosier Schoolmaster," if we remember rightly, that first gave Dr. Eggleston a prominent reputation as a writer of fiction. It is a good many years since it originally appeared, but it still retains, and seems likely long to retain, its popularity with the reading public. This new improved and Canadian edition of so popular a work should command a ready sale.

LIFE IN A NUTSHELL. A story by Agnes Giberne. Boston: A. I. Bradley.

It can scarcely be said that this book fulfils the promise of its title. It is of a kind that is produced nowadays with almost alarming rapidity, without defects so glaring as to warrant condemnation and yet without merit so conspicuous as to justify publication commonplace books for uncritical readers.

BIG BROTHER. By Annie Fellows-Johnston. Boston: Joseph Knight Company.

This is a short story of some sixty pages, printed on superior paper, tastefully bound and very prettily illustrated. It is the first issue we have seen of what is called the "Cosy Corner Series" and if the next are equal to it in appearance and intrinsic merit the series should certainly be a popular one.

PANSY STORIES. By Virge Reese Phelps (Victor Meredith Bell). Boston: A. I. Bradley & Co.

A collection of eight short stories, making a very attractive little volume of over two hundred pages. The stories are rather above the average of their kind, and have been written, evidently, with a sincere desire to make them helpful as well as entertaining.

Among other interesting and useful articles in *The Arena* for April we mention the following: "The Liquor Traffic without Profits," by John Koren, an explanation and advocacy of the Gothenburg system. The next is the substance of a paper read before the Colorado (W.C.T.U.) State convention on "Hereditry and Environment," by A. M. Holmes, A.M., M.D. Upon this follows a paper by Rev. W. H. Savage, upon "that somewhat difficult subject to settle definitely, 'Tennyson's Religion.'" A very striking likeness of the great poet forms the frontispiece of this number. Stanson Jarvis contributes Part V on "The Ascent of Life," "The Bank of Venice," "Municipal Reform" and "The Tenement House Curse," are all valuable articles. The question of social reform on lines that are in their spirit and essence Christian, are becoming more and more absorbing; "The Church as a Missionary Field," and "A Prophet's Cry to the Church," may be said to belong to this class and will be found most suggestive. The *Arena* Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

The Presbyterian College Journal, No. 4, March, just received. This is a goodly sized magazine, well filled by readable matter. The more noticeable articles are, "A Summons to Battle," being a sermon by Rev. W. M. Rochester, M.A., of Prince Albert, Sask.; "The Relation of the Church to Social and Economic Questions," "Experience in the West," "A Glance at Apologetics," by Rev. Principal MacVicar, "Books Old and New," by Rev. Prof. Scrimger, D.D. An extended report of an Intercollegiate debate between students of Montreal College and Knox College, held in Masonic Hall on Feb. 2nd, will be read with much interest. The French section which appropriately belongs to this journal, as it is published in connection with the college in which French secures a due place, is occupied with an essay on "*Les Pollaids et leur Langue*." Presbyterian College, Montreal, Que.

Littell's Living Age for April 7th, opens with an important article by Sir Robert Ball, F.R.S., taken from the *Fortnightly Review*, "The Significance of Carbon in the Universe," the "Fireside History of a Fife-shire Family" is continued. "Theophraste Renandot," is an interesting sketch of a seventeenth century social reform from Temple Bar. Much light is thrown on "Village Life in France," from the *Contemporary Review*, written by a French official. "Some Notes on Tibet" is an article written by Annie R. Taylor, whose name has lately become famous in connection with this country. Other articles are, "Bird Foraging," "Cromwell's Veterans in Flanders," "Market Day in an Italian Country Town" and "The Abduction of a King." Littell & Co., Boston.

Nil Desperandum is a series of "Autobiographical Sketches and Personal Recollections," by Geo. T. Angell, president of the American Humane Education Society, and the sketch is published under the auspices of that society, No. 19 Milk St., Boston; price by mail 10c. This pamphlet is really a plea for the humane treatment in every possible way of every living thing, but most especially of dumb animals, and in this respect it will be found both most interesting and useful.

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN will be sent to any address in Canada and United States from this date till the 31st of December, 1894, for one dollar. A good chance to try this old established journal. Do not fail to take advantage of it.