

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

**THE LITTLE CHILD'S CATECHISM.** By Rev. L. H. Wilson. (St. Louis: Presbyterian Office.)—This little catechism is admirably fitted to serve the purpose for which it is intended. Its author compiled it for the use of his own household; others desired to have the benefit of it, and now it is extensively used in the southern States. Its contents are clear, sound, and scriptural.

**HEAVEN OUR HOME.** Ninth Edition. (Boston: Roberts Brothers.)—It is not difficult to account for the great popularity which this work has achieved. The theme is attractive. The book is written in a style of much fervency. It is one that has a mission. The weary and the downcast will derive fresh hope and courage from its perusal. To the bereaved it will bring consolation and good cheer.

**THE ELZEVIR LIBRARY.** (New York: John B. Alden.)—So great has been the success attendant on this enterprise that "The Elzevir" now appears as a tri-weekly instead of as at first a semi-weekly magazine. In this, the cheapest of all the magazines, is now appearing, "Ancient Classics for English Readers." The issues received are "Aristotle," by Sir Alexander Grant; "The Indian Song of Songs," by Edwin Arnold; "Plato," by Clinton W. Collins; "Horace," by Theodore Martin; the "Life of Alexander H. Stephens," by Frank H. Norton; and the "Song of the Bell," by Schiller.

**LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.** (Boston: Littell & Co.)—The numbers of "The Living Age" for May 26th and June 2nd contain "Bishop Thirlwall" (Church Quarterly); "An Unsolved Historical Riddle," by J. A. Froude (Nineteenth Century); "John Richard Green" (Macmillan); "Robert Herrick, and Mr. Gladstone's Oxford Days" (Temple Bar); "The Temples of Giganti" (Month); "From a Garret" (Cornhill); "English Longevity," and "Wills, Ancient and Modern" (Spectator); "The French Republic" (Economist); "How the Egyptian Land-Tax is Paid" (London Globe); "Treasure Trove at the Cape" (Academy); with instalments of "The Wizard's Son," the conclusion of "The Ladies Lindores," and poetry.

**THE PULPIT TREASURY.** (New York: E. B. Treat.)—"The Pulpit Treasury" is a new candidate for popular favour. In appealing to the people it makes no apology because it needs none. The excellence of its contents, the reputation of most of its contributors, and the value of its articles are recommendations sufficient. A chief recommendation is the assurance that it will be "strictly evangelical, an exponent of the good old paths and an earnest searcher after all 'truth as it is in Jesus.'" It is designed for pastors, Christian workers, and families. Each number is to contain a portrait and sketch of some noted preacher. In this, the first number, there is a good portrait of John Hall, D.D., and an engraving of the Church in which he preaches. We wish success to this new religious serial.

**CHRISTIAN HISTORY.** By Joseph Henry Allen. (Boston: Roberts Brothers.)—The publishers contemplate the issue of a popular Christian History in its three great periods. The book before us treats of the second period—the Middle Age. It is too often taken for granted that medieval records are dry and musty, and to confess it, there is a certain degree of truth in the popular notion. Let a writer, however, with zeal, insight, and the gift of narrating history, study these dark ages and for him they will live again. What he sees himself he will enable others to see. The author of this work now under notice has seized on the leading movements and tendencies of the middle ages and presents them in their due proportions to his readers in a most attractive style. The book must become widely popular. To younger readers it will possess a fascinating interest.

**BURIED CITIES RECOVERED; OR EXPLORATIONS IN BIBLE LANDS.** By Frank S. DeHaas, D.D. (Brantford: Bradley, Garretson & Co.) Dr. DeHaas has written a most interesting volume. The subject itself is full of interest. The author, in addition to keen powers of observation and the faculty of describing vividly what he sees, had excellent opportunities for quiet and leisurely study of the scenery and antiquities of the Holy Land. He was for a time United States Consul in Jerusalem. The perusal of this work conduces to a much clearer understanding of Scripture history and geography. The book is profusely illus-

trated with maps that are models in clearness of outline and engravings of almost every scene of interest in Bible lands. Among the most interesting engravings are *fac-similes* of Jewish and Assyrian antiquities, and of the Moabite stone. The work has already obtained a wide circulation. It is now in its fifth edition which possesses this advantage over its predecessors that it describes the scenes most familiar in the late Egyptian war. Altogether this is a work of great merit. To the student of the Bible it will prove a most useful book of reference.

**THE CATHOLIC PRESBYTERIAN.**—The last number of "The Catholic Presbyterian" is decidedly interesting. Dr. Alexander Macleod, of Birkenhead continues in a masterly style his dissertation on the "Shadow of the Puritan War in Milton—the Later Poems." There is a fine sympathetic sketch of the famous Dutch divine, recently deceased, John James Van Oosterzee. The Rev. John Smith, Berwick-on-Tweed, contributes "Foreign Missions from the Home Point of View." "Reminiscences of Old Times in the Highlands of Sutherland" are interestingly written by a Minister's Wife. The Rev. Robert T. Duff conveys much useful information respecting "Tasmania," where for a time he resided. A valuable paper by Mrs. Cunningham, of Wheeling, Virginia, discusses the popular subject of "Woman's Work in the Church." Professor A. Bruce, D. D., Glasgow, is the contributor to the "Symposium" in the present number. He takes the progressive side in discussing "Progress in Theology." He writes in a calm and thoughtful spirit. He criticizes with much ability the position taken by Dr. Hodge. The respective "departments" of the magazine contain the usual amount of varied reading. "The Catholic Presbyterian" is becoming more vigorous and interesting.

**HARPER'S MAGAZINE.** (New York: Harper Brothers.)—"Harper's Magazine" for June is an unusually varied number, profusely and beautifully illustrated. The frontispiece—illustrating "Faustus," a poem by S. S. Conant—is from a drawing by E. A. Abbey. Mrs. Z. B. Gustafson contributes an article, finely illustrated, on "Lambeth Palace." Colonel Higginson continues his American History series, treating in this number—under the title of "The Hundred Years' War"—the numerous conflicts from 1662 to 1762 between the Colonists and the Indians and French. "Indian Art in Metal and Wood," an interesting paper by J. L. Kipling, Curator of the Central Museum, Lahore, is fully illustrated by pictures representing the best work of the Hindu artificers. Ernest Ingersoll contributes an article, finely illustrated, called the "Home of Hiawatha," describing Minnesota, and giving much information concerning the milling industry at Minneapolis. William C. Wyckoff's paper entitled "Sunlight Mysteries," is the first popular exposition that has been made of the results of Professor Langley's experiments at Alleghany and Mount Whitney. H. Sutherland Edwards contributes the first of two papers on the "Romanoffs"—bringing the history of that dynasty down to the reign of Alexander II. The paper is illustrated by thirteen portraits. Titus Munson Coan, M.D., contributes a very important paper on "Carlsbad Waters," with reference to their medicinal qualities and the various classes of individuals benefited by them. The new novel, "A Castle in Spain," illustrated by Abbey promises to be thoroughly good and healthy. It appears to be a welcome relief from the tedious psychological studies now prevalent in the literature of fiction. Mrs. Spoford contributes a short story, "The Mount of Sorrow;" Charles Reade a humorous sketch entitled "Rus;" and "A Working-girl," a brief but interesting story entitled "An Aesthetic Idea." Poems are contributed by Annie Fields, Miss A. A. Bassett, S. S. Conant, George E. Montgomery, and John B. Tabb. To this varied table of contents is added the usual timely and interesting matter in the "Editor's Easy Chair," "Literary and Historical Records," and "Drawer."

**RECEIVED.**—"The Unlawfulness of the Diffusion of Anachristian Literature by Government Assistance." By Rev. James Middlemiss, Elora.—"Mastery."—"Minutes of the Synod of Toronto and Kingston."—"Astrum Alberti," and "Queen's College Journal."—"The Sidereal Messenger." Conducted by William W. Joyce, Carleton Observatory, Northfield, Minnesota.—"Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine."—"The Hebrew Christian," published quarterly by Rev. Jacob Freshman, New York.

## GOSPEL WORK.

### PERSONAL EFFORT.

At an important conference held the other day at the City Temple, on evangelistic work in London, the Earl of Shaftesbury in the chair, the duty of Church members was much dwelt upon. Rev. W. E. Hurdall, of Bow, spoke with faithful boldness of the sin of "those respectable people who say they are converted, but who sit in their pews Sunday after Sunday, and never stretch out a hand during the week to save those in poverty and sin." Mr. Jack (theatre preacher) said: "What was needed in combination with special services was for people of the upper classes to come down and bridge over the chasm between the classes. His panacea was for Church members to go down to the poor people, who would receive them gladly if they understood that they really loved them, and desired to do them good."

Rev. G. S. Reaney also said "they must look to the better class—to those who had leisure—and they must look for such a manifestation of practical Christianity as was not yet conceived." The noble Earl also, referring to personal Christian effort, said: "It was house to house visitation, coming into contact with the fathers, mothers, and children, which would produce a real and permanent effect." All these testimonies are true, and when the Church of Christ, in the spirit of her Lord, learns to come down, we shall soon see the moral and spiritual condition of the masses going up.

John Louison, a member of the mission committee of the Montreal Association, gives the following encouraging and interesting incident: At the close of a public meeting in one of our churches, a tall, well-dressed young man came up to the writer and hesitatingly held out his hand. "You don't remember me," said he. "No; was it in the hospital I saw you?" "No," glancing round, "it was in the gaol." Seeing the vestry door open, he was asked to enter and tell his story, which, in brief was to the effect that he had been in a dry goods establishment, and had, by little and little, taking a paper of pins, then gloves, then more important articles—gone to a court room, followed by the gaol. "My sentence," said the young fellow, "had nearly expired, and I did not know really what was to become of me, for my relations and friends had cast me off. It was the crisis of my life, when you passed through the gaol and spoke to me such words of hope and encouragement as lifted me right up, and the book you gave me showed where to obtain both guidance and strength to amend. I went to Upper Canada and obtained a situation with a good man, who took me without a reference and took an interest in my religious life; but at the end of six months a man who had been along with me in gaol came along, and first tempted, and then tried to blackmail me, threatening to peach upon me to my employer that he had a gaol-bird in his house. It was a fearful moment but I took it to the Lord, and He said, 'tell all to your master,' and I did, thank God! expecting to be cast again adrift; but (and his eyes filled with manly tears) he only raised my salary, for the man had informed on me already; and had I not spoken, I would assuredly have been turned off." "Then what are you doing in Montreal now?" was asked. "Ah, that is another of his kindnesses. He has reconciled me to my friends, and now I am on a visit to them," and again clasping the writer's hand, "I was so glad when I recognized you to-night, for I knew it would encourage you to hear my story." And then and there the two knelt down and thanked and praised the Lord for His wonderful love and grace to the children of men.

The following cheering incident comes to us from St. John, N.B. It gives a hint for others to follow in urging personal effort: "Some time ago two strange young men attended our Secretary's Bible class, and at the close of the lesson they were met and each led to a saving knowledge of Christ. They were told that they should induce some one of their companions to come with them; this they did, and he in turn was led to Christ. One after the other came and influenced still another, until now there are nine young men rejoicing in a new-found Saviour as a result of the personal effort of each of these new converts. These are now rejoicing in Him whom they once despised, the result of a conversational Bible class for young men, which meets in the Association parlour every Sunday afternoon at four o'clock, for one hour, attended by some twenty five young men."