

with satisfaction throughout the country, and it need hardly be added that there is no indication of the lack of wisdom in selecting Toronto as the place of the Alliance meeting in 1892.

It was a proper course for the members of the Executive on this continent to hold the meeting they did in Toronto last week. For the transaction of the special business that came before them any central place would have been equally convenient; but the presence of so many representative men, widely known as they are in this city, and the public meeting several of them addressed gives the people of Toronto an opportunity of knowing something of the men themselves and the cause they came here specially to represent. They were the avant-couriers of the great body of distinguished men who are expected from both hemispheres to take part in the proceedings of the Alliance in this city a year hence. The idea of embracing the opportunity while the members of committee were present of holding a public meeting was an excellent one, and the large attendance and the genuine interest manifested by representatives from the various city congregations present in Knox Church amply justified the propriety of the step. It may be readily assumed that all who heard the addresses last Thursday evening will be disposed to do all they can to assist in making the great gathering in 1892 one of much interest and profit to all concerned.

The meeting was well managed and the effect produced was excellent. An unsuccessful preliminary meeting would have been a misfortune and would have required considerable effort to counteract wrong impressions made. Happily no such consequences attended it. From beginning to end the interest was well sustained. It may be a question in ordinary circumstances whether it is better to have a number of short addresses giving an audience an opportunity of hearing a variety of speeches, or hearing two or three speeches affording a chance for the speakers to dwell with some measure of fulness on the theme on which they discourse. It must be remembered that giving a short speech with anything like rounded completeness is a task of rare difficulty. Many a one who, having plenty of scope, can give an effective and telling address will fail in an attempt to give a brief speech inexorably limited as to time. A speaker is often only warning into his subject, when, like a gas-light, it is instantly turned off. The gentlemen who addressed the meeting last Thursday evening acquitted themselves well. The short method has the advantage of cutting off all prolix and rambling introduction and limitation supplies a wholesome warning against all purposeless digression. The speeches delivered in Knox Church were models of clearness and condensation. The marvel was how all of them were able to crowd into them the amount of information they did. Without disparaging any of the distinguished men who spoke, it may be justly said that Principal MacVicar's was as fine and as forcible a presentation of the aims and purposes of the Alliance as was given on the occasion.

The meeting was ably presided over by W. Mortimer Clark, and Dr. Parsons led in the devotional exercises. Dr. Talbot Chambers, of the Reformed Church, New York, spoke of the rise, progress and purpose of the Alliance, demonstrating the good that resulted from bringing more closely together the scattered branches of the Presbyterian family, and giving the stronger the opportunity of helping and encouraging the weak. Dr. Cattell, of Philadelphia, turned his attention to the history of Presbyterianism in Austria, Hungary and Bohemia, giving a number of interesting particulars of recent advances of popular feeling in favour of religious freedom. Principal MacVicar spoke of the liberty and unity enjoyed within the Alliance. There was ample scope afforded seekers for truth, and there was also a desire for the formulation of a consensus creed which would express the common faith of all who hold the distinctive principles of Presbyterianism. The scholarly and accomplished Dr. Schaff gave a most interesting account of the character, work and influence of John Calvin, and mentioned several incidents connected with the earlier meetings of the Alliance. Dr. Hemphill, of Louisville, Kentucky, a man of evident power and possibilities, delivered an address of much eloquence and force. The concluding address was by Dr. Roberts, of Lane Seminary, and was a vigorous presentation of the fact that Presbyterianism had uniformly stood for the promulgation and defence of the doctrines of grace, civil and religious liberty, and wherever it had been planted these principles had exercised a marked influence on individual and national advancement and well-being.

From the spirit of the addresses, and from the

evident tone and temper of the meeting, it may be confidently anticipated that the great gathering in 1892 will be looked forward to with interest and an earnest desire that the cause of evangelical truth may receive a strong impetus from the presence and conferences of representative men from many lands when the sixth Council of the Alliance of Reformed Churches, holding the Presbyterian polity, assemble in Toronto. The spirit of the meeting was an earnest that the good people of Toronto may be depended upon to do their part to make it a success and a blessing.

#### PROFESSOR CASPAR W. HODGE.

PRINCETON College has been called on to mourn the loss of one of her distinguished sons. Professor Caspar Wistar Hodge has, after a somewhat protracted illness, been removed by death. He belonged to a family of distinguished theologians who, along with the Alexanders, did valuable and lasting work as instructors in theology, made permanent contributions to the religious thought of the age by their eminent abilities and services. They shed lustre on the educational institution with which they were connected, and placing the Presbyterian Church, not only of the United States, but of other lands, under lasting obligations for the effective work they did in advancing the cause of evangelical religion.

Dr. Caspar Hodge was not so extensively known as his relatives, not because he was less active, but because of the greater concentration of his efforts, and because he felt the growing demands of academic work in these days. Those who imagine that the life of a modern theological professor is one of ease and learned enjoyment but ill understand the need he has of constant application to keep abreast of the newest thought of the time and to master the latest results of scholarly investigation. It is true that, unlike the pastor, he has not to devote much time constantly to pastoral visitation nor to prepare two new sermons a week all the year round. His course of lectures is supposed to be complete and he has only to deliver these to successive generations of students. Moreover, he is free during vacation to roam at will over the world. The professor who realizes the important trust reposed in him and who is conscious of his responsibility dare not perform his work perfunctorily. The course of lectures may be complete, but in the constant ebb and flow of tendencies and advancing knowledge they need steady revision, and the live professor must at the same time be a diligent student. He may travel extensively when opportunity offers; he will derive great benefit from what he sees and from the men he meets in other lands and his students will subsequently profit by the results.

The late Caspar Hodge's ambition was evidently to discharge to the best of his ability and in the best possible manner the duties of his office as a professor. His main strength was devoted to his work, and he had his reward. His instructions and his influence told powerfully on those who were trained by him and his memory will be revered by many throughout his own and in other countries who received lasting impulses from him in the plastic and formative period of their lives. He was born in 1830, and graduated with high honours from Princeton College when he was only eighteen years of age. He completed his theological course at the same institution in 1853. The following year he was ordained to the ministry and was pastor of a congregation in Brooklyn for a short time, when he accepted a call to the Presbyterian Church at Oxford, Pennsylvania, where he remained till Dr. Joseph Addison Alexander died in 1860. He was called upon to fill the vacant professorial chair of his late revered teacher and friend, a position he held with distinction and success to the time of his decease which occurred last week. Dr. Caspar Hodge, unlike his relatives, was not a writer of books but he was a frequent and valued contributor to the leading theological reviews, and it is probable that his admiring friends may collect several of his contributions in a volume which would serve in some measure as a worthy memorial of one who for his works' sake and because of his personal excellencies of character was held in high esteem by all who knew him. His work is finished, but he has left an inspiring example to others. The workman lays down his task when the summons comes, but the work abides and other hands must take it up. To work for the Master in whatever sphere He assigns is an imperative duty and a glorious privilege. The one aim should be to do it faithfully and well, and then the reward will not be wanting.

## Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This long-established weekly magazine places before its numerous readers the best results of current thought on all subjects of general interest.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.) A favourite with the large and interesting class for whom its stories, good advice, and beautiful pictures are designed.

THE Illustrated News of the World amply fulfils its purpose. It gives its readers a distinct realization in pictorial form of the leading personages and the events of the week, as well as contributions from some of the most noted writers, English and American.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—The many readers of this popular weekly look eagerly for its coming. It is laden with much that is interesting, instructive, entertaining and elevating. Its illustrations both in number and quality add much to its attractiveness.

ST NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The new number of this deservedly popular monthly presents many attractions. It has a long and varied array of such a kind that will interest and profit its wide circle of readers. Like all its predecessors it has a large number of finely-finished artistic illustrations.

THE MISSIONARY REVIEW OF THE WORLD (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: 86 Bay Street.)—The October number of this leading missionary monthly is up to the usual standard of excellence of that aggressive and interesting magazine. The department of "Literature of Missions" contains ten carefully prepared and inspiring articles by able writers covering topics of current interest to all who are interested in Missions. The "International Department," "Editorial Notes," "The Monthly Concert of Missions," and the "General Missionary Intelligence," are likewise full of valuable information relative to the cause in all lands.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The readers of this standard magazine will recognize in the October issue a number of unusual excellence. A portrait of Rudyard Kipling appears as frontispiece and Mr. Edmund Gosse supplies a critical estimate of the writings of this popular author. Mr. George Kennan supplies a fitting close to his powerful series of Siberian papers. The graphic power and moral earnestness so characteristic of the others are equally conspicuous in this. Other papers that will attract the reader's attention are: "Besieged by the Utes, the Massacre of 1879;" "A Water Tournament;" "The Press and Public Men;" "Ta-rying in Nicaragua," in the California series; and "Lincoln's Personal Appearance," by J. G. Nicolay. Short story and poetry are well represented, Charles G. D. Roberts contributing "A Summer Pool." The illustrations are in number and excellence up to the usual high standard. Elward Eggleston's "Faith Doctor" is completed. It makes a most favourable impression.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—A "Street in the New Quarter of Cairo" forms the frontispiece of the October number of Harper. It is a *requis* of a paper on "Cairo in 1890," which contains much information relating to the present condition of this famous Egyptian city. The illustrations, plentiful and accurate as photography can make them, give one a good idea of the changes that have taken place in the land of the Khedive. A second instalment of the "Letters of Charles Dickens to Wilkie Collins" is given. Other attractions are: "The Art Students' League of New York;" "Glimpses of Western Architecture—St. Paul and Minneapolis;" "A Courier's Ride," a war correspondent's adventures in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877. "Common Sense in Surgery" and Walter Besant's "London—Plantagenet." There are several meritorious poems and short stories, and W. D. Howells' serial "An Imperative Duty" is concluded. George du Maurier's "Peter Ibbetson" progresses, greatly aided by its author's pictures.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: 86 Bay Street.)—The Review for October presents an attractive table of contents. Its Review Section opens with a strong sound paper by Principal William Caven, of Knox College, Toronto, on "Clerical Conservatism and Scientific Radicalism." It will bear careful reading. Dr. Coburn continues his series of articles in Egyptology with one upon "The Higher Criticism and the Tombs of Egypt," in which he maintains that the tomb inscriptions present an unanswerable argument against the positions of the Higher Critics. Professor Hunt, of Princeton, writes on Richard Rolle, an interesting old English sacred poet. Rev. Charles C. Starbuck, of Andover, corrects certain popular misapprehensions concerning "Roman Catholic Doctrine, Usage and Policy." Dr. James Mudge concludes his vigorous paper on "Scripture Interpretation." The Sermonic Section has its usual interest. In the Miscellaneous Department, Lawrence Gronlund pleads the cause of Socialism and urges its careful study upon the ministry; and Professor Coats has another of his accessible articles upon the use of the Voice. The remaining departments are helpful and suggestive.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—There are three contributions in the Atlantic for October to which the reader will at once turn. First, to Oliver Wendell Holmes' tribute to James Russell Lowell, a poem touching alike for the public sentiment of grief that it expresses as well as for the personal note of sorrow at the loss of a friend and fellow-poet. The next, Henry Stone's account of General Thomas, will be of great interest to many people. The third paper which will command attention is the one by Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson, on "Emily Dickinson's Letters." Her letter-writing is remarkable. No one who wishes to gain some idea of a woman who has of late come so prominently before the public can afford to miss the paper. There are a number of other entertaining articles, which we have not time to mention, although it should be said that "The House of Martha," by Frank R. Stockton, reaches a happy conclusion. "The Ascetic Ideal," by Miss Proctor and Miss Dodge, is an exceedingly interesting paper on Saint Jerome. The paper on "The Cave-Dwellers of the Confederacy," by David Dodge, when read in the light of the Sherman and Thomas articles, and two biographical sketches—one a notice of the late Sir John Macdonald, the Canadian statesman, by Martin J. Griffin, and the other of that modern Erasmus, Ignatius von Döllinger, by E. P. Evans—should not be forgotten. "Mr. Howells' Literary Creed" furnishes the subject of a closing paper full of that clever criticism in which the Atlantic excels.