

for what it publishes. Writers for the daily press can not command the leisure that loungers in the British Museum enjoy of verifying a minute detail, though it should take a month to accomplish it. They have to be men not only of varied accomplishments but of keen perception and prompt decision. They must in the nature of the case be possessed of sound and discriminating judgment, and exercise all reasonable precautions within their reach to secure accuracy of statement. It has also to be remembered that the daily newspaper has not and does not pretend to have the authority that a leisurely compiled official book possesses. The wrong impression may be conveyed in to-day's news, the correction comes to-morrow. There is on the whole a great spirit of fairness in the conduct of most reputable journals. If one has been misrepresented and has just cause of complaint, he usually has the opportunity accorded of placing himself right.

No one occupying a public position can reasonably object to the consequences that publicity entails. He is within proper limits open to criticism. His utterances and actions as a public man are to a certain extent public property. Criticism and comment may be friendly or unfriendly. This is inevitable, and he must be prepared to submit with all the equanimity and good nature he possesses. He is not called upon to submit to injustice. Should he be exposed to that he has his remedy. Extreme sensitiveness because of newspaper criticism is a weakness which every public man has to overcome. A genuine minister's usefulness is not impaired by what newspaper scribes say of him. An upright Christian character and faithful devotion to his work will place him in an impregnable position that is virtually unassailable. Unjust attacks inevitably recoil on those who originate them. The best defence a faithful minister has against the assaults of mean spirited newspapers is the possession of a conscience void of offence toward God and toward man. He can go calmly on his way because he is invulnerable. The shafts of malice or the thoughtless flippancy of the funny paragrapher are powerless to injure him. If a good man is too sensitive to what press or people say of him, he unwittingly invites attack. To the good man in public life time and peace of mind are too precious to be sacrificed in the vain attempt to set right the misrepresentations and inaccuracies of the daily press, unless they are of such importance as to call for correction.

It should not be forgotten that ministers are deeply indebted to the public press. Were they to speak from experience the great majority of them could testify that newspapers are generally ready and willing to give publicity to the details of the work in which they are engaged. If a minister preaches a discourse on a topic of general public importance, its leading thoughts, if not the entire discourse, is sure to find a place in the columns of the daily newspaper. Whatever part ministers take in public movements is duly chronicled and commented upon. Everything of interest in Church work receives publicity, and all benevolent enterprises are promoted through the instrumentality of the newspaper. It may be said of the Canadian newspaper press that as a whole it speaks kindly and respectfully of the Christian ministry, with an impartiality that is highly creditable. There is a class of newspapers published in the United States that delight in the morbidly sensational and apparently enjoy holding the Christian ministry up to ridicule. When a clerical scandal, true or false, comes their way they are in ecstasies, and spread it with gusto as far as it will go, but such journals neither reflect nor mould public opinion. Dr. John Hall's character and work are so universally understood that were the press of the United States to combine to write him down they would soon have to retire discomfited from the task.

THE Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, at its last annual meeting, as a reference to advertisement in another column will show, was able to make a most satisfactory presentation of the state of its affairs. The general agents for this old-established and solid institution are Messrs. I. & H. K. Merritt.

THE Western Assurance Company takes high rank among Canadian companies. As will be seen from the advertisement in to-day's issue, it was able to present a most excellent record at the thirty-seventh annual meeting held last week. The directorate is composed of reliable and trustworthy business men.

Books and Magazines.

THE STORY OF EASTER. A service of Scripture and song. Prepared by W. F. Sherwin. (Boston: Henry A. Young & Co.)—Appropriate hymns and music for Easter celebrations.

JAMES HEPBURN, Free Church Minister. By Sophie F. F. Veitch. (Toronto: Williamson & Co.)—The favourable welcome extended to this work is a proof that general readers know a good thing when they see it. There are clear and graphic sketches of the struggles, ambitions and pettiness that enter so largely into the social and ecclesiastical life of small Scottish towns. It is a strong and vigorously-written book with numerous and stirring dramatic scenes. The interest of the reader advances till the climax is reached. The gifted writer may be expected to accomplish still better and greater work, good though unquestionably "James Hepburn" is.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS ON THE SCRIPTURE LESSONS. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)

A committee appointed by the General Assembly of the Free Church of Scotland have prepared a scheme of Sabbath school lessons for one year. It comprises three grades according to a classification of pupils. For the teachers in each grade a series of excellent notes have been prepared, for the first by Rev. C. A. Salmond, M.A., Rothesay, and D. Shearer, Ph.D., Huntly; for the second, by Revs. Lewis Davidson, M.A., Edinburgh, and James Wells, M.A., Glasgow; and for the third, by Mr. Maurice Patterson, B.A., Edinburgh, and Rev. G. Elmslie Troup, M.A., Broughty-Ferry.

THE HUMILIATION OF CHRIST, in its Physical, Ethical and Official Aspects. The Sixth Series of the Cunningham Lectures. By Alexander Halmgren Bruce, D.D. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son.)—When a benevolent Christian man has means and inclination at his disposal for the institution of a lectureship like the Bampton, the Baird and the Cunningham he is rendering a valuable service to the cause of sacred science. Perhaps the time may come when some such lectureship will be instituted in Canada. There is an opening for it. The admirable work before us owes its origin chiefly to the fact that it was primarily prepared for the Cunningham lectureship. It is a most valuable contribution to the sacred literature of the age. Professor Bruce is painstaking, scholarly and vigorous in thought. A chapter of great interest on the "Modern Humanistic Theories of Christ's Person" has been added to the present edition.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES AND THE EPISTLES OF PAUL. By Thomas Morrison, M.A., LL.D. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—This most useful and valuable work by the venerable rector of the Free Church Normal College, Glasgow, does for the young reader what the massive work of Conybeare and Howson accomplished when first published. Dr. Morrison has condensed in small compass much valuable information admirably fitted to give a clear and intelligent comprehension of the planting of Christianity. The method pursued by recent writers on the early history has been followed by the author of this volume. The facts of the Scripture narrative are arranged in the form of a continuous history, with notes, critical and explanatory, a gazetteer of places, and questions for examination. That the work has met with much appreciation is evidenced by the fact that it has already reached a second edition.

THE HIGHER CRITICISM. By Rev. F. R. Beattie, Ph.D., D.D. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—At a meeting of the Brantford Ministerial Association, Dr. Beattie read an admirable and comprehensive paper on modern critical theories as to the origin and contents of the literature and religion found in the Holy Scriptures. In a modest preface he states that an urgent request was made for its publication. The brief and concise pamphlet evinces a thorough acquaintance with the extensive literature of the subject treated by Dr. Beattie. He gives a short history of the Higher Criticism movement, an exposition of its principles and methods, a critical examination, and an estimate of its import and results. He clearly understands the nature and tendency of the movement. In his patient and painstaking examination he has maintained his balance, being neither bewildered by the subtleties and plausibilities of German speculation, nor losing his own firm grasp on evangelical truth.

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

THE GREAT UPRISING AMONG STUDENTS.

Any believer who keeps his eye on the pillar of cloud must observe that it is plainly in motion in a new direction. There are a momentum and volume in the movement which show that it has its source in God. It is particularly marked by three conspicuous features. 1. An increasing intelligence as to the work of foreign missions, its extent, its demand, its promise. 2. An enthusiastic self-consecration to the missionary work, both at home and abroad. 3. A self-denying effort among students themselves to raise funds to send volunteers to their field of labour. In other words, the movement combines, in a marked degree, intelligence, zeal and gifts, or knowledge, personal consecration and systematic contributions.

No movement with which we have been familiar has so impressed us as the mark of God's hand. Three things have oppressed all praying friends of missions for the last half century; the prevailing ignorance of the missionary work, the paucity of labourers for the field, and the inadequacy of the offerings for the work. There has been a lack of knowledge, of workmen and of money. Just in these directions the Lord is now moving to create a supply. Never was missionary literature so generally demanded, so widely spread and so devouringly read. Never was there such an enthusiastic self-offering among young men and women. It is like the apostolic age; and it is spreading wider and wider. Already an army of 3,000 students in England and America has been enrolled at the recruiting offices of the Captain of our Salvation; and at the present rate of increase the number will double in less than eighteen months. The enthusiasm is contagious. It catches from college to college and from seminary to seminary. It has already reached Norway, which is a long way from Northfield, where the divine fever was first felt in July, 1886. No man can tell how general and universal this missionary interest may be before this year of grace is ended.

When the students began to come forward and offer themselves, timid souls said, "What shall we do with these young men?" The boards were depleted in their treasures; they could scarce keep the present machinery in motion—how could they raise money to put thousands of new labourers in the field? But prayer went up to God. And lo! the students themselves organize and combine; they form missionary societies among themselves, and begin to collect funds to send these volunteers abroad. Members of faculties head the movement, and pledge themselves to give \$25 a year for life! Knox and Queen's Colleges in Toronto and Kingston, and the Presbyterian College, Montreal, Princeton, Union, Fairfax Seminars and others, set the grand example of establishing these living links with Heathendom and paying the costs of the outfit and support of their own representatives. If the old conservative boards are not careful, they will be left behind in their stereotyped methods, in the new departure of the colleges, and we shall have students' organizations leading the van in missions!

And now it seems to us that there is immediate and imperative need of three things. First of all, we need to give help to young men and women who desire to go to fields of home and foreign mission work, but whose poverty prevents their getting proper training and equipment. There ought to be thousands and tens of thousands of dollars put at the disposal of professors in colleges and seminaries, with which to help, as far as need be, poor and deserving students, to whom otherwise the door is financially closed. This ought to be done not only through the ordinary channels of the education boards, but directly, that it may reach some who would not apply for aid. A little money put in the hands of a discreet teacher or pastor may be disbursed in small sums as occasion requires, to aid parties who would never otherwise be reached, as we know from personal observation and experience.—Rev. A. T. Pierson.

THE adherents of the religion of Jesus Christ to-day outnumber the followers of any other faith in the world. Christian missions number more than 2,000,000 adherents on heathen soil, and at the present rate of increase will include 20,000,000 before this century closes.—Rev. Judson Smith, D.D.