

and overthrown by Cambyzes, that of the Jews at Elephantine alone remained untouched. Henceforward skeptical criticism will have to keep its hands off the official documents contained in these two historical books of the Old Testament.—Sunday School Times. Cairo, Egypt.

MORMONS IN MEXICO.

Mormonism transplanted into Mexico is flourishing and growing even more rapidly than in its palmy days in Utah. The first colony was planted there more than twenty years ago in a district where there were neither towns nor railroads. In the heart of the wilderness, either in the mountain valleys or on the mountains themselves, the Mormon settlers established themselves, and their increase has been both rapid and steady. Polygamy is practiced without hindrance from the Mexican authorities, and it is said to be no unusual thing for a Mormon with several wives to have a family of from twenty to thirty children. "A prominent Mexican lawyer" is quoted as saying that it is very unlikely that the government will soon interfere with polygamy among them. Settlers are needed too badly, he says. "In fact, as a colonizing element, the Mormons, with their large families, are eminently satisfactory, and we do not want to notice the fact that in their houses there are two or three women to one man. Some day perhaps public opinion will force attention to it, but not yet a while." When a Mormon is a party to a lawsuit involving title the first wife and her children alone have any standing in the Mexican courts.

There are seven Mormon colonies in Mexico, Colonia Juarez, Colonia Diaz, Oaxaca, Dublin, Garcia, Chichupa and Pacheco. In several of them there are said to be single stores carrying stocks of goods worth \$50,000. In one of them there are two lumber mills, a flour mill, a tannery, a foundry, a furniture factory and a shoe factory. In Juarez there is an academy which cost \$60,000. In the surrounding country the Mormon settlers raise cattle, fruit, and, when mines are near, garden vegetables for the market in the mining camp. In the past few years their number have been somewhat increased not only by the natural growth, but by immigration from Utah and other Mormon districts in the United States.—Missionary Review.

The February Studio opens with a beautifully illustrated article by W. D. McKay, R.S.A., on Raeburn Technique: Its Affinities with Modern Painting. Then follow: A Flemish Painter: Franz Courtens, by Ferdinand Khnoff; A Danish Painter: Peter Severin Kroyer, by Geo. Brochner; An Italian "Luminist": Carlo Formara, by Alfredo Melani; The Study of Tree Forms; and Recent Designs in Domestic Architecture. These together with a report of the Exhibition of the International Society at the New Gallery, Studio Talk, and some Reviews and Notices, go to make up the contents of this most welcome magazine, which is gradually winning for itself a large circle of readers in Canada. "The Studio," 44 Leicester Square, London, W. C., England.

Creation and destiny are the two extremes of the same thing; the man who does not know where he came from is equally uncertain as to where he is going.

In presence of the shroud how poor a thing is pride with all its emblazonry, how helpless is the sceptre of the mighty! "Dust to dust" flings its challenge in the face of kings and compels allegiance at the last.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

British Weekly: The real problem of the world is the racial problem, which may precipitate itself long before it is expected. The relation of the white with the yellow and black races is the urgent question all round the globe. The present unrest in India, the wars in Africa, the struggle between Japan and Russia, the national reconstruction of China, the sensitiveness of both Canada and California to Oriental immigration, are impressive signs that the adjustment of race differences is the greatest humanitarian task now confronting the world.

Michigan Presbyterian: There can be no more correct philosophy of life, nor any saving system of theology that does not recognize the fact of sin as resident in the human heart. Sin, deep seated, ingrained, inveterate, congenital, persistent and deadly, needs more than any humane art or skill to drive it from the soul. Jesus Christ came to save men from their sins, and his method is to implant a new nature, so that the man who is in Christ Jesus is a new creature.

United Presbyterian: God has a Pisgah for every good man, where he points him to the beauty of the land of promise. The scene of the vision may not be his yet awhile. He may have to look through the mists on the hills into the outlying glory. The day of his entrance is not yet. Some other day he shall cross the river. But today the good Father grants the vision, and in it the promise, and in the promise a new hope fills the soul, and he trusts on, nearer his paradise than ever before, and waits. Wherever he dies, and wherever God's angels bury him, the vision will be his apocalypse till the angels carry him home. He will rest in hope, for his eyes have seen the land that is afar off.

Congregationalist: The effort to prod pastors and church members to greater effectiveness in welcoming strangers to public services may lead to overdoing hospitality in various ways. One of these ways was revealed to a warm-hearted Western pastor. Coming down from the pulpit after the evening sermon he found a stranger in the person of a fair-haired Swede, and, greeting her with a cordial handclasp, said: "I am very glad to see you. I want you to feel at home here. I'd like to become acquainted with you. If you'll give me your address, I'll call and see you." "Thank you," she replied, "but I have a fellow."

Herald and Presbyterian: Those whose lives are hid with Christ in God, assured and secure as to themselves, are the ones who are earnest and constant in seeking the salvation of those who may be brought to life in Christ. It is God's people who do God's service and who engage in the ministry of the kingdom of Christ. Personal salvation is an essential preparation for service.

Philadelphia Westminster: The recognition of God in our national life is more than a theological dogma. It is necessary to our own prosperity. God is safe. His throne behind the stars needs neither praise nor prayer. The worth of Thanksgiving centres about man himself. The rains must fall our way. There is a space in every heart reserved for God. Without him life becomes an empty thing, and man a mere creature that sinks back into the earth from which he came.

If it be a fact that a Divine Person came to bless mankind, all mankind have a right to hear of it.—Eugene Stock.

LITERARY NOTES.

Among the many valuable periodicals published by Leonard Scott Co., of New York, there is no better than the Nineteenth Century and After. The February issue contains several able papers, among which may be mentioned The Impotence of Socialism, by H. W. Hoar; The Real Hero of the Northwest Passage, by Alfred Smythe, F.R.G.S.; and a Vindication of Modernism, by Henry C. Corrance. There are a dozen other articles, all well worth reading. The death of Sir James Knowles, the proprietor of this favorite monthly, will make no change in its publication.

The opening article in the Fortnightly Review, Asia Contra Mundum, is of special interest to Canadians at the present time when the question of Japanese and Chinese immigration into British Columbia is such a burning one. The writer takes as his text Charles Pearson's National Life and Character which started the world when it appeared half a century ago, by people crying the supremacy of the Asiatic. Dr. Dillon's Chronicle of Foreign Affairs is as usual excellent. Among the several other articles in the rich bill of fare offered, we may mention the following which seem most striking: The Voyage of the American Fleet, by Sydney Brooks; The Race Question in Germany, by W. H. Dawson; The Smoke Problem in Large Cities, by John B. C. Kershaw; and The Isolation of Mr. Balfour, by Robert White.

Perhaps the most interesting article in the February Blackwood's is one by Ellis Ashmead Bartlett, called The Tricks of a King, which gives an account of the visit of the French Mission to the Sultan of Morocco at the sacred city of Rabat, and describes an interview with His Majesty. The writer discusses at some length the effect of the Mohammedan belief in predestination on their history. Charles Whitley has one of his welcome articles, The American Underworld, and two excellent contributions deal with new books, The Memoir of Lord Wantage, V.C., K. C.B., by his wife, and Coke of Norfolk, and his Friends by A. M. W. Stirling. In "Musings Without Method," the description of Dostoevski, the great Russian novelist and patriot, is most readable. Of fiction we have an instalment of Katherine Thurston's entertaining serial, and a very good short story, or sketch, by W. H. Adams. Altogether the number is a specially good one. Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

Many timely topics are discussed in the February Contemporary, including among others, the following: Tariff Reform Matters, by Unionist; The Education Question, by the Bishop of Southwark; The Coming Education Bill, by Sir George White, M.P.; and The Limits of Direct Taxation. Edith Sellers has a well written article on Old Age Pensions and The Belongingless Poor; and there is a most suggestive article, by the late Sir Spencer Walpole, on The Growth of the World. A most important contribution to this number of the Contemporary is the report on Christian Missions in China, given by three members of a Committee formed to look at the question of the scope and working of the Protestant Missions in China, in view of the recent awakening of that country to the advantages of Western culture and to consider what could be done, from a National point of view to bring some of the benefits of Western civilization to the vast Chinese Empire. This report will be of much value to all who are interested in the great missionary movement.

It is the obligation of the Church to evangelize the world in this generation.—John R. Mott.