

WOMAN'S MISSION.

BY THE REV. DR. DIX.

(Continued.)

No doubt, woman in our day has become degraded, and darker, deeper elements of degradation are setting toward her from many threatening quarters. But this degradation is not to be found or apprehended where these clamorous evangelists of a spurious womanhood are looking for it. It is to be dreaded where the old heritage has been lost sight of and forgotten, and the faith and life which once reenthroned her have been repudiated and dishonored. There is always and everywhere a grand work within reach and waiting for woman. She of whom the world's Redeemer was born ought to have been and ought to be steadily carrying on the work of her Lord and Master, by her lowly and persuasive example; by her helpful support in keeping up Christian faith, love, institutions; by her sure and mighty influence over men. But she leaves all these; she forgets them; she gives a willing ear to Satan, the tempter, now, just as she did in Eden of old time, because in the perilous, seductive philosophies of our diseased social order she has become contaminated with false, delusive scepticism, or low passions, and so she degrades herself, first by ministering to her own vanity and the lusts and passions and pleasures of men, and then, worse yet, by trying to forget, and teaching others to forget, the very rudiments, the first principles of her own security. The latter class work most perilous harm of all. It is bad enough for a woman to lead a mere animal, idle, silly life. It is worse for her to institute a methodical rivalry with men, and push herself, suicidally, in so doing, out of her own sphere, unsexing while estranging herself from her appointed place and work. The end of all this must be degradation is what she has most to fear just now.

I tell you, Christian woman, that your work, your mission are on Christian lines, in Christian institutions, and under the inspiration of Christian ideas. There you can do good work. You are not needed elsewhere, except to help us stem the flood which aims at sweeping away Christ and the Church. You can do no real good on the lines on which the fanatics and Anti-Christians are so active. Be true to the past, to the present; be true to Him who hath exalted you. And if at times you are lured and tempted by the voices of the age, or tired of the incessant drumming for attention, and the unseemly actions of some of your sex, let me tell you what to do. Go to some Church at evening, where they sing the Magnificat, and listen; and in that anthem hear the heavens telling the true, and the only true story of your sex's honor, and the sources of your strength. And be this your test of yourselves, that you can sing with them, and feel that what you sing you do from your heart believe. If you be the true woman you can also say to God, "My soul doth magnify the Lord; and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden. For He that is mighty has magnified me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation."

So long as the Gospel be preached, so long as Christ shall be worshipped as the Saviour of the world, so long shall this most lovely of the evangelical hymns declare to women the story of their exaltation and the way of maintaining their influence and honor among us. The song of the blessed Mother of God is from age to age a mirror into which woman may look and see with the eyes of the spirit the mystery and glory of her sex. And blessed are they that see those wonders of redemption! Remember, woman owes to-day whatsoever of power and honor she enjoys to Christianity. She bore in her bosom the hope of all the ends of the earth. She stands or falls now by her loyalty to Him. Her mission is not yet ended; it lasts on and on. It is that of holding up before us in her arms the Incarnate God, by maintaining among us the knowledge of the truth, the religious ideal, the sweetness and beauty of heaven, the God-likeness in humanity. None can do this thoroughly well but those who love the Lord; who count all other loves inferior to that which they bear to Him; who

are ready to make the sacrifice which consecrate them forever to His cause. Such as these shall be hereafter, as thus far, the salt of the earth, a joy and crown of rejoicing among us, and of every such woman, whatever her rank or station in the world, the man may say, as he recalls the noble description of her in the Book of Proverbs, that "she shall do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

BOOK NOTICES.

THE COMPREHENSIVE CHURCH; or Christian Unity and Ecclesiastical Union in the Protestant Episcopal Church. By the Right Rev. Thos. H. Vail, D. D., LL. D. New York: Thomas Whittaker; Halifax: MacGregor & Knight. Price \$1.25.

This is the third edition of an important attempt to show the necessity and practicability of union among Christians on the basis of the Church. Bishop Vail tells his readers that the book was first issued in 1841, when it received the warmest approval of several Bishops and many of the Clergy and Laity. The author maintains that "There is no necessity, either of duty or of circumstances, in our age and in our country, for sectarian divisions. There is no reason why there should be more than one Comprehensive Church, at this time, in the United States, or in the world, outside of Romanism." In an admirable spirit, and with great tact and force, the Bishop sustains his position, or at least makes out a strong argument, which cannot fail to have weight with the thoughtful minds among the various Protestant bodies. The Church is wide enough to admit all who can subscribe to the Apostles' Creed, and we think it is becoming more and more an admitted fact that "our unhappy divisions," in every sense, "do not pay." We recommend the book to our clerical brethren, as affording them many arguments in favor of the Church's position and claims. It is a valuable work to loan to enquirers and others from among the Sects.

THE RIGHT AND WRONG USES OF THE BIBLE. By the Rev. R. Heber Newton. New York: Jno. W. Lovell & Co., 14 & 16 Vesey St. Price 20c.

These are the Advent Lectures delivered in the Anthon Memorial Church, New York, which provoked so much criticism in the American press at the time of their delivery. They have been almost universally condemned by the religious papers, and while spoken of with favor by some portion of the secular press, they have not escaped severe censure at the hands of correspondents. We were of opinion before we read them that, like Canon Farrar's now well known sermons on "Eternal Hope," they had been mis-reported and so misrepresented, and we hoped to find them free from any very serious blemish. We came, therefore, to their perusal with rather confident anticipations that while they treated their subject in a popular and, perhaps, loose manner, yet that they would not contain anything really opposed to the Church's teaching. While freely admitting that the newspaper reports did them injustice, and that they contain a great deal that cannot be gainsayed, yet we regret to say there is a large residuum that will prove very harmful to the ordinary reader. They do, it is true, very effectually dispose of certain foolish conceptions which too many of our Protestant neighbours entertain regarding the Bible, and this, if by itself, might be made useful, but we are sure all will admit that it would be far better to have the idea much more widespread than it is, viz., that the Bible, just as it is, dropped down from Heaven, and that every word and letter is from God, than in any measure to uproot and dispel that belief and faith in its inspiration which, after all, is the only satisfactory basis on which men can be brought to know and recognize the truths of Christianity. The writer is clearly not a theologian, and his knowledge of the Homilies, from which he professes to quote, and on which he claims to build his views, is strangely defective, and his conclusions are altogether at variance with their teaching.

Nos. 13, 14, 15 and 16 of Picturesque Canada, which we have just received at the hands of the obliging canvasser and delivery agent, are uniform in appearance with, and fully equal in interest to, the previous numbers of which we have already spoken in the highest terms. The illustrations

embrace the most attractive and diversified Canadian scenes, and are true to the originals, making familiar to all classes and persons at every distance those things which are of national interest and importance in our great Dominion. We repeat what we have felt justified previously in saying, viz., that no Canadian who can afford it should lose the opportunity of possessing himself of so valuable a work.

The American Church Review for March fully sustains the high character it has made for itself, and which is not confined to the American Church, for we believe very many of our Canadian clergy have shown their appreciation of its merits by becoming subscribers, and hail with pleasure its monthly visitations. The contributors to its pages are, for the most part, men of position and influence in our Sister Church, and its articles usually are practical and of general interest.

Our Little Ones for April is, perhaps, the best number in many particulars that has yet appeared, although, indeed, when each issue is so admirable it is difficult to decide between them. One thing is without doubt certain, viz., that *Our Little Ones* surpasses any other publication of its kind, and should be in every household where there are small children.

THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY for April contains the usual collection of Sermons—twelve in all—and the authors of the discourses are mostly the men from whom the clergy like to hear. Among them are Bishop Simpson, Canon Farrar, Dr. John R. Paxton, Dr. R. S. Storrs, Dr. H. W. Thomas, Dr. Ormiston, Dr. Joseph Parker and Mr. Spurgeon. Rev. L. O. Thompson furnishes a "Prayer-Meeting Service" for each week in April. Dr. Howard Crosby continues his series on "Important Texts." Dr. Wm. Ormiston begins a careful and scholarly "Commentary on James," and the Baptists take their turn, represented by Drs. R. S. McArthur, Bridgman and J. B. Thomas, in "Interviews" on the "Best Methods of Preaching," while Rev. Chas. Parkhurst tells "Why the Manuscript should be Retained." The editorial departments contain outlines for sermons, sermonic criticisms, bits of discussion from preachers, "Homiletic Materials in the Rough," and other useful reading. \$2.50 a year; 25 cents a single copy. Funk & Wagnalls, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York.

THE WHEELMAN FOR APRIL.—The April *Wheelman*, which, by the way, is the first number of the second volume of this rapidly progressing magazine, appears in a new and very attractive cover, one of Ipsen's best designs, which is better suited to the excellence and success already achieved. This cover design is, we believe, the only one that can be ranked with that of *Vedder* which adorns *The Century*. The *Wheelman* may now becomingly take its place beside the few best illustrated magazines, as well for its general appearance and admirable typography, as for the excellence of the illustrations and articles.

TO PUBLISHERS AND EDITORS.—Many Newspapers and Magazines have been established in the United States and Canada within the last two years, the names of which do not appear in any Newspaper Directory or Catalogue. The publishers and editors of such are invited to send copies and a full description of their respective publications to the Editor of *Hubbard's Newspaper and Book Directory of the World*, New Haven, Conn., U. S. A., that they may be properly catalogued and described in the forthcoming edition of that work for 1883. Editors who kindly give this notice an insertion in their columns will confer a favor upon the Press of America.

Marriages.

DALEY—MCLAREN.—At Upham, on the 27th March, by the Rev. S. Jones Hanford, Michael R. Daley, Esq., of St. Martin's, and Mary, eldest daughter of Mr. Hugh McLaren, of the former place.

McKAY—WOOD.—In St. Martin's Church in the Wood, Shediac, by the Rector, Robert Bruce McKay, of Dorchester, to Florence Nightingale, eldest daughter of the late Joshua Wood, Esquire, of this Parish.