

SOUTH AMERICA.

formal, empty, dead and lifeless observances. It is for all good men in all the churches, and especially for the clergy, to guard against and counteract this tendency by seeking to awaken, and give full, adequate and appropriate expression, at all times, but especially at this season, to a true spirit of thanksgiving. There is no way whatever, we believe, in which this can be so well done as by all classes, all over the land, assembling in their several churches on the day appointed, to engage in acts of devout worship of Almighty God. The day and place, and its general observance, naturally invite and prompt to recall and recount national mercies during the year that now is past. This is itself a most elevating and religiously stimulating exercise; the nation whose people will do it really, and in any considerable numbers, cannot, so long as they observe it, become wholly gross and ignoble, and surely when Canadians enter upon this work of recalling and recounting their national mercies, their only difficulty must arise from their number and magnitude.

It is all but impossible at such a season not to make a comparison of our circumstances as a nation with those of other peoples in other lands; and when we do this, the thought is forced upon us, where are the people in any part of the earth, taking everything into consideration, who have more or greater mercies to speak of and thank God for than we have? Candidly and advisedly, without any thought of rhetoric or gush, we say it, we know not any; while, as compared with many other peoples, our lot and national blessings stand out in bright and striking contrast for their superiority over others in a thousand particulars. It may well be said of us, as of Israel of old: "Who hath God so nigh unto them as the Lord our God is in all things that we call upon him for?"

It is impossible when we have been in the house of God recalling national mercies and giving thanks for them, to return to our homes and partake of the good cheer of the occasion, and not also remember individual and family mercies, and, thus, praise and thanksgiving for these help in thousands of homes to swell the great tide of thanksgiving sweeping over the whole land.

But passing these by just now, a day of national thanksgiving implies the recognition of God as the author and giver of all our mercies, public and national as well as individual, and hence the duty to acknowledge Him as Sovereign and Lord. The devout and thankful heart is ready to say, in the sublime and reverent language of Scripture, "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and the earth is thine; thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honour come of Thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great and to give strength unto all." What more befitting than that in our thanksgiving as a people we should add, "Now, therefore, our God, we thank Thee and praise Thy glorious name." All this, in a word, implies and carries with it to the people who so acknowledge God, the duty of honouring Him by obedience to His will as He has revealed it to us. All history down to the present hour teaches that it is only thus that any people can expect to enjoy solid prosperity, growth and stability. The laws of God's moral government of nations in the past will not be held in abeyance or reversed for our benefit if we dishonour His word, His house and day, if we trample under our feet truth, justice and equity; if we oppress and wrong the poor and needy, or defraud the labourer of his hire. Righteousness alone exalteth a nation; it is favourable alike to the highest development and improvement of the intellectual faculties of a people, and of those religious and moral qualities which are the secret of all true national, as well as individual greatness and happiness, and form the only solid and lasting foundation of the growth, stability and well-being of any people. "Happy is the people that is in such a case, yea happy is that people whose God is the Lord."

ONE by one the different missionary fields of the world are being brought into prominence and their needs impressed upon God's people. The Missionary field is so vast, that the mind gets only a vague and misty idea when it tries to comprehend the meaning of tens of thousands of square miles of territory and millions of people. What helped to fire Carey's zeal for missions, was the use of that rude map he had hanging before him in his cobbler's shop. By the aid of this he carefully studied the individual countries until he ceased to see a dead map and seemed by-and-by to behold living faces looking out and appealing to him for help. And in our own time, perhaps the best work done for missions is that in which missionary Associations, Auxiliaries and Mission Bands study definite portions of the great field at home and abroad. This definite study begets definite prayer, and where there is real earnest prayer there will not long be lack of means or workers. Of all missionary fields there is perhaps none that has been so sadly neglected, as the southern part of the very continent on which we live. Ask nineteen out of every twenty intelligent Christians what they know about the spiritual condition and needs of South America, and they will most likely answer: "We really know next to nothing." This almost universal ignorance is not only lamentable but culpable to a degree. If a man lived just next door to a neighbor for years, and that neighbor's family were dying from lack of food, while all the time he had more than he knew what to do with, would not the simple claims of humanity make him culpable? This we fear is an illustration of our conduct toward our poor, dying Southern neighbors. Surely the condemnation of Scripture applies here, "If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death and those that are ready to be slain! If thou sayest, 'Behold, we knew it not,' doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it, and he that keepeth the soul, doth he not know it, and shall not he render to every man according to his works?" Many supposed that since South America was in practical possession of the Romish Church, that therefore they had Christianity even if in a corrupted form. But facts that are every day coming to light, clearly show that the degenerate Romanism of South America is little if any better than the paganism of Africa. But besides this mass of foreigners,—Spaniards and Portuguese,—there are over four millions of Indians who are almost untouched by the gospel. For the thirty-eight millions of South America, there are less than four hundred Protestant Christian workers of all kinds. Is it not well named "The Neglected Continent"? A great deal of interest is being awakened through the publication of a book with the above title. It originated on a visit of Rev'ds George C. Grubb and E. C. Millard (who are soon to hold services in Toronto) to South America in 1893. The first part of the book is a recital of their experiences and observations; the rest of the book is written by Miss Lucy E. Guinness, of Harley House, and is a unique presentation of the history, condition and needs of "The Neglected Continent." The land that has been consecrated by the heroic death of Captain Allan Gairdner and his companions in the frigid South, by the noble Moravians in the torrid North, in Guiana, and by the French Huguenots who wished to do for the South what the Pilgrim Fathers have done for the North, will not surely always remain under the deadly pall of corrupt Romanism. The book already referred to having fallen under the notice of some of the brethren in Toronto and elsewhere, it was decided to organize a Society on the lines of the China Inland Mission, to carry on work in South America. Its name is "The South American Evangelical Mission." Nothing like uncivilized lands, there are many opportunities for earnest Christians to go and support themselves there and give all their spare time to missionary work. There is also the possibility of establishing Christian colonies which will become oases in that moral and spiritual desert. The president of the Society is Rev. T. B. Hyde, the esteemed pastor of the Northern Congregational Church, and Rev. J. McP. Scott, of St. John's Presbyterian Church, is the secretary and treasurer. A very interesting meeting was held in the Northern Congregational Church on Monday evening, Nov. 4th, when the first missionaries of the society, Dr. Bremner and Mr. George Brown, bade farewell to their Canadian friends. The former is accompanied by his wife and family and will open a home in Monte Video or Buenos Ayres, which will be a centre for the work in that part of the field. Mr. Brown will finish his medical studies, and both practise and do missionary work. We commend this youngest of our missionary organizations to the sympathy, and support, and prayers of God's people.

Books and Magazines.

KING ARTHUR: A Drama. By Comyns Carr. New York: Macmillan & Co.

It is becoming more and more the fashion for play wrights to publish their works in book form, and thus to protest against being regarded as outside the domain of pure literature. Mr. Pinero and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones have already vindicated their claims, and the latest comes to them ranks is Mr. Comyns Carr in his play, "King Arthur." The volume is tastefully produced in Macmillan's best style. An additional interest centres about this play from the fact that it is one of Henry Irving's favorites, and is being produced with the utmost success in his present American tour. Those who have seen him in the title-role will peruse this published version with no small degree of interest; while those who have not been so privileged, will read its contents with equal avidity, the theme, pre-eminently one of poetic and dramatic flavor, being here admirably treated.

THE PRINCESS ALINE. By Richard Harding Davis. New York: Harper and Bros.

During the first three months of the present year this story appeared in serial form in the pages of *Harper's Magazine*. In the present attractive setting its popularity will no doubt be greatly supplemented. The action of the story centres around a young American artist who becomes infatuated with the picture of a German princess, and in an effort to meet whom he travels thousands of miles. The outcome of his romantic journey is delightfully told, and can only be fully appreciated by a personal perusal of the volume. Those who enjoy a charming story charmingly narrated should read "The Princess Aline." The illustrations are in Mr. C. D. Gibson's best and most individualistic style.

In the December number of the *Atlantic* is another of John Fiske's historical studies, entitled "The Starving Time in Old Virginia." This issue also contains three short stories: "Witchcraft" by L. Dougall; "The End of the Terror," by Robert Wilson; and "Dorothy," by Harriet Lewis Bradley. Other articles of interest are "A New England Woodpile," "The Defeat of the Spanish Armada," by W. F. Tilton; "An Idler on Missionary Ridge," a Tennessee sketch, by Bradford Torrey; "Notes from a Traveling Diary," a study of the new Japan; and "To a Friend in Politics," an anonymous letter. The third paper of the series, "New Figures in Literature and Art," which has attracted wide attention, appears in this issue. There are further chapters in Gilbert Parker's powerful serial, "The Seats of the Mighty," and two poems of exceptional quality. Book Reviews and the usual departments complete the issue. [Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.]

For obtaining a birds-eye view of the march of public events over the civilized world, of what its leading men in different walks of life are doing, and of the world's literature, no publication surpasses the *Review of Reviews*. In the current number, besides "The Progress of the World," being the editor's review of the month, some of the special features are: "Louis Pasteur, Scientist," "Recent Progress of Italian Cities," "Episcopacy's Sojourn at Minneapolis," being a very fully illustrated account of the triennial convention held in that city of the Episcopal Church of the United States. "In the Field of International Sport" is also copiously illustrated. The new books, "Leading Articles of the Month," "Periodicals Reviewed," with other departments, make up a very complete monthly record of the world's doings. [The Review of Reviews Co., 13 Astor Place, New York.]

The *New Science Review*, November. This review at once predisposes a large class of readers in its favour from its motto, A right mind cannot conceive of dead matter getting its full impetus without a sentient cause, like our own minds enlarging our bodies," etc., that cause being God. The *Review* is eminently practical in its character and the contributors to it make it interesting and instructive. A few of the subjects discussed in this number are: "The Formation of Coal," "The Domestication of Animals," "Medical Education in America," "The Past and Future of City Traction," "Vivisection"; and two, "Apergy, Power Without Cost," and "The Action of Force is Spiro-Vortex," deal with the theories and discoveries of Keely, the inventor of the notable Keely motor. [The Trans-Atlantic Publishing Company, 147 North Tenth Street, Philadelphia.]

The *Bookman* caters to the general desire of intelligent people to know all possible in the briefest compass respecting the most recent books and their authors, and also to furnish the trade with timely information respecting these subjects. The issue for November is No. 8 of Vol. II. and furnishes a varied and interesting bill of literary are under the following heads: "Chronicle and Comment," "Poetry," "The Reader," "London Letter," "Paris Letter," "Reviews of New Books," "The Bookman's Table," "Novel Notes," "Some Recent Publications," "Among the Libraries," "The Book Mart." Under all of these heads much interesting information will be found, made more attractive by being in many cases well illustrated. [Dodd, Mead & Co., 5th Avenue and 21st Street, New York.]

The *Literary Digest* has the following departments: "Topics of the Day," "Letters and Art," "Science," "The Religious World," "From Foreign Lands," "Miscellaneous." Under these various heads a vast amount of information is given, and the reader is kept acquainted with the leading currents of thought in the various departments mentioned. It is needless to say that a magazine which condenses well the latest thought in all these subjects serves a most important purpose. This the *Literary Digest* does. [Funk & Wagnall's Company, 30 Lafayette Place, New York.]