

of things the few who are there from year to year will take and keep the business out of the hands of men who come occasionally. The process of centralization will go on very rapidly if the men who are in every Assembly work for it. After a time the few begin to speak and act as if they owned the Church, and then comes a revolution of some kind.

DRAWING AND HOLDING.

WHEN a congregation is about to choose a pastor they usually desire to obtain the services of one who will be attractive. They want a man who will draw, as it is sometimes described. They are anxious to obtain one who by his preaching and general manner will be able to attract hearers and induce many to join the membership of the Church. There is nothing specially blameworthy in the desire to secure a minister possessed of the qualities that secure the good will of the people. There would be no wisdom in being indifferent to congregational prosperity. It would be simple folly to elect to the office of pastor a man who is without what for a better name is in these days described as magnetism. It is possible to have in the pulpit a man who is a profound theologian and a cultivated preacher, but who is devoid of all warmth of feeling and who is out of touch with many who are occupants of the pews. Under these circumstances it would be well nigh impossible for a congregation to prosper, or to manifest a vigorous type of spiritual life and beneficial activity.

Practical experience in the past has shown that drawing power in the pulpit is largely due to personality. One of the best illustrations of this was seen in the case of Mr. Spurgeon, whose valuable life work has been finished. He possessed several well defined qualities that enabled him to secure attention that speedily grew into respect and confidence, bringing his hearers into the condition most favourable for receiving good impressions from his ministry. The world-wide respect in which he was held has elicited comments on his life and work of a very diverse kind. Men who had no sympathy with his spiritual teaching in noting his departure as an event of the time have given expression to some singular ideas. Apart from all the individual gifts of which the minister of the Metropolitan Tabernacle was possessed his ministry was powerful and efficient because of the distinctively evangelical character with which it was uniformly charged. The man was powerful, not only because of his distinct and strongly developed personality, but chiefly on account of the great system of religious truth he sought constantly to enforce and defend. Some writers, whose sympathies are not in accord with Spurgeon's teaching are fain to persuade their readers that Spurgeon was a great man in spite of his Calvinistic creed. They express their wonder that a man of his calibre and temperament could bring himself to believe in what they are pleased to term the dark and repellent tenets of the great Genevan reformer. Such forget that this particular form of religious belief has been tenaciously held by some of the strongest and grandest of men. Carlyle will not generally be cited as an authority in theology, but he has again and again given expression to his belief that the distinctive principles of the Calvinistic creed have had a powerful influence in the formation of strong character, and his reference to such exponents as Oliver Cromwell and John Knox is always warm and enthusiastic.

It is not to personal qualities alone, valuable as they are, that the drawing power of the pulpit is mainly due. It is the truth proclaimed that is the real and efficient attraction. Its proclamation to be effective must be the outcome of intense and earnest conviction. The truth must possess the man, just as much as the man possesses the truth. A callous and indifferent declaration of the most precious truth will never move men. It must come thrilling and warm from mind to mind and from soul to soul. It has also been clearly demonstrated that sensationalism is a questionable kind of attractiveness. It may be that some have been drawn by it to better things, but its general effect is not comparable to the good that results from a direct, earnest and serious ministry. The preaching of Christ and Him crucified is the one great attractive power for all who desire deliverance from the guilt and the bondage of sin. It is the lifting up of Him that is the power to draw. His truth is still the wisdom of God and the power of God unto salvation. And the ministry that draws is likewise the ministry that holds, for the holding is no less necessary than the drawing. If believers are to be built up in their

most holy faith, they require an edifying ministry. They must be trained in the experience of love and in the practice of good works, and for this there is nothing better fitted than the doctrines of grace that in the past have proved the best incentives to holy living. Our age more than ever needs an earnest, consecrated, evangelical ministry.

WOMAN AS A CHRISTIAN WORKER.

AMONG those who have sought to advance the cause of morality and righteousness there are not a few women who have earned by their labours an honoured place in the annals of the time. Mrs. Josephine Butler, of London, England, has done much for the promotion of social purity and for the uplifting of the fallen and degraded. She tells us that in the earlier days of her efforts she had to submit to much abuse and misrepresentation. Whenever any one, male or female, appears conspicuously in the ranks of social reform they are sure to be attacked and their motives misunderstood and distorted. It is marvellous how strong is the defence of the worst evils. Such defence is not usually direct, but it is remarkable how determined some people are in defending the worst of existing social abuses, and there have been occasions when that defence was made with barbarous frankness. Mr. Stead was villified for the part he took in laying bare the monstrous iniquities that prevailed in the English social world. He may have been indiscreet and he may be open to the censure of dilettante critics, who rarely take life seriously, but he did good and substantial service to the cause of true morality in enabling the common people to get a glimpse of some of the awful abominations that are beneath the veneered surface of fashionable social life. Mrs. Josephine Butler was also subjected to ungenerous and unjust criticism while she strove to help the fallen and to brand with dishonour those who go on sinning against God's law of purity. In her case it was not merely the worldly and those whose moral sense is obtuse, but many from whom other things might have been expected were severe in the censure of the manner in which she went about her humane and Christ-like work. She tells us that Mr. Spurgeon, Lord Shaftesbury and several of the illustrious dignitaries of the Anglican Church wrote her terrible letters of denunciation. To their honour, however, she adds that all of them came to understand her and her position better, and, like the candid men they were, acknowledged the injustice they had done her. These letters, she says, she spread out Hezekiah-like before the Lord and waited. She adds: "Another learned bishop who had so written to me, wrote a year later: 'Pardon me. I have asked pardon of God. I am a foolish and ignorant old man; but He has shown me how falsely I judged your position.' That was a bishop indeed."

Mrs. Butler pleads for the recognition of woman's true place in Christian work. She claims that in the Church her equality with man should be conceded. She shows that at the planting of the Church woman was engaged in the holiest service. She does not claim official position for woman, but she does plead that she may be permitted to exercise the gifts bestowed upon her, to use the talents with which she has been entrusted. This Christian philanthropist considers as significant the circumstance that when Christ sent forth the seventy there was not a woman in their number. So also she notes that among the twelve whom our Lord called to be apostles there was no woman. For this reason, therefore, she does not claim equality of office, but equality of service. The oft-quoted words of Paul do not occasion Mrs. Butler any serious difficulty, though it is to be regretted that she permits herself to use the unguarded expression "narrow Pauline directions." Of those she says:—

The Church has always allowed herself to be bound, held back, dragged down, more or less, by the overpowering weight of unregenerate male feeling and opinion in this matter, aided since the Reformation by the narrow Pauline directions, which (given for the correction of the conduct of silly and ignorant Greek women of the day) men have elected to apply to all women in all time, and have allowed to override the teaching of Christ on this matter, a teaching which sets in the fullest light the principles which ought to have been dear to the Church, and to have been her guide in this vital matter.

The Head of the Church while on earth did not disdain the devoted efforts of ministering women. Within recent years, more particularly in connection with works of practical benevolence and in the advancement of the cause of missions, woman has been privileged to render great, important and lasting service.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—Every week with unfailing regularity this fine periodical furnishes its wide circle of readers with the best literature of the day.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—As a monthly specially adapted for an interesting class of readers this finely printed, beautifully illustrated and ably written magazine is easily the first of its class.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—In its new and improved form this excellent weekly is specially attractive. Its contents are varied and well adapted to the requirements of young readers, the illustrations are numerous and good, and in tone it is all that can reasonably be desired.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The March number of *St. Nicholas* is filled with good things, both in the way of special article, story and poem, and the illustrations are fully up to the high standard of excellence for which it is so favourably known.

THE ILLUSTRATED NEWS OF THE WORLD, the American edition of the famous English weekly, is a fine specimen of what an illustrated paper can become under competent and enterprising management. In addition to the numerous splendid engravings, the talent of a number of the most prominent writers of the day enlisted in its service makes this paper specially attractive.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY. (Montreal: Sabiston Publishing Co.)—The March issue of this new and promising Canadian literary venture is a decided improvement on the first number. The quality of the illustrations is better, and in other respects advance is noticeable. For the price at which it is published and the quantity and quality of reading matter, it deserves the encouragement and support of Canadian readers, the more especially because most of the best known Canadian writers are on its list of contributors. The papers in the number are: "From Canada to St. Helena," by A. McCook; "Jamaica Vistas," by Dr. Wolford Nelson; "Historic Canadian Waterways," by J. M. LeMoine. There are portraits and sketches of the members of the new Quebec Cabinet. Charles G. D. Roberts continues his serial story "The Raid from Beausejour," and William Wilfred Campbell contributes a good short story "Deacon Snider and the Circus." In addition to other excellent features there is a corner "For the Children."

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Julian Ralph contributes two papers of great interest to the current number of *Harper's*. One is "Talking Musquash," descriptive of the Hudson Bay Territories, and the other is on "The Capitals of the North-West," in which the position and prospects of St. Paul, Minneapolis, Duluth and Superior are described. The second of the series of finely illustrated papers, "From the Black Forest to the Black Sea," appears. A paper that will be turned to with keen interest is one by M. Blowitz, the Paris correspondent of the *London Times*, who contributes "Alfonso XII. Proclaimed King of Spain, A new Chapter of My Memoirs." Walter Besant this time tells of "The London of George the Second." There is a good paper on "Our Gray Squirrel," by Ernest Ingersoll, and one by Edward Anthony Bradford on "America for the Americans." William Dean Howells begins his new story "The World of Chance." There are several short stories and poems of well defined merit.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—Readers of the *Century* will find the March number one of unusual interest. It is exceptionally good. M. G. Van Rensselaer, who lingers so lovingly amid the English Cathedrals, opens the number with an exhaustive paper on St. Pauls, London. The illustrations are both copious and excellent. Other illustrated papers are: "The United States Fish Commission"; "Italian Old Masters," with several specimens of Giorgione's beautiful work; "Middle Georgia Rural Life"; and "Our Tolstoi Club." The conductors of the magazine have arranged for the publication of the essays prepared for the Turnbull Memorial Lectureship of Poetry, at Johns Hopkins University. The first of the series is by Edmund Clarence Steadman on "The Nature and Elements of Poetry—Oracles Old and New." Paderewski, the Russo-Polish pianist is prominent in this month's number. His portrait forms the frontispiece. A critical study and biography is supplemented by a poem by the editor, R. W. Gilder. There is a short paper on "The Farmer and Railway Legislation," by Henry C. Adams; and one by Hjalmar H. Boyesen on "An Acquaintance with Hans Christian Andersen." "The Naulahka," by Rudyard Kipling, is continued, and the author of "The Anglo-Maniacs" begins a new story with the title of "Gay's Romance." Short stories and poems in plenty add to the variety of the number. One of the poetical contributors is Professor Charles G. D. Roberts.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston.)—The *Atlantic Monthly* for March opens with an article by the Rev. Brooke Herford, on "An Old English Township" which shows him at heart to have all that true English love of the country which is almost a national characteristic. Mr. Crawford continues his serial of Italian life, "Don Orsino," and Miss Isabel F. Hapgood has a vividly written paper on Russian travel, called "Harvest-Tide on the Volga." Miss Agnes Repplier contributes an interesting essay on "The Children's Poets." Joel Chandler Harris has a short dialect story, called "The Bell of St. Valerien,"—not a story of negro life, for St. Valerien is a township of New France. Edith Thomas, under the fanciful title of "The Little Children of Cybele," describes the habits of the swallow, the squirrel, the tortoise, the chipmunk, and other dumb pensioners of nature, interspersed here and there with short poems. The most important article in the number, however, is "Why the Men of '61 fought for the Union," by Major-General Jacob Dolson Cox. Another important article is by Professor George Herbert Palmer, of Harvard University, who writes on "Doubts about University Extension," a scholarly paper, which will command the attention of the many persons interested in the work of university extension. Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin's clever short story called "A Village Watch Tower" gives liveliness to the number, and there are also papers by Gamaliel Bradford, Jr., F. Blake Crofton, with some poetry and several able reviews. This notice of the number, however, should not be closed without calling attention to "A Political Parallel," a fearless article introducing current United States politics.