

THE CENTURY FUND.

The Rev. Dr. Campbell is going among the Presbyteries and doing good work in stimulating them to make a final effort to carry this movement to complete success. It must be admitted that last year was in some respects unfavorable for work of this kind. If Canada was peaceful and prosperous, many parts of the world were in special trouble. We were called to send forth many of our young men to defend the Empire in South Africa. While this was a noble manifestation of patriotism, it involved risk to all; and, as it has turned out, great loss to many. It was only right that an attempt should be made to provide help for the sick and wounded, and this involved the raising of a large sum of money. During the same year there was the Indian famine fund appealing powerfully to the charitable; and of a more local and temporary character was the need caused by the Ottawa fire. Of course we never can tell at the beginning of a year what new and unexpected appeals will arise during its course; but one has to admit that '99 was very special, and that such strong claims cannot help but conflict with a great movement like the Century Fund effort. Still this fund can be saved and made completely successful, if two principles be applied more fully; the first, that of universal response; and the second, that of placing in the forefront the general needs of the church. It appears that there is still, after all the work done, a large number of churches not heard from, and it is important that all should take part. Those that do not fall in with the scheme increase the average needed from those who do cordially cooperate. We trust that for the credit of Presbyterianism, no large number of congregations will be found missing from the roll as the agent of the church points out the work that has to be done between this and next Christmas. So that the ministers must make another effort to show their people that participation in this great enterprise is an appropriate way of exhibiting their gratitude to God, and is a means of blessing to themselves.

Another important point is that congregations should not make this an opportunity of dealing with old debts, which in any case they would have to meet. The arrangement accepted by the Assembly that launched the scheme was forty per cent. for local claims and sixty per cent. for the general fund. This meant that no congregation was expected to give a less proportion of its contributions than sixty per cent. to the common fund, while many might give a still larger proportion. The action of many congregations—and these are found among the wealthiest congregations—has been to reverse this proposition. They have taken upon themselves the responsibility of radically changing the basis laid down by the supreme court of the church, and the result may seriously injure the whole scheme. When we think how much depends upon this Common Fund, how much missionary, benevolent and educational activity it is meant to stimulate, may we not hope that many of

these congregations will even now reconsider the matter, and show their loyalty and their generosity by falling into line with the Assembly's very reasonable proposal.

THE FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW.

The last article—save the instalment of the story, "By the Ionian Sea"—in the Fortnightly Review for September, entitled "The Coming Settlement in China," by Diplomaticus, is by no means the least in point of merit in this number. The explanation of the *status quo* and the prophecy, if not the demand, regarding the *terminus ad quem* of affairs in China are lucid and convincing. According to this writer, the author of the present troubles should be punished, the allies should be indemnified for losses and expenses, and a strong native government established, calculated to guarantee order in the empire and the faithful execution of treaties with foreign powers. Surg. Col. (r-tired) Welch in "The Care of the Sick and Wounded in War," seeks to lay before the general public such details regarding the Royal Army Medical Corps as will place people in a position to estimate the evidence that will be adduced by the recently appointed commission, the deductions drawn from it, and the conclusions arrived at. This article, while packed close with information that surprises one, is a fresh protest against the red-tapeism of the War Office. There is an unsigned article, "A Lead for Liberalism," in which a condition of affairs as regards leadership in that party is set forth similar to that existing in the Conservative ranks here. The writer urges the Liberal party to make Democratic or Middle-class Imperialism their watchword, as differing essentially from the popular but Aristocratic Imperialism of the Conservatives. In "We Always Are Ready," by Rollo Appleyard, serious defects are shown up in the engineering branch of the navy. H. Whates in "The Outgoing Government" explains why by them no great measures affecting social legislation were enacted, and estimates the worth of the Conservative government by setting forth their policy in Imperial affairs. Striking then what he calls a balance sheet of their failures and successes in their foreign relations, his claim is that by study of this, the electorate will be enabled to form definite ideas of the magnitude and variety of the work done by the outgoing ministry. The story of "The Delagoa Bay Arbitration," as told by Malcolm McIlwraith, is intensely interesting, and leads one to believe that the arbitrators, after the space of nine years, did not efficiently discharge the mandate conferred on them by the three governments concerned. Other articles, "Gordon's Campaign in China, by Himself," with introduction by Col. R. H. Vetch, C.B.; "The Dramas of Gabrielle D'Annunzio," "Irish Witch Doctors," "Some Writers on War," one glances over and resolves to read some time.

Literary Notes.

In the Missionary Review of the World for October the "Missionary Question in China," which is now so much to the front, is ably and sympathetically dealt with by Hon. Charles Denby, formerly United States Minister to China. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson writes on "The Mysteries of God's Providence in China," and Dr. J. T. Gracey on "Government Protection for Missionaries."

But all this number of the Review is not taken up with China. Canon Edmunds, who spoke recently in Knox church in this city, contributes a remarkable paper on "Bible Translation and Distribution," Mr. Spencer Walton, of South Africa, writes interestingly of "British Amatongaland," and various other writers deal with as many important and up-to-date topics. The numerous illustrations in this number give vividness and interest to the scenes described. Published monthly by Funk & Wagnalls Co., 30 Lafayette Place, New York. \$2.50 a year.

In Blackwood's for September Captain Haldane's most interesting sketch of "How We Escaped From Pretoria" is concluded. It gives a vivid picture of the narrow escapes and the final attainment of freedom. "After Wild Geese in Manitoba" is bright and readable, and is, of course, exceptionally interesting to Canadians. "The Old Golf and the New," "The War Operations in South Africa," and "Some Needs of the Navy," among other subjects, are discussed this month. Leonard Scott Publishing Company, New York.

The October number of the Ladies' Home Journal is essentially one of beginnings. It contains the commencement of "The Story of a Young Man," which portrays the life of Jesus of Nazareth; then Elizabeth Stuart Phelps has the first instalment of a serial which promises to be very good; and there is also the first of a series of articles called "A Story of Beautiful Women." These are only a few of the good things to be found in the Journal this month. The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia.

Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly for October contains the third and last of a series of papers called "Recollections of General Robert E. Lee." A long and interesting article on "The Home of Jeanne d'Arc," "Extracts from Admiral Philip's Diary," and an article entitled "China; a Survival of the Unfittest," are among the contents of this number. In the way of fiction there are several good short stories, including one by the late Stephen Crane. Frank Leslie Publishing House, New York.

Work and Play; Talks to College Students, by John E. Bradley, president of Illinois College. Cloth, 208 pp., \$1.00. The Pilgrim Press, Chicago. Dr. Bradley has been for many years a leader in education, and his knowledge of young people and their needs has been apparent in many ways. In no line of activity has he been more successful than in the practical talks he has given to the students of Illinois College. In this book a dozen of these talks have been presented, all of them on live topics, like "Work," "Play," "Health," "Habit," "Unconscious Education," "Castles in Spain," etc. They are marked by strong common sense, clearness of presentation, and effectiveness of illustration. The book is attractively made, and in appearance and contents will win the favor of a great number of young people in college and out, to whom it will be among their most prized possessions.