

the ablest Edwardian the country has seen since Edwards died."

The writer recalls that when a student at Newton, Dr. Park on the invitation of the Seminary authorities came and delivered a short series of lectures on the Edwardian or New England system of theology, the exposition was lucid, and being divested of all severity by the lecturer's abundant fund of humor, was as enjoyable as it was instructive. A good story which the professor told in connection with some remarks on the doctrine of the absoluteness of the divine decrees was somewhat as follows:

In the palmy days of the New England theology, there lived up in New Hampshire a man who was unwilling to accept fully the doctrine preached by his minister, that all events came to pass in accordance with the divine decrees and could not be made otherwise by the exercise of human will. One cold and wintry day this man was riding homeward in his wagon, the mysteries of theology never far from his thought, when there flashed upon his mind a brilliant idea, and he saw, as by a flash of lightning, his way to a practical demonstration by which the doctrine of decrees should be demolished. There were two roads to his house, one a good and direct road by which he was travelling, the other a very bad and round-about road which he had naturally avoided. It was plain to the good man, as the nose on his face, that it must have been decreed that he should go home by the good road. It was the short way, the easy way, the natural way, he was on it already, it must be in accordance with the nature of things and the eternal decrees that he should go by that way. But he perceived that he was not shut up to this way, he could and he would go the other way and show the minister that the human will was independent of decrees. So back he turned, though it was grievous to the flesh, and took the other road. Arrived at home at length, cold and weary, but triumphant in spirit, he hastened to his minister to inform him how it had fared with the decrees. The minister heard his tale, regarded his parishioner sadly for a moment, then said: "I always feared that you were fore-ordained to be a fool, and now it is beyond question that you have made your calling and election sure."

The programme for the Week of Prayer, prepared by the Evangelical Alliance is as follows:

Sunday, January 1st.—Sermons, Unity in Variety, John 17:26 and 1 Cor. 12:12; Section 1.

Monday, January 2nd.—Confession and Thanksgiving, Psalms 32:5, James 1:12-27, 1 Peter 4:1-9.

Tuesday, January 3rd.—The Church Universal, John 20:19-23, Phil. 3:12-21.

Wednesday, January 4th.—Nations and their Rulers, Psalm 2, 1 Tim. 2:1-8.

Thursday, January 5th.—Families and Schools, Eph. 5:25-31.

Friday, January 6th.—Foreign Missions, Eph. 1:1-22.

Saturday, January 7th.—Home Missions, 1 Peter 4:7-19.

Sunday, January 8th.—Variety in Unity, 1 Cor. 12:27, John 17:22.

In British Columbia.

LETTER THE FIFTH.

The three months service which I have had the pleasure of completing, has been a source of intense interest to me and I trust of some benefit to the Province. The Board here felt the time had come for a Superintendent of Missions to be in the field. After visiting every church and mission station, as well as a number of new places, I am led to the conclusion that the time has not come, but that evangelists are the great need of the Province. Many or all towns need attention, where men must put themselves down for definite work, staying months in one neighborhood if not years. My suggestion to the Board, therefore, is to place as many evangelists as funds will permit, in the growing centres of population, appointing one of the pastors acting-superintendent, until the growth of the work and the finances, will permit putting a permanent general missionary in the Province. People and pastors are coming from our Eastern Provinces, and we must do what we can to aid them. The need of gospel preaching is very great. Theatricals, smoking, drinking and dancing, under church auspices, is of frequent occurrence in British Columbia. I hope to have the privilege of visiting the Maritime Provinces next August, and to have the

opportunity of describing the work and the country. After meeting with the Board in Winnipeg I shall reach my home in Brantford, Ont., for Xmas, and to give myself to the dissemination of information respecting missionary work.

Since my last, special meetings have been held at Vancouver and Victoria. Day after day people gathered together to hear the word, and a number found peace in believing. A church was organized at Saanich on Vancouver Island, where Rev. H. H. Saunders is now located. We are much pleased with Bro. Saunders and his wife. They will do a good work in a needy district. Bro. C. W. Rose was ordained at Nelson on Dec. 13th, and passed a good examination. He is doing a good work among a devoted people. I wish that some church in Nova Scotia, would undertake to make up the balance of his salary, until the church is self-supporting—it will be in twelve or eighteen months time. If such should be found, let them send three hundred dollars for 1899, and one hundred and fifty in 1900, to Mr. Wm. Marchants, Victoria, or if preferred to Bro. Rose, Nelson, B. C. Rev. J. H. Best is leaving Rossland and going to Windsor, Ont. Rev. Mr. Sweet, another Eastern man, is laboring in the toughest place in B. C. There is no hope but for us to stand by the work there, for some time to come. I should be glad to hear of some church in N. S. or N. B., willing too stand by Bro. Sweet. They may write to him or to me for information. I might mention also that Bro. Saunders, at Saanich must be helped to hold the fort, and reach the outsiders in a wide districts. Perhaps some church from whence he comes would like to stand by him.

Altogether I am much pleased with the appearance of things in the Province. The population will soon be doubled. The Baptist churches are happily witnessing a good confession and at considerable cost to themselves. There is much to contend with, but the separateness of the disciples of Christ will not be without effect. If my letters have helped to interest any in the East, in the good and needy work of the West, I shall not have written in vain. I was received most kindly everywhere, and aided in my efforts by pastors and people. It will please the girls of Nova Scotia, to know that Miss Black, now Mrs. Ralph Trotter of Victoria, is winning her way among the people of that city, and is considered to be a lady of good common sense, refinement and energy in Christian work.

I close my letters with the hope that the near future will find our eastern churches lending a hand in every way possible, towards the solution of a problem which means good in every way to our cause. Perhaps it may not be long ere the whole Baptist body of the Dominion, will resolve to form an advisory and educational missionary board, so that no part of our field may be neglected, and that an equalization of aid may be made possible. At present we are not giving the attention we ought to some parts, while some churches might possibly walk alone if they had to do so.

D. SPENCER.

December 18th.

Arrows from a Hunter's Quiver.

NATURE'S VARIED MOODS.

Originals, on the weather are impossible, but Nature can originate any kind of weather, and it is best to receive it with a smile, whether, rain, hail, snow, frost, thaw, blow, pass on and talk on something else.

Christmas, is now the topic of every tongue and cycles of years will never make absolete the great Feast of the Mosses, which identifies heaven with earth; and with which commingle so much sunshine and shadow, grief and gladness.

O blessed days of joy and peace

With good will to mankind,

Roll on till God's abounding grace,

Shall all His people find;

Till glory love and holiness

Shall all men's lives restrain

And Christ in power and righteousness

O'er all the world shall reign.

THE HIGHEST CRITICS.

McMaster does not scan the Theological horizon to see what new theoretical star is rising, or to ascertain the "latest trend of thought" on "the great questions." She follows with transfixed gaze "the Dayspring from on High," by whose effulgent rays, she knows when, where and how, every wild meteor shall rise. Then when the "stargazers" are all enraptured or dazed, she is able calmly and positively to declare that the centres of attraction are simply recreant excrecences, flung from flying worlds which fade and fall.

In the Chancellor, Drs. Rand, Welton, Goodspeed and Newman, whose departments are within the range of the "Higher Critics," we have nothing to fear. For they are the highest critics, capable of standing over and above them ("the higher critics"), and of leading the way to impregnable ground and to a certain goal. Independent study without such men is liable to wreck faith and character. McMaster believes in a thorough and critical investigation, but she is orthodox.

EVERY DAY.

As of yore, the Fyfe Missionary Society holds its meetings monthly for a whole day. This year they are surpassing in interest.

Returned missionary Walker, addressed the annual meeting in the Bloor St. church recently on "India's attitude to Christ and Christianity."

It was a great message from a great heart. This Society is an integral part of the university life, and the zeal for missions engendered through it, crystallizes in the cultured and beautiful lives given to the cause of Christ at home and abroad, rather than to sordid gain and worldly enterprise.

With a loyal heart and a mighty hand
They might share the Nation's fame,
By heroic deeds on the field of strife;
They might gain a victor's name:
But better for them with a zeal sublime
As "ambassadors for God,"
To sway the world with the sceptre of love,
And declare His living word.

STRAY SHOTS.

The Bloor St. Social Club is a great success this winter. As many as 200 men attend once a month.

The Rev. I. E. Bill, well known in the Maritime Provinces, late of Poplar Hill, Ont., being unable for active service, is now living in Toronto.

Rev. Geo. Cross, M. A., B. Th., after a year abroad in Scotland and Germany is now settled with the Aylmer Baptist church.

Our Ministerial Conference recently gave a session to the discussion of "The Intermediate State." They stand a unit on conscious existence in blessedness or misery, between death and the resurrection.

J. HARRY KING.

Toronto, Dec. 20th.

Literary Notes.

Barrie's "Margaret Ogilvy" has been translated into Swedish.

William Black, the celebrated Scotch novelist, has died at the age of 57—an age when much good work—perhaps his best might have been expected from his pen. Alluding to the author's death, the Independent recalls the following words written by him some years ago, "My more intimate friends—one half of whom seem to consider my novels facetious and trivial, the other half complaining of them as far too gloomy and tragic—appear to agree in thinking that there ought to be something beyond these voices. Perhaps I shall satisfy them in time. Perhaps I shall end as I began, with a series of suggestions for the better government of the universe. In fact, I have now in my eye a scheme—but we will not anticipate." "Was this 'scheme' ever carried out," the Independent asks.

The Living Age for 1899. The long continued life of this venerable and valuable eclectic is another instance of the survival of the fittest, in that it, the best of all, has absorbed or survived every one of its numerous rivals or imitators. Its present vitality is evidenced by the announcement that The Eclectic Magazine of New York, its oldest and most important competitor, will, with the issue of January 1899, be consolidated with The Living Age, and be hereafter known as The Eclectic Magazine and Monthly Edition of The Living Age.

This remarkable success of The Living Age is owing to the fact that it enables one with a comparatively small outlay of time and money, to keep pace with the best thought and literature of the day. Hence its importance to every American reader.

The magazine has never better fulfilled the purpose indicated by its title than during the past year. Its weekly issue has enabled it to give its readers promptly the views of the ablest British and continental journals, magazines and reviews, upon all questions of general interest.

In a Monthly Supplement a department was introduced two years ago giving "Readings from New Books." This will be continued, and a new editorial department devoted to notes on "Books and Authors" added.

The prospectus for 1899, which appears in another column, is well worth the attention of all who are selecting their reading matter for the new year. To new subscribers remitting now for 1899, the intervening numbers of 1898 are sent gratis.

Forward!

God said unto the children of Israel, "Go Forward!" In other words let nothing hinder you from marching on to victory. Why should not the children of God, of this fair land, adopt this divine injunction for their motto—in the fight for prohibition. It would almost appear as though many were stopping in this great struggle at the border of the Dead Sea. Surely God has given us a splendid victory thus far. Yet some desire to make us believe that our majority is not large enough. What other excuse would they concoct if our majority was larger? What other phase of crime would receive such a large vote if the electors were asked to give their expression at the polls? Much time has been spent for an obvious reason, trying to make us think that a great many electors did not vote. But they did not tell us that it was difficult for many whose names were on the list to vote. For instance in one polling district near by thirty were either non-residents or dead. Yet what an overwhelming majority we would have had, but for one Province. Are we going to remain by the Dead Sea, because one Province takes this shameful position. For it is a shameful position whether they are conscious of it or not. And we fear too many are willing to acquiesce to the petty arguments of the minority. Why are the political papers so silent when we may be near the goal? Why are not all the religious papers urging every Christian citizen to duty at this crisis? If we as Christians do not use all our power in pushing this question to victory, who will do it? Are we going to stop just here and let the weak continue to perish? Let this golden opportunity pass? If we do, we deserve to be engulfed in the dead sea of failure and shame as a Christian nation. And we need not expect any government to give us such an opportunity for years to come.

C. P. WILSON.