

servance, it may be safely said that home is the very centre of Christmas joys. With what eagerness the youthful people have been counting the days till the seemingly leaden hours would pass and the joyous morning be ushered in! How their wishes have been formed, their plans laid and their thoughts dominated by the coming of the long-anticipated day! The families whose members, in accordance with providential orderings, have been far scattered have looked forward to and prepared for the happy reunion when father and mother, brothers and sisters meet once more under the paternal roof-tree and give free scope to the affection that binds them together. May all the families into whose homes THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN enters enjoy to the full the happiness of which such annual reunions are capable!

Strong family affection and large-hearted sympathy for others are by no means incompatible. Indeed those whose kindness of nature is best developed are the same people who are most concerned for the promotion of human happiness. The Christian home is the kindest of all soils for the growth of human charities. Those whose surroundings are most favourable to the enjoyments of the Christmas-tide will have none of their thankfulness to the beneficent Father decreased by the recollection that there are straitened homes, where the joys are few, that might be brightened not a little by their kindly remembrances. Even a gentle touch of brotherly kindness can send a glow of delight to the hearts of the sorrow-stricken and the sad. Let the little children whose weary march has hitherto been along the dolorous way be gladdened by those whose morning of life is being passed under happier auspices. There may be various remedies for the social inequalities that perplex the thoughtful, but none are more potent than those that have their rise in the kindly human feelings that make the whole world kin.

While the great nations of Europe are like vast armed camps, while statesmen and diplomats are laying their plans and forming or preventing combinations that may eventuate in cruel warfare, while different classes are perplexed by fears of social conflict and while party strifes, rage, and unscrupulous ambitions distract, high over all apprehensions, over all contentings, let men only listen to the notes of the heavenly anthem as it re-echoes once more around the world, "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will towards men."

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

PRESBYTERIANISM does not admit the truth of the old legend that "ignorance is the mother of devotion." In fact it denies that there is any relation between them unless it be that of step-motherhood. Ignorance is undoubtedly the mother of superstition, but of devotion never. The devotion that is not the fruit of intelligence is lacking in one of its essential elements. Throughout its history in every land Presbyterianism has ever sought to advance the cause of education in its every stage. It has not receded from the position John Knox claimed for it over three centuries since. Like him it wants to see a school in every parish. . . . an institution for higher education in every town. Its educational ambition is not confined by narrow or selfish limits. It requires an educated ministry but it rejoices in the universal diffusion of enlightenment, and wishes the education of all. Ignorance is one of the things it dreads and deplures.

So it is not surprising that fifty years ago noble pioneers met at Kingston for the purpose of founding a university for the training of ingenuous youth for the ministry and for the other learned professions. The little acorn planted then is a vigorous tree with outspreading limbs and numerous branches, on which with varied but melodious notes so many people of distinguished eminence last week sang their grateful songs of thanksgiving for past successes, and uttered prophetic notes of future splendour and greater usefulness. At the jubilee celebration, the story of the onward progress of this now prosperous and influential institution was well told by the learned Chancellor in his most interesting address at Convocation. Queen's did not come to the front by leaps and bounds. In the pages of her history there are records of dark and discouraging days as well as of bright and successful times, when she took long strides forward. In recalling the past it was well not to overlook these facts, not alone for artistic purposes to serve as an appropriate background for the brighter tints of the picture, but as bringing into relief the patient endurance and persevering energy of those who had to breast the blows of circumstance and out of apparent defeat snatch the victory with which their endeavours have been crowned.

The celebration was appropriately begun with religious services in Convocation Hall. The Univer-

sity was founded for the purpose of promoting the divine glory, its work has been uniformly carried on for half a century with this end in view, and it is still its cherished purpose, it was therefore fitting that, prominent in the joyous ceremonial, gratitude for the benefits that have come from God's guiding hand should find appropriate expression. The keynote was finely given in the lofty spirit that breathes through "Fidelis" Thanksgiving Hymn, which, in its felicitous adaptation and melodious beauty was worthy of the occasion for which it was written. No less appropriate was the learned and devout sermon preached by the pastor of St. Andrew's Church, Kingston. Then came in the afternoon the more varied proceedings of Convocation, beginning with conferring the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor-General of the Dominion, for which distinction the illustrious recipient responded in a manner at once happy and effective. The Chancellor in his speech gave a clear condensed yet compact and connected history of Queen's from its inception to its present condition. Not the least interesting part of his address was the roll of names that appear in the royal charter, all of the twenty-six find a permanent place in the pages of Canadian history. But a few weeks ago only two whose names are inscribed in the honoured record remained; by the recent death of the Hon. William Morris, only a solitary survivor, the venerable Dr Cook of Quebec, is left. His health was too feeble to enable him to be present to take part in an event in which he took so deep an interest.

The other speakers of the afternoon were all men of mark. The Rev. W. T. Herridge, of Ottawa, the youngest university trustee, as all who know him expected he would, acquitted himself well in the discharge of the duty assigned him. Sir John A. Macdonald, Premier of the Dominion, spoke with his accustomed raciness and was received with that warmth of enthusiasm which is generally accorded him when he is called on for an address. Dr. William Reid, the venerable Clerk of the Assembly, contributed in a happy manner several of his reminiscences, a thing he was well able to do, seeing that the preceding speaker, himself and Mr. R. M. Rose of Kingston, were the only survivors of the company who met to organize Queen's University. Rev. Dr. Williamson, Mr. R. V. Rogers, Q.C., Rev. Dr. Wardrope, Provost Body, Rev. G. M. Milligan, Rev. Geo. Cuthbertson and Rev. John Burton gave appropriate addresses, and Principal Grant concluded this part of the day's proceedings by reading Miss Annie Rothwell's spirited Jubilee Ode. Over the banquet in the evening and the post-prandial oratory we need not linger. May the next half-century of Queen's be as distinguished, as useful, and as prosperous as the last, and another annotator will have a still more brilliant ceremonial to record!

Books and Magazines.

IS IT MARY OR THE LADY OF THE JESUITS? By Justin D. Fulton, D.D. (Toronto: Archer G. Watson.)—In this pamphlet Dr. Fulton gives the data on which his famous exposé of Romish Mariolatry is founded.

TROPHIMUS: Or a Discussion of the Faith Cure Theory. By William Gibbon. (New York: 1253 Lexington Avenue.)—A well-written tractate on the Faith Cure theory, in which the doctrines and practices of those who follow it are subjected to a keen and telling logical analysis. It is well worth reading.

FROM the Penn Publishing Company, Philadelphia, we have received "The Elocutionist's Annual," containing suitable extracts for recitation from a number of the best American and European authors; "Tableaux, Charades and Pantomime," for social amusement; "Jokes," A Fresh Crop Gathered by Henry Firth Wood; and "Handbook of Pronunciation and Phonetic Analysis."

FROM a raindrop to a geyser—the wonder of water in various forms—is the subject of an article which the great English scientist, Professor Tyndall, has written for the *Youth's Companion*. Popular scientific articles will also be contributed by Professor N. S. Shaler, Professor John Trowbridge, Sir Morell Mackenzie, Dr. William A. Hammond, Lieutenant Schwatka and Dr. St. John Hoosa.

INTERNATIONAL QUESTION BOOK FOR 1890. Parts One, Two and Three. (Boston: W. A. Wilde; Toronto: John Young.)—These excellent little graded manuals for the use of Sabbath school scholars have been tested by experience and have been found to be very valuable. The series for little ones, for the intermediate and for more advanced scholars are this year fully up to expectation.

INSTEAD of a large paper of eight pages such as it has been in bygone years, the *New York Ledger* is now issued in a compact, elegant form of sixteen pages, and instead of being filled with stories "to be continued in our next," its columns are brilliant with articles of popular interest from the pens of many of the best writers. This shows marked progress, and is an encouraging state of affairs. While the quality of the paper used is finer than formerly, and the cost of illustrations has been greatly increased, the price of the *Ledger* has been reduced from three to two dollars a year.

INTERLINEAR GREEK-ENGLISH GOSPEL OF LUKE: SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR 1890—(Chicago: Albert & Scott.)—Just the book for every wide-awake Sunday school worker. Among Sunday school helps it occupies a place peculiarly its own. It supplies a Greek Text, the Greek order of words in English, and an emphatic translation different from any other now published. These things make it valuable to every careful student of the Word whether he may or may not read Greek. Teachers and Bible classes cannot afford to be without this little book if they would know the exact meaning of the text. It is published cheaply and can readily be obtained.

PELOUBET'S SELECT NOTES FOR 1890. By F. N. Peloubet, D.D., and M. A. Peloubet. Studies in the Gospel according to Luke. (Boston: W. A. Wilde and Co., Toronto: John Young.)—So many Sabbath school teachers are familiar with Peloubet's Notes on the International Lesson series that commendation of their excellence is superfluous. The volume for 1890, dealing with the Gospel according to Luke, has the same admirable arrangement, clear, copious yet compact notes, such as convey the meaning and spirit of the text, without prolix and pedantic digressions, that only weary and perplex. The maps are superior to any that have yet appeared in former volumes.

THE *Youth's Companion* double Christmas number is a charming souvenir. Its delicately coloured cover encloses a wealth of stories and pictures that are intensely interesting to readers of all ages. Some of the features are, "Christmas in a Waggon," by J. L. Harbour, a story of pioneer work in the Rocky Mountains; "A Double Decker," by Mrs. Frank Lee, a story for the boys, and another for the girls, entitled "Beth's Memorial Stocking," by Mrs. H. G. Rowe; an interesting description by Emery J. Haynes, of the famous "Minot's Ledge Light;" Arabella B. Buckley's "Sleep of Plants, and What it Means;" "Attacked by Cheyennes," by K. L. O. F. Wolcott, a story of wild western life; "A Christmas Night's Sensation," by Clinton B. Converse, and "Alice's Christmas," both fresh and appropriate to the season; highly beneficial editorials on "Thoroughness" and "Stanley's Return," with a beautiful page for the very young children, together with anecdotes and bits of fun, combine to make a complete treasury for the whole family.

SERMONS BY THE LATE REV. NEIL MCKINNON. Edited by Rev. Dugald Currie, B.A., B.D., Glencoe, assisted by Rev. John Scott, D.D. With a Biographical Sketch by the Editor. (Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—The late pastor of Mosa congregation, the Rev. Neil McKinnon, will live in the affectionate remembrance of all who knew him, and this valuable memorial volume will help to deepen and extend the respect and esteem in which he was held throughout the Church. It will also be found a very instructive volume. The story of his life is well and briefly told,—as is the case with all biographies,—for the most part in his own words, where these are available, in the sketch with which it opens. The selection of discourses from his MSS. has been made with excellent judgment. The first series are on the Parable of our Lord, and readers who are familiar with the works of Trench, Arnot and Guthrie will still be able to glean instruction and profit from those Mr. McKinnon has left behind him. They bear evidence to the faithful and conscientious care bestowed on his pulpit work. The exposition of truth is clear, and its enforcement earnest and affectionate. The Second Part consists of selected sermons, in which the doctrines of Scripture are presented simply and clearly, while their personal and practical bearing is distinctly enforced. The tone of the volume throughout is thoroughly evangelical. The genuine merit of these discourses—much as they will be valued by all who knew Mr. McKinnon and who profited under his ministry—will be sufficient to commend the work to all who value, faithful, earnest and evangelical preaching. It will be highly prized by many to whom it will be a pleasant and a profitable memorial of one who while he lived was highly esteemed in love for his work's sake, and whose remembrance will long be held sacred.