

The Presbyterian Review.

Issued EVERY THURSDAY, from the office of the Publishers, Rooms No. 20, 21, 22, 23 Aberdeen Block, South-East corner Adelaide and Victoria Streets.

TERMS, \$1.50 per annum.

All communications for either Business or Editorial Departments should be addressed PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Under 3 months, 15 cents per line per insertion; 3 months, \$1.00 per line; 6 months, \$1.75 per line; 1 year, \$3.00. No advertisement charged at less than five lines. None others than unobjectionable advertisements taken.

Toronto, May 30, 1895.

Woman's Work.

OPINIONS differ as to whether the part taken by women in matters of public moment will be of ultimate benefit to the human race. On the one hand it is held that women should confine her efforts and energies to the home sphere where her true and greatest influence lies; on the other it is contended that her presence is urgently needed, as a tonic, in public life. Without theorizing, or yielding to traditional sentiment, there are facts which may be considered in support of both views. Woman's throne is in the home. The mother's influence is incalculable. Its loss or impairment would be irreparable. Should its charm be weakened, should its sacredness be lessened in the opinion of men, the world would lose one of its most potent and subtle safe-guards against the cardinal vices of society. It is therefore all important that any seeming departure from the sphere for which her fitness and power have been proved, should be well considered, and tardily decided upon. Nor must it be supposed by women that men who vigorously opposed the new departure do so because they wish to deprive them of rights common to man and woman. The opposition is not, generally speaking, capricious or thoughtless. It is earnest because it is honest, and because it is felt to be necessary in the highest interests to preserve for women that deference which is her most powerful instrument for good. And yet there be many who, wearied with the slow growth of goodness in the world, welcome woman's co-operation, and invite her to bear with them the burdens, and to share in the strife of public affairs. They have found woman quite ready to accept the partnership, and for better or worse she is in the open arena, every day drawing more attention to the part she plays. The facts of her experience can be drawn upon. In social movements she has worked with no small success. Naturally the vices which attack the home receive her first attention. Hence the saloon has been attacked. By co-operation the number of licenses in many communities has been reduced, and wholesome restriction placed on the sale of intoxicating liquors. The cause of purity has felt her influence in the legislatures, sanitation has been improved in large stores and factories where women earn their living, through her efforts, her counsel has been listened to with advantage by the trustees of the public education, and this has been accomplished without, so far, encroaching on the amenities of the domestic circle. The Church has benefited largely from the spirit of organization which has seized the

women of this age. It is questionable whether the W.F.M.S. and other organizations of women in the congregations would be possible were it not for the general uprising of women which is a feature of the latter part of this century.

The wide range of subjects which enlist the active interest of organized women is brought before the public prominently this week by the meeting of the National Council of Women for Canada, the programme for which is very extensive in scope. Papers have been read on manual and technical education in Europe and Canada; the place which instruction in Household Arts should occupy in the public school curriculum for girls; co-operation between parents and teachers; the place of educated mothers in the training of children; infant mortality, sanitation of homes, hygiene and physical education. Among the subjects dealt with were the moral tone which should characterize the press, the resolution regarding which was in these terms. "That the National Council of Women of Canada while expressing their appreciation of the efforts made by certain of the leading newspapers of the Dominion to suppress the publication of unnecessary details of crime and brutality, so injurious to the public mind generally, and especially to the minds of the young, do hereby record their determination to use their influence to support every endeavor to increase and maintain a high tone in the Public Press." The representation of women on Boards of Philanthropic Institutions; the length of hours for women and children in factories; the duty on opium; statistics regarding women in Canada; alterations of the law as existing at present as regards bigamy in the United States by Canadian subjects; the study and practice of applied design in Canada—all these and kindred subjects have been considered and it will be admitted that women are deeply interested in them all. To bestir themselves in such matters, and to promulgate a healthy public opinion with respect to them are surely well within the scope of woman's legitimate work, and while not neglecting the higher duties of the family and home, great good will be accomplished, and is being accomplished by the attention woman is bestowing upon them.

United States Assembly.

The General Assembly at Pittsburg has had several great questions before it. The relations between the theological seminaries and the General Assembly gave rise to a long and interesting debate as put by the *New York Independent* the gist of the question is: While the Special Committee positively disclaims any purpose to interfere with the autonomy of the seminaries, its avowed object is to obtain for the General Assembly the power of veto in the elections of trustees and directors and of professors; and how this is to be done without interference it is not easy to say. The purpose is so to tie the property and the administration of the seminaries to the General Assembly that in case of heresy the General Assembly would have legal power to secure the dismissal of unsound professors. This it could not do in the case of Union Theological Seminary. Church Unity came before the Assembly in a most pathetic manner. The venerable chairman of the Committee, Dr. Joseph T. Smith, of Baltimore, who has been the life of the Committee for many years, not only had no report to present, but instead, desired the As-