

tions have taken their rise have been occasioned by struggles for the maintenance of purity of doctrine and what have been deemed scriptural methods of government and administration. Different Church organizations have not been, as some of the more sentimental enthusiasts for union profess to believe, unmingled evils. Doctrinal truths that were in danger of being obscured have been brought into prominence, evangelical agencies multiplied and spiritual life quickened by the formation of new Churches, or, as our High Church friends would call them, sects. The saying of Ignatius is one to which the universal Christian consciousness will respond: "Wherever Christ is, there is the Catholic Church." It is also possible that the existing desire for unity may to some extent be the result of doctrinal indifference, and that again may be due in some degree to ignorance. There is a marked distinction between the indifference of a superficial mind and the intelligent toleration of a magnanimous and enlightened mind. It must be the sincere desire of every Christian, whatever the denomination in which he has been nurtured, that when unity comes it may be founded on the truth of God, secured for the advancement of pure and undefiled religion, and a more adequate adaptation to the great spiritual needs of the world, and that it may be enduring. Those who are earnestly seeking to pave the way for the realization of this great hope are worthy of all honour, but a true and abiding union requires more than even a lofty enthusiasm and warm sentiment for its firm foundation.

MAY-DAY IN EUROPE.

MAY-DAY has for centuries been looked forward to with glad anticipation. It has been observed as the festal day of the coming spring. Nature and humanity were in gladsome mood, and gaiety was the chief feature of the vernal celebration. Over continental Europe the advent of May-day this year has been awaited with apprehension and in some places with terror and agony. Anarchy has reared its horrid front, and Parisians dreaded a repetition of the horrors of the Commune that followed the capitulation at Sedan. The wrong people have evidently got hold of the resources of civilization. Latter-day explosives have been used with disastrous effects in various parts of Europe. No place is sacred from invasion. Superstitious as many of the Spaniards are, there are evidently desperate persons among them who do not hesitate to introduce their deadly explosives within the sacred precincts of the stately cathedrals of Madrid. It seems to be a favourite device of the dynamitards to terrorize the dispensers of justice, and all who endeavour to frustrate their meditated crimes. The recklessness of their indiscriminate attempts to involve innocent people in the destruction they plan for their supposed enemies is simply revolting. Punishment in its severest forms should be meted out to the miscreants who have no feeling of compassion for the women and children that might perish in the ruins made by their deadly missiles.

Considering the powerful nature of the weapons they employ, the desperate and truculent spirit they exhibit, it is a wonder that so little deadly mischief has been done by the Anarchists. According to reports for the last few weeks, the damage to property has been comparatively slight, and, fortunately, the injury to human life has been smaller still. It is not what has been done that excites alarm, but what might and could be done by lawless and wicked men in striking a deadly blow at the framework of society by the use of those dread forces they apparently know so well how to manipulate. That their schemes have been limited thus far is doubtless due to the vigilance and energy of the constituted authorities, and it is now almost certain that precautions will be taken that their capacity for mischief will be effectually crippled.

Sabbath last was not a day of rest in the French capital. There was intense anxiety at Berlin, Madrid and Rome, and in many of the lesser towns throughout continental Europe. The authorities everywhere were on the alert. Police arrangements were made with the best skill at command, and troops were massed in readiness to act with promptness and firmness had their services been needed. Happily the day passed off in a rather quiet manner. Isolated attempts were made to blow up buildings and cause a panic, but for the most part they were of an insignificant character. The day has come and gone and the worst apprehensions have been dispelled, and it may now be hoped that anarchistic activity may find new and less harmful channels for its exercise. London, where the

utmost degree of personal liberty compatible with public safety is enjoyed, there was but little apprehension of riotous proceedings on May-day. The expectation that the day would pass off quietly has been fully realized. It may well be questioned if such an assemblage—according to accounts, from 300,000 to 500,000—stirred by fiery popular oratory discussing the burning social and industrial questions of the day, could have been held outside Great Britain without collision with the authorities, and ending possibly in riot and bloodshed. Evidence of the healthier tone of public feeling among the working population is seen in the hearty response given to John Burns' denunciations of the dastardly methods of the continental dynamiters; and yet what else could the labour leaders do? Who could be found to proclaim that Ravachol and his like are worthy of heroic statues?

There are many who earnestly desire to advance the real welfare of the toiling masses, to ameliorate their surroundings, and make their lives brighter, and their hopes and aims loftier. Christianity, as exemplified by some of its professors, has been less considerate in the past than it ought to have been of the special needs and condition of the working population, thereby alienating the affections of many and creating distrust. There are indications that a better, a truer and larger aim is now being cherished in all sections of the Church. Essential Christianity lived and practised is the only regenerator of social conditions. Its absence only increases the miseries, the wretchedness and the cruelties under which the world groans. It is clear as noon-day that the vicious, the criminal and the vagabond cannot become the regenerators of society; neither will dynamite promote a proper recognition of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. There must surely be some correspondence between the means used and the end desired.

CHICAGO AND ITS CHURCHES.

IN several respects Chicago is an exceptional city. People are yet living who knew the place ere it had risen to the dignity of a village; now it has a population of considerably over a million. The civic trumpet was blown with vigorous blast, yet it cannot be said, as Carlyle did unsympathetically of the American nation, that it had mostly gone to wind and tongue. Behind all the lusty self-assertion there were indomitable energy, active and industrious effort, persistent push and fertile ingenuity of brain. Over twenty years ago what was most solid of Chicago was laid in ruins, but, like the fabled Phoenix it speedily rose greater and grander from its ashes.

Materially, and in other respects as well, the new Chicago has made great advances; in some directions, however, the progress has been by no means satisfactory. The Rev. Dr. S. J. McPherson, of the Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago, has gone minutely into the religious statistics of the population, and the best that can be shown still leaves much room for regret. A few brief extracts from a contribution which Dr. McPherson makes to the interesting and valuable Chicago supplement of the *Interior* will make our meaning clear:—

In a population of nearly 1,100,000 all the Protestant Sunday schools have an average attendance of 86,842; less than eight per cent. of that population. By any of the usual modes of computation there must be more nominally Protestant children in Chicago outside of Sunday schools than inside of them.

He also states that out of the total population the Protestant Church membership numbers a little over 100,000. In reference to Presbyterianism in Chicago Dr. McPherson says:—

Leaving these particular statistics, glance at the growth of Presbyterianism in Chicago. From 1880 to 1890 the population increased from 503,000 to 1,098,000, an average growth of 60,000 a year. From 1885 to 1890 the Church membership in all the Churches of the Presbytery of Chicago increased from 11,588 to 14,388, a net gain of 2,800; and the membership of its Sunday schools increased from 15,837 to 20,210, a net gain of 4,373. During the preceding five years, from 1880 to 1885, our gain in members was 2,736, (37 less!) and in Sunday schools 4,349 (24 less!) That is, with a lamentable kind of perseverance, we grew no more rapidly in a population of nearly 800,000 than in a population of about 500,000.

The Presbyterian Church is making active efforts to meet the claimant need of the Churchless population. There is evident anxiety to bring the blessings of the Gospel within reach of the poor people in the great city. If it is true that villages and small towns are over-churched, it is equally true that in the large cities church accommodation cannot keep pace with the increase of population. Chicago may teach us some things it is better to avoid.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—People who desire a comprehensive acquaintance with all that is of interest in current literature will find this valuable weekly indispensable.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—Fine pictures, good stories, and valuable lessons abound in this little monthly so admirably adapted for little readers.

THE publishers of the *Century* magazine have issued a pamphlet entitled "Cheap Money," containing 15 articles on Cheap Money Experiments which have been appearing in "Topics of the Time" of the *Century* during the year or more.

THE LADIES HOME JOURNAL. (Philadelphia: The Curtis Publishing Co.)—The contents of the May number are varied, interesting and attractive, and topics such as ladies can appreciate are treated by some of the most distinguished writers of the day.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The contents of the May number of this admirable magazine for young people are interesting, varied, instructive and entertaining. Whatever appeals to the best interests of the young finds a place in its pages. Its attractiveness is enhanced by the number and excellence of its illustrations.

THE ARENA. (Boston: The Arena Publishing Co.)—This brilliant and ably-conducted monthly has reached the close of its fifth volume, and from the first has been a decided success. It has been able to secure men eminent in their respective spheres and countries, who have discussed the live social, economic, moral, religious and political questions of the day with a freedom and independence not altogether usual. The May number presents a most attractive table of contents.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Readers of the May number will turn with curious interest to the admirable paper by Annie Thackeray Ritchie on "Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning." Others of a military turn will be no less interested in the paper "The German Army of To-day." This month Julian Ralph describes "The Dakotas." The fourth of the most interesting descriptive papers, finely illustrated, "From the Black Forest to the Black Sea," appears in this number. Other features deserving special mention are "Amerigo Vesputti"; "Malouin," another of William McLennan's admirable French-Canadian stories, the beginning of a new novel by Mary G. Wilkins, entitled "Jane Field," and good short stories and several poems of decided excellence.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The May *Century* is remarkable for the beginning of a new volume and of three new serials, namely—the life of Columbus, by the distinguished Spanish orator and statesman Emilio Castelar, who, in his first paper, considers the age in which Columbus lived; "The Chosen Valley," a novel of Western life in the irrigation fields, by Mary Halleck Foote, illustrated by the author; and the architect Van Brunt's semi-official and fully illustrated papers on "Architecture at the World's Columbian Exposition," from which the reader will obtain a fresh idea of the magnificence of the housing of the Exhibition at Chicago. Other features of the number are "Thomas Couture the famous French painter"; "Coast and Inland Yachting"; "Homesteads of the Blue-Grass"; the third part of Edmund Clarence Stedman's remarkably able dissertation on "The Nature and Elements of Poetry." "Ol' Pap's Flaxen," a splendidly told story, is completed. There are other equally attractive short stories in this issue, not forgetting Dr. Weir Mitchell's "Characteristics." The engravings are of great excellence and beauty.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—Mr. Scudder should be congratulated on his success in obtaining for the *Atlantic* the brilliant correspondence of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thoreau, which occupies the first place in the issue for the month of May. A fit companion piece to these letters is the Roman Journals of Severn, the friend of Keats, which give a thrilling picture of the events preceding the fall of Papal Rome. Apropos of Rome, Harriet Waters Preston and Louise Dodge contribute the first of a series of articles on "Private Life in Ancient Rome," and Mr. Crawford continues his Italian serial, "Don Orsino." The short story of the number, with the odd title "A Cathedral Courtship," is furnished by Kate Douglas Wiggin. Two unsigned articles will attract attention for their cleverness, the first being "A Plea for Seriousness," the second "The Slaying of the Gerry-mander," a keen thrust at this political monster. Two papers remain, which are more than usually valuable. Professor J. J. Greenwood's article, "The Present Requirements for Admission to Harvard College," and David Dodge's semi-historical view of "Home Scenes at the Fall of the Confederacy." A few other papers, some poetry, and reviews, including of course the inevitable criticism of Mrs. Ward's "David Grieve," and Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles," complete a strong number of this standard magazine.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls Co.; Toronto: 11 Richmond Street West.)—Professor A. B. Bruce of Glasgow opens the Review Section of the May number with a thoughtful article on "Apologetics in the Pulpit." Professor Jesse B. Thomas continues his discriminating paper on the "Temper of Abelard." Dr. Charles F. Deems presents "The Outlook of Theology" especially with reference to the subject of the inspiration of the Scriptures and the federation of denominations. Bishop Vincent discusses "The Out of School Theological Seminary," and the Rev. Camden M. Coburn tells what the Monuments and Papyri have to say concerning the Hebrews and the Exodus. In the Sermonic Section Dr. Parkhurst of New York, Dr. McLaren of Manchester, Principal Dykes of London, Bishop Cridge of Victoria, Drs. Kelsey and Storrs of Brooklyn, and others, have contributions of an unusually interesting nature. President Valentine and Dr. Charles L. Thompson write on topics of interest, and Dr. R. G. McNeece, of Salt Lake City, presents "The Present Status of the Mormon Question" clearly and exhaustively. Under "Living Issues" the well-known laymen, Erastus Wiman, John D. Crimmins, and Abram S. Hewitt give their views on the subject of what the Church ought to do in order to reach the masses in our great cities. The whole number is full of interest and more than ordinarily strong.