

Here is something for our boys to read :

NO.

Somebody asked me to take a drink.
What did I tell him? What do you think?
I told him—No.

Somebody asked me one day to play
A game of cards; and what did I say?
I told him—No.

Somebody laughs that I will not swear
And lie and steal; but I do not care;
I told him—No.

Somebody asked me to take a sail
On the Sabbath day; 'twas of no avail;
I told him—No.

"If sinners entice thee, consent thou not,"
My Bible said, and so on the spot;
I told him—No.

DON'T BEGIN.

If you would not be a swearer,
Don't begin;
In the first low-uttered oath
Lies the sin!
If you would not be a drunkard,
Don't begin;
In the first glass lies your danger—
Don't begin!

And thus for the general public :

The Rev. Dr. Mark Trafton, the venerable and widely known Methodist clergyman, made a sensation at a conference of Methodist ministers by denouncing the modern church service and defending the non-church going masses.

"I confess," he said, "I don't like to go to church. I'm sorry to say it. When I was a boy I was glad when they said, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.' I enjoyed the preaching, the singing and praying. Let me start out, now, to go to church and worship God, after at home we have had our private devotion. We come to the church door—I'm saying what took place exactly—and we see plenty of seats vacant. We ask one of the young snipper-snappers with a rosette in his button-hole for a seat. He says, 'You wait a while and I'll see.' By and by, when the bell stops tolling, the man says, 'You can find a seat in the gallery.' In the gallery you see four young people talking and laughing. Suddenly the organ starts, and then as suddenly the four grow solemn, jump up, and begin to squall. You can't understand a word they say. They sing a hymn you never heard before and never want to hear again. You can't sing with them. Call that singing God's praise? It's not only folly, but its blasphemy. You've no business to introduce such trash as that and call it devotion. Then the prayer. In the old times the minister used to pray, to supplicate, to implore, just as if he expected something would come and something did come. Now, this brother who prayed delivered a homily, an address to the people, a s rained effort. It wasn't praying. I confess it didn't touch me at all. I kept saying to myself; 'Oh, nonsense?' 'Fiddle sticks!' I say this ought not to be. We ought not to go away disgusted."

Literary Notices.

We gladly invite attention to the following works issued by the American Board of Commissioners of Foreign Missions.

MISSION STORIES OF MANY LANDS.—A Book for young people. A large octavo of 400 pages, 6½ x 10 inches. Profusely illustrated. A book for the holidays and for all days; for the home and Sunday school library. Price, by mail or express, prepaid, \$1.50.

COMMEMORATIVE VOLUME.—Issued in connection with the 75th Anniversary of the American Board. Including the discourses by Rev. Geo. L. Walker, Rev. Dr. Richard S. Storrs, President Hopkins; the historical papers presented; the salutations received from other missionary bodies, together with other matter of interest. The volume contains portraits of President Hopkins and Gov. Treadwell, the first President of the Board. Price, in paper, 25 cents; in boards, 50 cents.

THE AMERICAN BOARD ALMANAC FOR 1885. A beautiful and useful almanac for all Christian homes. The headings for each month are from original designs. Aside from the matter usually to be found in almanacs, the anniversaries of notable events in the Christian world will be here noted, and the pages will be packed with information respecting the work of the American Board and missionary work in general. Price, 10 cents each; \$1.00 per dozen, \$6.00 per hundred.

We cordially commend these works, especially in view of our increasing interest in foreign missions, and our more intimate relation with the A. B. C. F. M.

THE CENTURY AND ST. NICHOLAS December numbers are rich and full as ever. The *Century* continues its war sketches. *St. Nicholas* its folk lore and racy tales. Washington Gladden's tale of the good natured little bank clerk, "Santa Claus on a lark" we specially note, also the clever illustration of the venerable old man with his pack on his back, pointing with his perplexed look to the T pipe in the chimney and exclaiming "Here's a state of things! How in the world am I ever to get down there?"

THE PILGRIM TEACHER for January is before us. We know of no better aid to study for teachers and advanced scholars on the International series of S. S. lessons, and bearing the imprimetur of our denomination; we desire to see these publications in all our schools. Rev. W. H. Warriner, B.D., Bowmanville, is the sole agent for our churches, and will be glad to receive orders therefor.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, Rev. J. Burton, B.D., Editor, will be published (D.V.) on the first and fifteenth of each month, and will be sent free to any part of Canada or the United States for one dollar per annum. Published solely in the interest of the Congregational churches of the Dominion. Pastors of churches, and friends in general, are earnestly requested to send promptly local items of church news, or communications of general interest. To ensure insertion send early, the news column will be kept open till the tenth and twenty-fifth of each month.

All communications concerning the subject matter of the paper, all books, etc., for review, and all exchanges to be sent to THE EDITOR, CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, Box 2618, Toronto, Ont.

All correspondence regarding subscriptions, advertisements and general business to be directed to MR. W. R. CLARK, Bowmanville, Ont.