

Editorial Notes.

—The Congregationalist says that Dr. John G. Paton, who was taken ill last September while holding meetings in Canada, is in Glasgow, Scotland. While he was benefited by his voyage, he is compelled to give up public speaking but expects to continue to help the mission in the New Hebrides by his pen.

—Many readers of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR will doubtless feel obliged to Mr. Morse for the lucid and excellent review of Dr. A. H. Strong's book, which we print on another page. As a thinker Dr. Strong is vigorous and original. He is also devoutly reverent and thoroughly Christian in spirit. His positions and arguments, as Mr. Morse shows, will not always command the assent of the thoughtful and independent student, but such students will doubtless obtain large benefit from a careful consideration of his views.

—We have on different occasions made mention of the benevolent and Christian work which is being undertaken in connection with the missionary operations of different denominations on behalf of the lepers of India, and of other parts of the world. An article by Rev. Mr. Lafamme of the Canadian Baptist Mission, giving an account of the Kellock Home for Lepers, recently opened at Ramachandrapuram, India, will be found upon our third page, and will doubtless have many interested readers. This is a work which must appeal strongly to the sympathies of people who live in a Christian land, and to whom Christianity has brought deliverance from so many ills, both physical and moral, with which the masses of India are afflicted.

—It is not a matter of indifference what a man thinks and what he believes, for thought and belief influence conduct and character and destiny. It is therefore of immense importance that one shall think rightly and believe the truth. But it is certainly of not less importance to consider that apostasy from the faith manifests itself in living as well as in thinking. For men to subscribe to and solemnly proclaim their unreserved adherence to the most strictly orthodox standards counts for nothing, if without their lives are heathen rather than Christian. The profession of a man's faith consists not merely in what he says in the church, but in what he does in the world. The man whose social or business life evinces an habitual disregard for the precepts of truth and righteousness, is really denying the Christian faith, whatever may be the profession of his lips.

—It has been truly said that when each one of us comes to read his own life's story as God sees it, and as an all-knowing mind would write it, it will be a far more wonderful story than any men have ever seen in print. "Every religious life if we could tell it all, would be just as marvellous as the life of David or of Paul. We have been led we know not how. Our best thoughts have been fashioned in darkness and mystery. Our aspirations and hopes, our repentances and regrets, convictions and conversions have come from secret touches of God, and quickening of his spirit manifold and most mysterious. Our lives have been shaped not as we planned but as God disposed. It is a wonderful thing that we are Christians; that we have kept the faith; that we have resisted evil; that we have not been dragged down by our dead selves. It is because God has worked in us throughout both to will and to do of his good pleasure."

—The death of Professor Max Müller of Oxford, which occurred Oct. 28th, removes one of the world's most eminent scholars. He was by birth a German, and while yet a student in the University began to devote himself to those oriental studies in which he was to achieve so great distinction. The mark which he had made in those studies led to his being called while yet a very young man to Oxford. His first volume of the Rig Veda, the sacred hymn of the Brahmins, was published in 1849, when he was only 26 years of age. Professor Max Müller was distinguished not only by great thoroughness in the department of study which he had made a specialty, but by a breadth of scholarship and of sympathy with general affairs which is not common in those who attain to eminence as specialists. He is described as a man of winning personality, and his recently published "Reminiscences" show that he held friendly intercourse with many of the eminent men of his time.

—The Rev. Charles Merle d'Aubigné, now in the United States in the interests of French Protestantism, regards the political condition of France as full of hope. President Loubet is popular and respected, the Waldeck-Rousseau ministry is strong, and a thrifty peasantry affords a basis for economical prosperity. In religion there is a pervasive interest manifesting itself partly in a quickened interest on the part of the Roman Catholic clergy in the concerns of the people, and partly also in a desire on the part of the people to know some other form of Christianity than that of Roman Catholicism. Hence the large demand now made for Protestant missionaries and pastors. There are, however, only six hundred thousand Huguenots in France out of a population of thirty-eight millions, while the Roman Catholic church has sixty thousand regular clergy, fifty thousand male members of religious orders and a hundred and forty thousand Sisters of Mercy, while one-tenth of the landed property of France is held by the religious orders, their holdings being valued at two billions of dollars.

Letter From British Columbia.

Although out of your constituency I have felt for some time that as one who so long lived and worked in the Maritime Provinces I should report myself in your columns, especially as Baptist work in these parts has the sympathy and support of your churches. In answer to a summons by telegram in the latter part of March, I came to Nelson, B. C., to supply for a time the pulpit vacated on account of ill health by Bro. C. W. Rose. The church hoped for some time that they would be able to get him back, and were sorry that he had to decide not to return. He was loved and respected by many

outside of the church as well as the members. Nelson is a beautiful city on the mountain side with a fine lake along its base. Although the city is but a few years old it is substantially built with beautiful and commodious homes, and large places of business. The population is estimated at six thousand, the city is provided with water and sewerage systems, gas and electric light plants, electric street railway, etc. There are no roads out of Nelson, all travel in and out being either by steamer or railway, so as there is no place to drive except on the city streets or up the mountains to the mines, there are very few horses kept by private parties for light driving. The steep grades of the streets are not attractive to bicyclists so they are few. The lake affords one of the favorite means of exercise and recreation, so the boat houses are well stocked with nice boats and are liberally patronized. Although but a few years ago building and city work went on Sunday and the shops were open on that day this has almost completely changed, even the barber shops are closed on Sunday, but I fear that quite a business is done with closed doors by the saloons. The city is supplied with Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Baptist and Congregational churches. The latter is the last comer having started their services in the opera house this summer, and now have a fine meeting house nearing completion. We have about the largest and pleasantest meeting house in the city, although we are not yet the strongest body. Others who came earlier built when the city was smaller, and have had to enlarge so that their houses are of awkward proportions. We have recently changed our lighting from electricity to gas, which gives us a better light at reduced cost. Our church contains quite a proportion of consecrated and talented members, but it has been passing through a time of trial which has greatly hindered growth and advancement. Happily, however, the clouds are clearing away, and I believe that all will be prepared to so take hold of the work, that when our energetic brother, J. B. Morgan, assumes the pastorate the first of December, a new era of prosperity will come and great progress be made. My family came out here the last of May, and we have greatly enjoyed living here for the last five months. On the first of November we leave for Lethbridge, Alberta, where we hope to be able to establish a Baptist church, having felt called to the West to commence new work in some of the numerous towns where our cause, the Lord's cause we believe, is not now represented.

Will be glad to have the MESSENGER AND VISITOR and other friends note the change in our address. This letter is already sufficiently long, but should you desire it I would be pleased later to give you some further account of this part of the interior of B. C., which I have quite largely travelled over this summer, as well as the new field we are to try and work. G. J. C. WHITE.
Nelson, Oct. 24th, 1900.

New Books.

Manual of Christian Theology, by Alvah Hovey, D. D., LL. D. New York: Silver, Burdett and Company.

Ex-President Hovey has been recognized for many years past as one of the ablest of American theologians. He is strong both as a scholar, as an analytical thinker and as a teacher, and any work on the subject from his pen is sure to merit the close attention of all students of the most exalted of the sciences. This revised edition of The Manual of Christian Theology embodies the results of the ripest thought of its author upon the great subjects with which it deals. It may be said to comprise the winnowed and compressed substance of the author's teaching, for he tells us in a preface that it has been his hardest task to bring into the compass of a volume of 470 pages what he had written in *extenso* for his own satisfaction. But the lucidity of the author's thought and style make it easy for the reader to follow him in spite of the condensation, and especially so as in this revised edition technical language has been as much as possible avoided in speaking of theological questions. The whole subject is discussed under six general divisions, namely, GOD: MANKIND: JESUS CHRIST, HIS PERSON AND WORK: CHRISTIAN LIFE: CHRISTIAN SERVICE: ISSUES HEREAFTER. Dr. Hovey stands, as is well known, in the ranks of the conservative theologians. He has not been insensible to the drifts and tendencies of thought and belief around him. But while he has had a judicial ear open for what the advocates of a newer theology are saying, he has not seen reason to modify his belief and teaching in essential particulars, for, having compared the old and the new, he holds that the old is better. Those therefore who accept this manual as a guide for their studies in theological subjects will not thereby be putting themselves under any temptation to forsake the old paths.

The Spirit of God, by the Rev. G. Campbell Morgan, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Price \$1.25.

The author of this book was for a time associated in evangelistic work with Mr. Moody, who placed a very high value on Mr. Campbell Morgan's preaching. His sermons at Northfield during the past and previous summers have been regarded as strong and helpful. Mr. Morgan is not only an eloquent and effective preacher but a scholar and an author of considerable merit. Among his previously published works are "Life Problems," "The True Estimate of Life," "God's Methods with Man," etc. The work now under notice deals with its subject quite elaborately, and while the theory presented of the office and operation of the Holy Spirit seems to us in some respects mechanical and arbitrary, it contains much which should be found practically helpful to the Christian life. The parts of the book dealing

with the relation of the individual, whether as unbeliever or believer, to the Holy Spirit are especially impressive and instructive.

China's Only Hope. An appeal by her greatest Viceroy, Chang Chih Tung, Viceroy of Liang Hu. With endorsement by the present Emperor, Kwang Su. Translated by Rev. S. I. Woodbridge. Introduction by Rev. Griffith John, D. D. Illustrated, 12mo, Cloth, 75c. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company.

This is really a remarkable book. To everyone who is striving to obtain a correct apprehension of the Chinese problem it is a book of exceeding interest and value, as showing how the problem appears to the eyes of one of the most able, intelligent and progressive men of the Chinese Empire. The portrait of Chang Chih Tung which appears as a frontispiece, indicates a man of large intelligence and force of character. He is a man of eminent scholarship, and a fine stylist, "from a Chinese standpoint, a man possessing also, as his book shows, an extensive acquaintance with the affairs of the Western world and a high appreciation of the modern civilization. Chang Chih Tung is often called pro-foreign, but the word is not accurately descriptive of the character and attitude of the man. For while he appreciates the value of modern ideas and methods in reference to the promotion of popular intelligence, military strength and national greatness, "Chang Chih Tung is" as Dr. Griffith John says in his introduction, "a Chinese to the backbone. To him there is no country like China, no people like the Chinese, and no religion to be compared with the Confucian." His criticism of the Westerners is severe, and though containing much truth is sometimes prejudiced through insufficient knowledge. When the distinguished author comes to speak of Republics and Parliamentarism—of which he will have none—he betrays a measure of that ignorance of modern civilization which he elsewhere deplores as existing so generally among his fellow countrymen. The hope of Chang Chih Tung for his country, lies fundamentally in the cultivation of national strength by the promotion of popular intelligence through ideas and methods which are abreast of the age. In the Chinese education there is much which he would retain, but much also which is out-worn, effete and worse than useless. He sees that his country perishes through lack of knowledge. The complacent ignorance and stupidity of her people place her at the mercy of foreign nations. If China is to avert utter disaster she must add to the curricula of her schools the modern education, and she must educate her people through schools, newspapers, the translation of western books and other educative processes. The nation must develop military and commercial power which shall place it in these respects on a plane of equality with other nations. It is said that the book has been very widely read in China, and that indirectly it has been an important factor in bringing about the present situation in that country, since the *coup d'état* which involved the deposition of the Emperor, the placing of the Empress Dowager upon the throne and the Boxer uprising, may be regarded as a revolt against the policy of the Emperor as indicated in the book of his favorite Viceroy. "The Hope of China" is a book which we cordially commend as worthy the attention of all who feel an interest in the great Eastern problem.

Literary Notes.

Good Cheer: A monthly magazine for cheerful thinkers, made its initial appearance on Nov. 1st inst. Its editor or "redactor," is Nixon Waterman, and its publishers, Forbes and Company of Boston. The first issue of Good Cheer seems fully to justify its name and its existence. Its contents include "Poets who were laughed at," by Hezekiah Butterworth; "The Value of Mirth," by Opie Read; "Pessimism, its Cause and Cure," by Edgar P. Burns; "Which Hand," by Joe Cone; "A Doctor's Story," by Sterling Elliott; and "Redactional Radiations," by the gentleman who "redacts" the magazine. "Good Cheer" is small in size, but its paper and type are of the best. The price is \$1.00 per year, ten cents per number.

A department of Biblical study that has never received its merited attention, is the sacrifices of the Old Testament. This has arisen, not from any lack of appreciation for these fulfilled ordinances, but because of a general conviction that their significance is too difficult of access. There has been produced an extensive literature bearing on the subject, but much of it now can be considered only of historic interest. What is needed is something of a more popular character, that would translate the symbolism of these ancient institutions into the life and thought of the present day. It is this that is aimed at in a volume about to be published by William Briggs, entitled "Old Testament Sacrifices." There is shown first of all the universal necessity of sacrifice, and then the leading sacrifices of the Old Testament are examined in succession for the permanent instruction they were intended to afford. In the closing chapter, the sacrifice of Christ is expounded to the light of the preceding discussion. The author of the work is Rev. D. McKenzie, of Toronto.

A volume entitled "The Making of a Christian," from the pen of Rev. John Maclean, Ph. D., author of "The Indians of Canada," and other works, is about to be issued by William Briggs. In it the subject of holy living is dealt with in a simple and popular and yet thoughtful and deeply spiritual style of treatment. Such chapters as "The Music of the Will," "The Art of Pleasing God," "What to Let Go," "Reflectors of Christ," etc., are suggestive of helpful reading. Its teaching survives the Keswick movement in a new setting.