MISSIONARY WORK WASTED.

PROSELYTIZING ITS ONLY AIM, SAYS FATHER CURRY.

Sympathy Not Needed by People Who Have Good Homes and Live Well—Bribes Offered to Children, He Says, to Weaken Their Faith—Some Churches Attacked.

The Rev. James B. Curry, pastor of St. James's Roman Catholic Church in James Street, who preached to his congregation a week ago last Sunday on the proselytizing methods of Protestant missionaries and representatives of "free ice" funds among his parishioners, added something to his sermon yesterday. Father Curry says that he has not receded one bit from the attack he made, although it has been criticised by some and praised by others.

There is a large mixture of Irish and Italians in Father Curry's congregation, and Father de Ponte, Father Curry's Italian assistant, has asked the members of his race not to be fooled by gifts and favors from the Protestant missionaries. Father Curry says he is going to keep up the fight against the invasion of "cheap missionaries," as he calls them.

"The weakness of childhood, the poverty of the poor, the ignorance midst new environments of the poor immigrant—all serve as occasions to these kidnappers for attempts at soul stealing by bribes of graft," said Father Curry. "There are two parties to this mean work; the principals who supply the funds, some of them fair minded, good people who do not know that their money is so used, and the agents who do the dirty work.

"The sympathy of these missionaries, if you can call it that, is wasted. It is not needed. You will find in the tenements of these districts good, clean homes, a steady working father and a mother who looks after her children. A good table is spread and they are happy homes; but the sneaking missionary tries to win over the children with bribes. The missionary, to earn his salary, must go forth into the highways and byways of this district and by gifts entice recruits to fill the empty pews.

"He has wonderful zeal, this missionary, in his poaching, but it is the zeal of the wage earner, of the hireling, because he is a hireling, one whose own the sheep are not. With his hands filled with bribes he succeeds for a time, for he is helped by such potent factors as poverty, inexperience and childish weakness. Each year's end sees a wonderful accounting of work done, the most of it transient and on paper. His efforts are praised, his work well rewarded, and the new year sees even more wonderful figuring.

"Outside of the charitable fund and public benefactions, I could not give the names either of the rich patrons who supply the sinews for this unholy war or of the missionaries themselves, but that does not weaken my position in the least, for the dirty work goes on. The Baptist Church in Oliver street, the Sea and Land Church in Market street and the Delaney Mission in Catharine slip, are all sending out their agents among my Catholic people to have them attend services and meetings against their faith and conscience. Fresh air and summer holiday funds, the Christmas and Thanksgiving dinner baskets, are all worked in this scheme of proselytism.

"The Board of Education has been worked, and in one case at least worked successfully, to further the schemes of these cheap missionaries. The people of the Baptist church proposed the use of their basement where the Italian church now is as an annex to one of our public schools, but I, judging that if our children found it no harm to attend on week days might also include it was no harm to attend on Sundays, wrote to Mayor Low, to the Board of Education and to some of our great dailies, and the scheme was squelched.

"The Church of the Sea and Land, however, was more successful, for it has leased apartments in a house which it owns in Hamilton street to the Board of Education to serve as a kindergarten annex to the public school in Monroe street. Harmless as the scheme may be at first sight, it is not so innocent in reality, for that very house serves to attract the Catholics of my parish to sectarian clubs managed by the Presbyterian Church.

"The citizens of the great borough of Manhattan, Catholic, Protestant, Jew and Infidel, in the appropriations of their money to the cause of education, are made to help along, by the rental paid, this work of proselytism among my people. The published records of the minutes of the board's meetings will supply the wording of the lease."

Father Curry said he did not wish to be understood as censuring legitimate missionary work or the missionary who appealed to the mature mind of a grown up person and not to the child.

"An appeal to reason, with a resulting convert, with an army of converts for that matter, cannot be found fault with by even the bigot and zealot," said Father Curry, "but to take advantage of inexperience, of childish weaknesses, of poverty, and to do so with charitable funds otherwise intended, that means work as foul as that of the devil. See the Baptist church in Oliver street. Not a cross is in sight until you walk around the corner to the basement door, where you can see the sign 'Chiesa Italiana,' and right there you see the cross. The missionaries of this church understand well what deep veneration the Catholics have for the sign of man's redemption, and repugnant as it is to them to have that cross there, these missionaries place it there to attract the Italians."

Father Curry said he had come to the conclusion that there was a good deal of fake about many charities.

"Some of the Bowery penny arcades and dime museums," said he, "are paradises of truth when compared with the numberless organizations that, under the motto of moral, social and religious betterment of poor people, work upon the generous sympathies and purses of some of our best citizens, not for the popular good, but for private individual gain, to be obtained by any means, by all means, fair or foul."

IN THE SUN of August 6 there was an account of Father Curry's sermon. Magistrate Frank O'Reilly of Brooklyn sent the following to Father Curry:

DEAR FATHER: Permit me, a stranger, to congratulate you on your remarks printed in to-day's SUN. Yours admiringly.

Father Curry says that he believes his crusade has done some good work, but he has not driven out the "foreign missionaries" yet.

WON'T OPEN BENDER CASE.

Gov. Higgins Sends a Sharp Letter to Civil Service Reform People.

ALBANY, Aug. 17.—Gov. Higgins has refused to reopen the Bender case at the request of the Civil Service Reform Association. In a letter to Elliott H. Goodwin, secretary of the association, the Governor says:

"Referring to your request for a rehearing, based upon the assumption that no opportunity to examine Mr. Bender or Mr. Prescott has been given at any stage of the proceedings, I beg to call your attention to section 6 of the civil service law, which gives the widest powers to the Civil Service Commission to subpœna and examine witnesses.

"As your association was represented by counsel at the hearings before the commission and might have requested that witnesses be summoned, it can hardly lie in your mouth at this time to petition that the matter be reopened in order to accomplish what might then have been fully accomplished and was not even requested."

News of Plays and Players.

After Julian Mitchell completes the staging of "A Parisian Model," which goes on at the Broadway Theatre in October with Anna Held as the star, he will join the Shuberts as general stage manager.

The new play to be put on at the Liberty Theatre, in which Ellis Jeffreys will be the star, is "The Dear Unfair Sex."

It is announced that De Wolf Hopper, following his coming season in "Happyland," will go in for straight farce and cut out comic opera altogether.

NEW BOOKS.

Some Dialogue Philosophy.

Has the reader a mind for a little philosophy in the form of dialogue? Let him turn himself to Mr. G. Lowes Dickinson's book, "The Meaning of Good" (McClure, Phillips & Co.). Here we have the author and a number of his friends gathered in a pleasant vale in Switzerland in the summer season and carrying on their philosophical discussion. We suppose that Dr. Parkhurst is at some other place amid these majestic mountains, for there is nothing here at all suggesting the dogmatic and somewhat raucous philosophic habit of that eminent man.

This dialogue is nearly always forbearing, tentative. Leslie, the youngest of the disputants, has something of the peremptory fire of youth, but his companions always know how to squelch him. The author propounds a question of evident potentialities—"The whole question of the values we attach, we ought to attach, to things." Ellis, who has knocked about the world as a newspaper correspondent, has not altered his old opinion that "there's nothing good or bad but thinking makes it so." He and Audubon, a somewhat melancholy man, who has been long in India, both agree with Sir Richard Burton.

There is no good, there is no bad, these be the whims of mortal will:
What works me weal that call I good, what harms and hurts I hold as ill.
They change with space, they shift with race, and in the veriest span of time,
Each vice has worn a virtue's crown, all good been banned as sin or crime.

The discussion comes to the question whether in our acts in life we inevitably do the act which seems to us good. Did evil seem good to Milton's Satan? Did it seem good to Nero? Is there a general good as well as all the multitudinous goods applying each to an individual? One of the disputants, Parry, a lawyer tending toward Parliament, makes an observation. Says Parry: "Every man, in pursuing his own advantage, is also enabling the rest to pursue theirs. The world, if you like to put it so, is a world of egoists, but a world constructed with such exquisite art that the egoism of one is not only compatible with, but indispensable to, that of another. On this principle all society rests. The producer, seeking his own profit, is bound to satisfy the consumer; the capitalist cannot exist without supporting the laborer; the borrower and lender are knit by the closest ties of mutual advantage; and so with all the ranks and divisions of mankind, social, political, economic or what you will. Balanced, one against the other, in delicate counterpoise, in subtlest interaction of part with part, they sweep on in one majestic system; an equilibrium forever disturbed, yet ever recovering itself anew, created, it is true, and maintained by countless individual impulses, yet summing up and reflecting all of these in a single, perfect, all harmonious whole."

Parry was eloquent, but of course philosophy is competent to deal with such optimism as this. Audubon groaned. Ellis tackled the lawyer with irony. Ellis spoke of the reciprocal relations of the householder and the thief, of the murderer and his victim, of the investor and the fraudulent company promoter, of the smooth, harmonious working of the flawless political machine called the European Concert.

The inquiry goes on, concerning itself with many things. We were glad, we felt a strong sense of refreshment, when the author came to mention that rare philosopher, Nietzsche, and Parry inquired, "Who is he?" It must be that Parry had never read "The Jungle," where Nietzsche appears to have been somebody who should be honored by Socialists and loved by the afflicted people in the stockyards. Does good involve consciousness? Are all activities good? Is evil really good? These are some of the questions considered in Mr. Dickinson's book. It is our opinion that the reader will be interested. This is warm weather and philosophy is not easy, but we remember the myriads who attend the summer schools.

Humor of the Day.

Back in the seventeenth century the French started the fashion of publishing deliberately formed epigrams. The fashion has been imitated to more than satiety, and one of its most annoying forms is the alphabetical arrangement of smart "definitions." These will be found in the funny papers in all languages, unfortunately including English. Two such collections come to us from the Henry Altemus Company, Philadelphia.

The tone of "The Cynic's Dictionary," by Harry Thompson is decidedly the better of the two. A few quotations, taking Mr. Thompson at his best, will show its character:

A woman is as old as her lover thinks she is.
Bigamy is its own punishment.
Curiosity. Paying a thousand dollars to see your appendix.
Good judgment. Finding out what kind of advice a man wants and giving it to him.
Repartee is the retort you think of on the way home.
Widowhood. The only compensation that some women get out of marriage.

The more modern, boisterous forms of wit will be found in Chester Field, Jr.'s, "The Cynic's Rules of Conduct." For example:

The difference between a bad break and a *faux pas* indicates the kind of society you are in.
Condensed milk should be used in a small flat.
The father gives the bride away, but the small brother would like to.
Suspect the man who wants only a small loan; a little touch is a dangerous thing.

Some Fiction.

The practice of publishing magazine stories separately seems to be on the increase. Occasionally the story is worth it, though typographical ingenuity is strained to make it fill pages enough to bind. Mr. Robert Barr's "The Watermead Affair" (Henry Altemus Company, Philadelphia) is very slight. It is a love tale of the most absurdly conventional type, brought up to date by the introduction of automobile machinery; but the author's touch is extremely light, and he is so obviously making fun of the whole matter that he carries the reader along contentedly.

Mr. Lloyd Osbourne's "The Tin Diskers" (Henry Altemus Company) suffers from a double disadvantage, the author's limited sense of the humorous and the inability to depict women that appears in all his books. Here the narrator is a woman, and the story is intended to be funny. It leaves a general impression of vulgarity and of a guide to lodging house customs in England.

One new bad form of recent fiction is described aptly if inelegantly on the title page of "The Lion and the Mouse" by Charles Klein "novelized from the play" by Arthur Hornblow (G. W. Dillingham Company). The play, we understand, has been remarkably popular, and it is perhaps natural that those who have seen it should like to read it afterward at their leisure. That the plot should be amplified or tumefied into a large book is probably not wholly the author's fault, nor can he be blamed wholly for the high flown language. We don't like to think of the possible "novelization" of Mr. Clyde Fitch's plays.

A Batch of Children's Books.

It is interesting to watch the persistence of a type, though the form may vary a little. The old time Sunday school story has disappeared, at least from the front row of juvenile literature, but the kindly didactic information of youth imparted in "Evenings at Home" and "Sandford and Merton" keeps on and will now be found in the new fangled readers in the varied scientific series.

In another shape youth is talked down to in a series called "The Children's Heroes," edited by Mr. John Lang (T. C. & E. C. Jack; E. P. Dutton & Co.). They are beautifully printed little books, disfigured by gaudy chromo illustrations. The editor himself tells "The Story of Captain Cook," a hero that every boy should know; unfortunately, he seems to have no clear conception himself of what Capt. Cook did and so cannot explain it to youth. He loses himself in details and fails to show the meaning of Cook's wonderful journey around the South Polar region and his annihilation of the Terra Australis. The real results of his other voyages are also indistinct, and curiously enough there is very little about Cook's personal character.

The other volumes contain "The Story of David Livingstone," by Vautier Golding, another fitting hero for youth to admire; "The Story of Sir Walter Raleigh," by Margaret Duncan Kelly (surely that gallant courtier and unscrupulous adventurer is no model for the nursery) and "The Story of Joan of Arc," by Mr. Andrew Lang. It is, perhaps, due to British prejudices that Mr. Lang omits the latest steps in the rehabilitation of the Maid of Orleans.

Other Books.

Lawyers will find Sir John Hollam's "The Jottings of an Old Solicitor" (E. P. Dutton and Company) very entertaining, for the professional recollections of the author, now 85 years of age, go back to 1840. He has seen the remarkable changes in the English law procedure and courts and was brought into contact with many great lawyers and famous Judges. He seems to have been intimate with Lord Bramwell and Lord Chancellor Hatherley. His title describes his book, which touches on contrasts between the old methods and the new, on notable cases, on the characteristics of lawyers and Judges, with many anecdotes. It is to be regretted that the caution which made him a successful solicitor makes the author refrain from telling many interesting things. It is provoking, too, that one whose memory can go back so far should say so little about other changes, and restrict his "jottings" to his profession.

For some unaccountable reason people in England are writing up the obscure women writers of the eighteenth century. In some cases this is justified by the publication for the first time of letters or other papers that throw light on the times or on other persons more important than the subject of the memoir. That excuse, however, is wanting in "A Woman of Wit and Wisdom," by Alice C. C. Gaussen (E. P. Dutton & Co.), which is a biography of Miss Elizabeth Carter, the translator of Epictetus and friend of Dr. Johnson, who lived to be 89 years of age. We fail to see, either in the literary importance of this lady or in the events of her life, sufficient reason for a long volume, but must envy the enthusiasm of the author who has written her life.

The letters written home by Mrs. Campbell Dauncey must have interested her relatives; they are bright and gossipy and convey the impression of the moment. When gathered into a printed volume, "An Englishwoman in the Philippines" (E. P. Dutton & Co.), they are entertaining enough if not taken too seriously. The author was in the Philippines from December, 1904, to the end of August, 1905, a good part of the time at Iloilo, where her husband seems to have had business. Much of her story, as is natural in private correspondence, has to do with petty personal incidents which show little adaptability to circumstances on her part. She does not permit first impressions to suffer from subsequent inquiry into actual facts. She went to the islands with a healthy British prejudice against all things American, and it will be difficult to find a good word for the American or their administration in the volume. As she calls people by name this gives a pleasant tone to her book. The visit of Secretary Taft and Miss Roosevelt occurred during her stay and seems to have rasped her susceptibilities.

Automobiles apparently have reached the point of having a law of their own. At any rate we have before us "The Law of Automobiles," by Xenophon P. Huddy of the New York bar (Matthew Bender and Company, Albany), a work that may strike the reader as somewhat premature, for the state of that law is decidedly in the making. The first part consists chiefly of applications of the general laws regarding vehicles to the specific case of automobiles, with definitions from dictionaries and encyclopædias rather than legal decisions. Here we find the amazing derivation of *chauffeur* from the French brigands of the last century. Now, whatever popular prejudice may exist against automobile drivers, *chauffeur*, the stoker, is derived legitimately from *chauffer*, to heat the boiler, and has nothing to do with the brigands, as Mr. Huddy might have found by reading the encyclopædia article carefully. The second part of the book, which is of temporary practical use, contains the statutory regulations about automobiles in all the States and in England. This must be changed in subsequent editions to accord with the frequent changes in such regulations.

Another excellent regimental story, that of the Sixteenth New York Volunteer Infantry, is told by Gen. Newton Martin Curtis in "From Bull Run to Chancellorsville" (G. P. Putnam's Sons). The regiment was raised in St. Lawrence county for two years, and served wholly in Virginia. Gen. Curtis points out that the two years existence of the organization has prevented the severity of its losses from being recognized in the records when compared with regiments of longer service. At Gaines's Mill the regiment lost 58 killed or mortally wounded and 173 wounded, and at Salem Church 26 killed and 101 wounded. Most of the men enlisted again. Besides the regimental record and personal criticisms by Gen. Curtis, the roster of the regiment is given with the history in brief of each member.

It is unfortunate that Mr. H. R. Whates, who has written "Canada, the New Nation" (J. M. Dent and Company; E. P. Dutton and Company), should have set out as a sociological investigator. He travelled from England in the steerage, hunted for work when he had time, and in five months made his way across the continent to the Pacific and back again to Montreal. He learned painfully many things that he might have found out about more easily and more thoroughly. He generalizes too much from personal experience and in some instances is hardly fair. He devotes 70 pages to demonstrating that Canada is going to be independent of England; that may be necessary for Englishmen.

A new edition of the Scriptures, "The Analytical Holy Bible," comes to us from the Egyptian Publishing Company, Carbondale, Ill. The editor is Mr. Arthur Roberts. The text is that of the King James version, arranged in two columns, while an intervening column contains explanations. At the foot of the page are the references, the passages being given in full. All the proper names are marked for the pronunciation. There is a very full index. The volume is a large quarto and contains many illustrations.

Books Received.

"Panama: The Isthmus and the Canal." C. H. Forbes-Lindsay. (The John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia.)
"The Taking of Capri." Algernon Warren. (Arthur H. Stockwell, London.)
"The Rose Croix." David Tod Gilliam. (The Saalfield Publishing Company.)
"Step by Step." Mrs. George Downs Sheldon. (G. W. Dillingham Company.)
"Hygiene of the Nursery." Louis Starr, M. D. (P. Blakiston's Son and Company, Philadelphia.)
"Uncle Charlie's Poems." Charles Noel Douglas. (J. S. Ogilvie Publishing Company.)
"The Manual of Statistics. 1906." (The Manual of Statistics Company, New York.)

"KREUTZER SONATA" IN COURT.

Decision Reserved on Move to Stop the Blanche Walsh Production.

Decision was reserved yesterday on the application made to the Supreme Court by Leopold Spachner and David Kessler for an injunction restraining Wagenhals & Kemper, the theatrical managers, from producing Jacob Gordin's play, "Kreutzer Sonata," in which they are now starring Blanche Walsh at the Manhattan Theatre.

Spachner and Kessler, who are backed by Harrison Grey Fiske, say that they bought the rights of the play from Gordin for $500, taking his word that he would not allow any one else to produce it. Fiske had planned to star Bertha Kalich in the play, and the Wagenhals & Kemper move rather took the wind out of his sails.

Wagenhals & Kemper say that they bought the rights to the play from Gordin with the knowledge and aid of Spachner, who, according to Wagenhals, is Mme. Kalich's husband. Wagenhals & Kemper say that there was no interference with their production in Chicago and at Wheeling, W. Va. They never heard of any claim by Spachner or Kessler, they add, till they put the play on here last Monday night. Wagenhals & Kemper have a written contract with Gordin, of which notice was given to Spachner and Kessler, who they admit control the Yiddish rights.

HAMMERSTEIN'S NEW SINGERS.

A New Barytone and a Buffo—Conried to Produce Strauss's "Salome."

Oscar Hammerstein heard yesterday from Ludwig Ruben, his agent in Europe, the final list of his engagements for the new Manhattan Opera House made before he sailed. They include a new barytone, Signor Reschiglian-Fosetta, and Signor Galetti-Gianoli, who is to be the buffo. Signor Campanini has selected as his assistant conductor Fernando Tanara, while the chorus master, who is to arrive here in a few days, will be Giulio Setti.

Mr. Hammerstein says that it is not true that Luisa Tetrazzini is not to be in his company, as she is under contract to him. As he has engaged Mme. Pinkert, who sings the same parts, he is indifferent as to Mme. Tetrazzini's arrival, but she is under contract and he expects her to show up in October.

Mr. Conried cabled his representatives at the Metropolitan yesterday that he had finally made definite arrangements with Richard Strauss for the production of "Salome" next winter. It is not yet certain that the composer will be able to come here to superintend the performance. If he does not Ernst von Schuch of Dresden, who first produced the work, is to come to the Metropolitan for the same purpose.

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THE GRAND RE-OPENING DEWEY EAST 14TH ST. TO-NIGHT Moonlight Maids Burlesquers HEADED BY SAM S. HOWE. Living Pictures—3 Burlesques. POPULAR PRICES, 25c. and 50c.

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WALLACK'S B'way & 30th. Ev'gs 8:20. Pop. priced Mat. Wed. Reg. Mat. Today. Last 2 weeks at Wallack's His Honor the Mayor

EDEN MUSEE WORLD IN WAX. Special Groups. CINEMATOGRAPH Every Hour. Royal Italian Orchestra. Mystic Asjee

3RD AV. Dixon's Cor. 31st. Mat. Today. A Ragged Hero Nx't w'k, Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde.

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BRIGHTON BEACH PARK Every Tue., Thur. & Sat. Night Special TO-NIGHT, 8:30 P. M. GORGEOUS DOUBLE DISPLAY LLOYD'S JUBILEE FIREWORKS Seats, 15c., 25c. and 50c. ROSSO'S MILITARY BAND.

MANHATTAN BEACH. PAIN'S Vesuvius and Grand Fireworks. 8 P. M. Every Evg. SPECIAL FIREWORKS PROGRAMME TO-NIGHT. Joe Weber's ALL STAR CO. Twiddle Twaddle. Evg. at 9. Sat. Mat. 4.

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NEW STAR Lex. Ave. & 107th St. Mat. To-day. JOS. SANTLEY, Billy The Kid. N'xt w'k, On Dangerous Ground. Next Sunday Eve.—Grand Operatic Concert.

West End Mat. Today. Evs. 8:30. Davy Crockett Beginning Next Monday Matinee OPENING OF THE REGULAR SEASON. THE GAMBLER OF THE WEST.

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Grand Opera House 23d St. & 8th Ave. TO-NIGHT. Williams & Walker The New Abyssinia