

—We note also the annual volume on *Current Discussions in Theology*, by the "Professors in Chicago Theological Seminary." This volume is No. 5 in the annual series, and like the others is arranged to cover the ground systematically and to give a connected and complete account of the course of theological study and discussion during the last twelve months. It is a scholarly, cautious and conservative review. (Cong. S. S. and Publishing Society. \$1.50.)—Practical in its aims and general evolution is *The Best Mode of Working a Parish*, considered in a series of lectures in the Denver Cathedral and in several sermons by John F. Spalding, S. T. D., Bishop of Colorado. (The Young Churchman Co.: Milwaukee. \$1.00.)

....It is impossible for Henry Drummond to touch anything without brightening and beautifying it. Many of our readers will remember his lectures when in this country on Africa and his charming account of his own exploration through Lake Nyanza into the heart of the "dark continent." This exploration was made with scientific ends in view. The lectures which grow out of it take a much wider range than that of mere description and are published in handsome form by Scribner & Welford. They have the solidity and accuracy which is to be expected of an author who is a trained observer and the literary charm which is the unfailing resource of Professor Drummond. They treat of the "heart-disease of Africa; its pathology and cure," and cannot be left unread by anyone who wishes to be at all abreast of the important problem created by the opening of the Free Congo State. We note also that they throw incidentally a considerable and important light on the relation of Islamism to Africa and its apparent prospects in that country. The volume is illustrated with six excellent maps, and as published by Scribner & Welford in the authorized edition is entitled *Tropical Africa*, by Henry Drummond, LL.D., F.R.S.E., F.G.S.

....In spite of the somewhat swollen style of his preface and introduction, and the author's fondness for pompous headings, there is considerable good to be had from the use of the *English Masterpiece Course*, by Alfred H. Welsh, simply, however, because it presents classified lists of books, reviews and treatises for each period. The lists, while full, are miscellaneous and indiscriminate, and might be made both better and more useful. The best and the worst meet together in happy equality, and if the author knows the difference between them he takes no step to share his knowledge with his readers. He loses, however, no opportunity to advertise his own book. In the first fifty pages he inserts "Welsh's English Literature and Language" eighteen times in as many different lists, and this proportion seems to hold through the book. The author may, however, be a modest scholar with a humble view of his work after all, for we note in the same lists with nothing to discriminate between them, that "Wilke's Shakespeare from an American Point of View," appears almost as frequently. (John C. Buckbee & Co.: Chicago.)

....Altho the sermons of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Maclaren have not usually taken the form of systematic exposition, he has seemed to us to be essentially an expository preacher and able to outshine all his competitors in that line of pulpit work. We were not aware that he had ever given himself definitely to this kind of preaching until his volume of sermons on *The Epistles of St. Paul to the Colossians and Philemon* came into our hands. It is a magnificent illustration of the preacher's power, and as much more than this as it approaches the ideal of the class. The sermons are marked with Dr. Maclaren's characteristics, his wonderful power of statement, his ability to draw truth from the bottom of the well, his analytic and synthetic power and matchless success in bringing home the divine truth to the hearts of his hearers. It used to be said that Stanley's Corinthians made a new book of those two Epistles. No man ever heard Dr. Maclaren deal at his best with a passage of Scripture without feeling that it had been made over anew in his hands. (A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$1.50.)

....In his volume of *Partial Portraits* Henry James has made a collection of recent essays in literary portraiture published by him in *The Atlantic*, *The Century*, *Harper's Weekly*, *Macmillan's Magazine*, *Longman's* and *The Fortnightly*. They were written at different periods. They are remarkably clever, remarkably brilliant, and yet in the same degree disappointing. They are rich in suggestion and

in idea, but lead on to no formed conclusion in which the reader can rest. (Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.)—*Ignorant Essays*, by Richard Dowling, form an entertaining collection of neatly written papers on miscellaneous subjects done in a light and sometimes brilliant style. (D. Appleton & Co.)—*English Cathedrals, their Architecture, Symbolism and History*, is a brief compilation by E. W. Boyd, Head of St. Agnes' School, Albany, which has now reached a third edition and is apparently designed to awaken interest in ecclesiastical architecture and the ecclesiastical nomenclature so dear to the High Church. (Thomas Whittaker.)

....We should not describe Dr. C. W. Wooldridge's *Missing Sense and the Hidden Things it Might Reveal. Spiritual Philosophy Treated on a Rational Basis* as a speculation, tho it is highly speculative. The author attempts to estimate the consequences of a privation of the sense of vision, and having worked out a fairly definite estimate of what would be the results of such an eclipse, he reverses his method and proceeds to employ his result as an indication of the consequences of an enlargement of human capacity by the addition of a sense. He supposes the added sense to be one which would give us a true perception of spiritual substance and reality. He argues that the hypothesis is not, as we remain convinced it is, irrational and too filmy even for an hypothesis. We do not see any support to be drawn for it from the unproved speculations of telepathy. As an illustration of what may be anticipated as possible in the world to come there is much to be said for the treatise, and viewed in this light its effect will be wholesome. (Funk & Wagnalls.)

....*Old South Leaflets* are a series of tracts in political and constitutional science published by the "Directors of Old South Studies, Old South Meeting-House," Boston. No. 1 is the Federal Constitution. Other numbers contain The Declaration of Independence, The Articles of Confederation, Washington's Farewell Address, Magna Charta, Lincoln's Inaugural and Emancipation Proclamation, etc. The tracts are published for schools and for the trade by D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, and form an inexpensive series of original documents in the history of constitutional Freedom and Government.

....The last volume we have seen in the Scoville Photographic Publications is *The Photographic Negative; written as a Practical Guide to the Preparation of Sensitive Surfaces by the Celotype, Albumen, Collodion and Gelatin Processes, on Glass and Paper, with Supplementary Chapters on Development, etc.*, by the Rev. W. H. Burbank. The manual is full of useful diagrams, descriptive drawings and working illustrations, and is written throughout with the requirements of the practical photographer in view. (Scovill Manufacturing Co.: New York.)

....The fifth in the excellent series of English "Historic Towns," published by Longmans, Green & Co. (New York and London), under the editorial direction of Professor E. A. Freeman and the Rev. William Hunt, is *Colchester*, by the Rev. Edward L. Cutts. The previous numbers have been "London" a most readable book by the Rev. W. J. Loftie, which has been accepted as the standard historical handbook of the British metropolis. Mr. Freeman himself undertook "Exeter." His associate, Mr. Hunt, prepared the number on "Bristol," and a very careful and trustworthy volume on "Oxford" has been added to the series by the Rev. C. W. Boase. *Colchester* has the highest claim of all, being the oldest historic town of England, founded as a colony by Claudius, with a previous history as the royal town of Cymbeline, and still earlier as the *oppidum* of the Trinobantes. The site has proved rich in Roman remains and relics. The author has unraveled the Roman history with great success, tho his handbook gains in interest for the reader as he approaches by the way of the Saxon times and the medieval chronicles, the Reformation and post-Reformation history of the town. It is a mine of historic fact, and a manual which in its brief compass will bring the reader more surely into touch with the times and the life he reads of than most larger and more general works.

....Of juvenile or religious books reprinted from English sources we receive from Phillips & Hunt three: *John Conscience of Kingscal*, by John M. Bamford, author of "Elias Power, of Ease-in-Zion," which it resembles in its being, in a way, an allegory intended to bring the Christian doctrines, as received by English Methodists, home to the hearts of workingmen. This book is written with an earnest zeal for the good of men's souls. The same might be said for *The Man with the White Hat; or, The Story of an Unknown Mission*, by C. R. Parsons, but the story is too confused to hold the reader's attention to the end. *A Little Silver Trumpet*, by L. T. Meade, adds one more to the long list of stories by this author, written in sympathy with, and in the interest of, the London poor. From the same publisher comes *The Heretic Priest* and other tales of Reformation times in the Netherlands and Germany. These stories, the preface tells us, are "by authors of no fame outside of their own land, but well known within its confines for their pleasing labors in illustrating the annals of their fatherland and of the Reformation." The book contains four tales that cover a period of nearly a hundred years from 1560 to 1648, and the translations which are of fair average merit were made for American readers.

....Among excellent sermons for young people we chronicle with pleasure *A Father's Blessing and Other Sermons for Children*, by William Wilberforce Newton. They bristle with points which apply to young readers and will be understood by them. They are rich in illustration and good practical spiritual content. (Robert Carter & Brothers. \$1.25.)—From the same we have a new volume of Spurgeon's *My Sermon-Notes. A Selection from Outlines of Discourses Delivered at the Metropolitan Tabernacle*. This volume applies to the exposition of passages from Romans to Revelation, and is also republished in this country by Funk & Wagnalls, as well as by Carter & Brothers.