

AMONG THE RELIGIOUS BOOKS

EDWARD F. GARESCHÉ, S.J., in his "Great Christian Artists" (Bruce) urges our youth, as an aid to the formation of taste and character, to develop the beauty of the soul through the inspiration of Christian art. He has chosen from among the greatest of Christian artists seven who represent in themselves most varied types of genius, but a singular resemblance of inspiration: da Vinci with his sublime originality, his stupendous versatility; Raphael with his pure and lofty inspiration, the unearthly grace and beauty of his works; Michelangelo, titanic in power, weariless in toil, sublime in execution; Fra Angelico, heavenly in his charming simplicity and in the celestial look of his rapt countenances; Murillo, whose realism is wedded to so extraordinary an ideal of faith and beauty; Rubens, whose Flemish vigor burgeoned into exuberant revels of artistic power; Van Dyck, whose intense feeling and originality lent such charm to sacred objects. All these, with their various colors of genius and disposition, owe to the Christian spirit the noblest achievement of their art. Each reflects with a different beauty the single ray of Christian inspiration. It is time well spent to read of the glow, the fervor, the human appeal and heavenly beauty that kindled the purest genius of these artists.

"The Last of the Heretics" (Knopf) by Algernon Sidney Crapsey is an autobiography of exceptional and timely interest. Born in 1847, Algernon Crapsey has led a life of almost superhuman activity. His vocations ranged from a soldier in the Civil War to a government clerk in the Dead Letter Office at Washington; from a lawyer's apprentice to the appointment in the ministry. As time passed on Dr. Crapsey began to feel doubts — doubts today being expressed by clergyman, high and low — until, after twenty-seven years of ministry, he was tried, pronounced a heretic, and cast out of the Church.

"Problems of Belief" (Doran) by Ferdinand Canning Scott Schiller is one of the first volumes in a new Library of Philosophy and Religion, which series deals in a scholarly and scientific manner with fundamental principles. This treatment of the vital theme of belief is a work of great depth of thought and originality. It is destined to be recognized as one of the most significant and arresting discussions of the hour in the field of psychology and religion.

A book that speaks to the hearts of men on the vital questions of the hour is P. Whitwell Wilson's "A Layman's Confession of Faith" (Revell). Strong, lucid, tolerant, generous to those who hold views differing from those of the author, it is as applicable to the man in the pew as to the man in the pulpit, or to the man who, hitherto, has found his way into neither. Mr. Wilson has written the book out of a desire to aid men and women in ascertaining where they stand, and to what, in matters of doctrine, they subscribe.

Can civilization be devoid of religion? Is there no conflict between science and religion? As an aid to those in quest of light on these and other supreme questions on which human conduct and human destiny depend, "Religion and the Mind of To-day" (Appleton), a thoughtful discussion by Professor Joseph Alexander Leighton, one of America's foremost philosophers, is both illuminating and satisfying. Into this discussion enter those questions which are filling the minds of the modern world: science and traditionalism, religion and morals, religion and science, what religion is, what faith is, science and immortality, prayer, religion and social progress. It aims to give viewpoints from which to examine the central problems, and to suggest to its readers lines of reflection, by a thoughtful weighing of the issues at stake.

—E. E. F.