

**RECOLLECTIONS OF A NONAGENARIAN of Life in
New England, the Middle West and New
York, Including a Mission to Great Britain,
together with Scenes in California. By Rev.
John C. Holbrook, D.D., LL.D. (The Pil-
grim Press, Boston. \$1.50.)**

The scope and contents of this book are fully described in the title as quoted above. The volume was written and is published at the suggestion of friends and associates who knew the value of Dr. Holbrook's work and the very interesting character of his *Recollections*. Dr. Holbrook was born in 1808, in Brattleboro, Vt.; and these notes of his life there cover the last ninety years of this century and have witnessed the tremendous changes which have probably amounted to more, in their social, intellectual, political, religious and economic results than any other four and perhaps ten centuries since the dawn of history can show. Dr. Holbrook tells his story in the mellow tones of one on whom the

ripening and gentle influence of years has fallen, and from whose memory the bitterness of life has passed away. It is a good and healthy book to read, and one that follows down the streams of Christian life, enterprise and influence which have done so much to redeem the ninety years of this marvelous century, and left us so much better off at its end than we were at its beginning.

HISTORY OF CHERRY VALLEY. *From 1740 to 1898.*
By John Sawyer. (Cherry Valley Gazette Print. \$1.00.)

Cherry Valley is one of the most interesting villages in the State of New York. It has always been celebrated for the number of distinguished families and persons who have at various times made it their home. It was the scene of the Butler and Brant massacre in November, 1778, but tho destroyed at that time, and laid waste again two years later by the Indians, it was rebuilt, and regained its former prosperity for fifty years or more, until the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 by gradually changing the routes of trade and travel, left the town isolated and doomed it to decline. Its history is one of great interest, and is characteristic of the times and the country. Mr. Sawyer begins with its settlement in 1740, and follows the history through the massacre and the war and the resettlement of the town. He pictures the customs, sports and social life of the day, and relates many a personal incident which lets one into the inner personal life and morals of the first quarter of this century, and go far to show that if there is much in the world which is wrong now, it was by no means altogether right then. Among the best features of the volume are its brief sketches of the men who made the town famous.

MARTIN LUTHER, THE HERO OF THE REFORMATION, 1483-1546. By Henry Eyster Jacobs, *Dean and Professor of Theology, Evangelical Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia, Penn.* (G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.50.)

This is the opening number of the new "Heroes of the Reformation" series, under the general direction of Prof. Samuel M. Jackson. As a modern critico-popular biography, which is to set the pace for the new series and characterize it, we call it nearly ideal. It is done more on the topical method than on the chronological. Everything is presented in solid, massive, crisp form and moves on rapidly to the end. Some of the chapters are almost dramatic in their vigor and movement. Still, it is critical and accurate. Probably the most striking chapter in the volume is the last on Luther's Theology. The latest conclusions are embodied in the substance of the text rather than labeled and displayed by

themselves. Dr. Jacobs does full justice to the strongly evangelical character which Luther stamped on his work and his teaching. He appreciates the great service he rendered to the world by his deep knowledge of the operation of divine truth on the human heart and the emancipation of the believer from the trammels of the sacramental, priestly and perfunctory codes that had been imposed upon him. The book sounds the key-note of the Reformation, while it conducts the reader rapidly through its history.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES LIFE-SAVING SERVICE; for the Fiscal Year ending June 30th, 1897. (Government Printing Office.) The Report contains the usual detailed returns of wrecks and casualties to vessels at home and abroad, with full accounts of the organization of the service and its distribution, instructions to mariners in case of shipwreck, and for the resuscitation of drowned persons. The summaries of work done make a strong impression of the value of the service. The number of disasters reported is 394, number of lives involved 3,737, of whom 42 were lost. Value of the vessels, \$5,132,485, and of their cargoes \$1,975,340; of this \$5,108,895 was saved. The number of vessels lost was 54. There were also 305 casualties to minor craft, such as sailboats, etc., carrying 706, of whom all but 11 were saved. The property saved from these minor wrecks was worth \$182,280. The entire number of stations on the Atlantic and Pacific coast and on the lakes is 259. The total United States appropriations for their support was \$1,498,590, of which \$1,406,419 was expended, leaving a balance available July 1st, 1897, of \$92,170.78.

THE LETTERS OF VICTOR HUGO TO HIS FAMILY, TO SAINTE BEUVE AND OTHERS. *Edited by Paul Meurice.* (Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1 Vol. \$3.00.) The truth of the saying: "Nothing relating to the great is small," may well be questioned. There are many bright paragraphs scattered through the letters which M. Meurice has been at the trouble of collecting. Some very pleasant glimpses may be obtained of an affectionate heart and of a master mind of the century when working together and entirely at their ease; but they give one the feeling that one is spying upon things that are sometimes too trivial, and sometimes too sacred for stranger eyes. More than this there is not sufficient gain to compensate one for the loss of dignity on the part of the self-detected spy. One wonders if the editor has no qualms over his work. In France, where everything relating to Victor Hugo is sure of finding an admiring public, it is probable that M. Meurice may find it to his pecuniary advantage to

have published these desk-sweepings; but the work can certainly add little to his own fame, and nothing to that of "the Master." That it does not seriously detract from the latter is more than could have been expected.

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