

Russia. By D. MACKENZIE WALLACE. 8vo., pp. 620. \$4 00. New York: Henry Holt & Co.; Toronto: S. Rose.

This is probably the best English book on Russia ever published. It embodies the experience of an accomplished traveller and philosophic writer during a residence of six years in that country. He does not give a wearisome detail of trivial personal adventures, but presents the results of his studies of Russian institutions, her social, religious, political, and economical condition, etc. A glance at the contents will indicate the scope of the work. Among the subjects discussed are, Travelling, the Village Priest, a Peasant Family, the Village Community, Finns and Tartars, Towns and the Mercantile Class, the Imperial Administration, Landed Proprietors, Social Classes, Heretics and Dissenters, the Steppes, the Cossacks, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Church and State, the Crimean War, the Serfs and their Emancipation, and the Eastern Question. The author writes from thorough knowledge of his subject, with perfect fairness, and in a very vivacious style. The future of Russia is hopeful, but, as compared with our own country, its condition is not enviable. Its many millions of recently emancipated serfs, and even multitudes of higher grade, live in intellectual and religious ignorance, in strenuous toil and physical discomfort, and die in a condition of stolid and almost brute apathy. Many of the religious dissenters, and so-called heretics, however, are well read in the Scriptures and lead lives of simple piety. Others are infected by dangerous and immoral communistic theories. Tartar and Mahometan influence is still much felt, especially on the Eastern steppes. The Russians seem to be a very kindly, amiable people. The language abounds in affectionate diminutives. "Little Father" is the general mode of address toward superiors; and "Children," or "Little Peter," or "Little Nicholas," as the

case may be, is the mode of reply. The iron will of the Czar and the influence of officialism and bureaucracy is apparent throughout society. In the present aspect of the Eastern Question the book will be of great value, and it is also of great interest.

Every day Topics. By J. G. HOLLAND. P.p. 391. Scribner & Co., and Methodist Book Rooms.

In this volume Dr. Holland has collected a large number of his judicious editorials which have appeared in *Scribner's Monthly*. They treat live topics in a vivacious and eminently readable manner. Among the subjects discussed are: Literature, Criticism, Private and Public Morality, Preachers and Preaching, the Church of the Future, Christianity and Science, Revivals, Amusements, the Temperance Question, etc. The style is chaste and clear, the matter sound and sensible, and on questions of Christian and social morality the Dr. speaks brave, bold words that need to be heard and heeded. From his influential editorial chair, he is a preacher of righteousness to a very large community of readers, although we regret that he has sometimes had associated with him, as contributors, writers far from as sound as himself; witness Mr. Blauvelt, lately deposed from the pulpit of the Dutch Reformed Church on account of his heterodoxy.

Ministerial Education and Training in the Methodist Episcopal Church. By D. P. KIDDER, D.D., New York: Nelson & Phillips.

This pamphlet is printed from the plates of the *Bibliotheca* for July, 1876. It is a contribution to the department of Church history which shows the true attitude of Methodism toward the cause of ministerial education. No man has done more for this cause than Dr. Kidder, and no one is better qualified to write its history.