

Old Man Savarin, and Other Stories. By EDWARD WILLIAM THOMSON. Toronto: William Briggs. 12mo., pp. 289. Price, \$1.00.

It is a rare gift to be able to write a short story, and to do it well. This gift Mr. Thomson possesses in an eminent degree. His imagination is such as to enable him to see clearly what he undertakes to describe—the result is that there is an air of reality about the airy nothings to which he gives a local habitation and a name, which is the real stamp of genius of this kind. There is a lightness, too, as well as a firmness of touch about these stories, which marks the work of the practised artist; they are marked, moreover, by a degree of dramatic power, which, though the author makes but limited use of his wit and humor, keeps the attention alive, and makes them pleasant reading. If they are not favorites with the young people especially we shall be surprised. They are described by the author as “off-hand stories,” but they have the appearance of pretty careful study. The style is good, the sentiments are pure, and the moral of them is ethically sound. They were evidently written for the young, and to such we commend them with confidence, assured that in their perusal they will find a source of real enjoyment.

The Way Out. A Solution of the Temperance Question. By Rev. HUGH MONTGOMERY, with an introduction by DANIEL DORCHESTER, D.D. Price, \$1.00. New York: Hunt & Eaton.

This is a collection of racy sketches or essays on almost every modern aspect of the Temperance question viewed from the standpoint of personal manhood and individual responsibility. The author seats himself on a stool with three legs—a temperance leg, a political leg, and a religious leg. Sound temperance principles, sound religious principles and sound political principles all combine in the result—total abstinence. The peculiar excellence of this book is that it is a fresh, readable book on an old question—a book to put in the hands of one who needs to have his ideas corrected on one or more of the points in question.

The Saloon Keeper's Ledger. A Series of Temperance Revival Discourses. By LOUIS ALBERT BANKS, D.D., Pastor Hanson Place M. E. Church, Brooklyn, New York. Cloth, 12mo. Pp. 129; 75 cents. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

The discourses in this book are the work of an expert. The aim is to help educate the public mind and conscience afresh in regard to the drink question. In the ledger of those participating in the drink traffic heavy balances are proven on the side of disease, private and social immorality, ruined homes, pauperized labor, lawlessness and crime and political corruption. The conclusion is that the way to stop the evil is to stop the traffic. The author illustrates the license system as folly by the shortsightedness of Bridget, who, after having been instructed to scrub the kitchen floor, was found mopping for dear life the water two or three inches deep. “Why don’t you turn off the faucet, Bridget?” “Sure, ma’am, its mesilf that hasn’t toime, the water kapes me a mopping so fast.” The book bristles with anecdotal illustrations, all of which are pat, concise and hard to forget—a feature of great value in a book of this kind. Theodore Cuyler, D.D., of Brooklyn, writes the Introduction, and pays a high tribute to the merits of these temperance revival discourses, which at time of delivery in the author’s spacious church edifice were listened to by large assemblages.