

Book Notices.

Chapters from the Religious History of Spain connected with the Inquisition. By HENRY CHARLES LEA, LL.D. 8vo, pp. 522. Philadelphia: Lea Brothers & Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$2.50.

Dr. Lea has shown his special qualifications for discussing the subjects treated in this book by his great three-volume work on the History of the Inquisition of the Middle Ages—a work which is unquestionably the best authority in the English language on the subject. In this book he takes up a number of topics which could not be brought into his former history and which deserve more elaborate treatment than could be given then in such a work. One of these is the censorship of the press in the Middle Ages. And a very melancholy history of bigotry, intolerance, and superstition it is. The severity of the censorship steadily increased, benumbing and paralyzing and repressing thought and speech and letters, to the great detriment of national character and prosperity.

Mediæval Mystics and Illuminati form the subject of another exhaustive essay. While many of the saints and mystics of the Catholic Church were persons of undoubted piety, yet many were the victims of self-delusion or of hysterical affections, and not a few were arrant hypocrites and deceivers. The popular craving for miracles, and their eager and uncritical reception, encouraged and facilitated these deceptions and hypocrisies, of which many examples are quoted. But the history of the witchcraft delusion in both Old and New England, and the mystification of such able minds as Sir Matthew Hale and the Rev. Dr. Mather, should make us lenient in our criticism of Roman Catholic delusion.

Of a kindred character was the belief in demoniacal possession, the efficacy of exorcism and the like; and the strangely persistent superstition

that Jews crucify Christian children in the celebration of the Passover. So late as this year, 1890, the Jews in Smyrna were accused of this crime, and in 1888 in Corea nine native officials were beheaded for an alleged similar crime. The book is a monument of painstaking research in seldom-trodden paths of history; it is well indexed, and original documents are quoted.

Faith on the Frontier. By EDMUND MARCH VITTM. Pp. 390. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

Life in the Far West, in the uninhabited prairie, has many hardships which are often suppressed in narratives published in the East. In this story is an "unvarnished tale" of the difficulties which surrounded a Vermont family who took up land in the West and forsook New England for what seemed to them a golden opportunity. They had to experience many a bitter disappointment and failure. The father is overcome by drink, and loses his life in a blizzard. Harry Marston, his son, grows up in the new country, and by his persistent courage and Christian faith finally compels success, and is the means of starting a frontier town. There are thrilling passages in the book. The power of liquor in a Western town is faithfully represented. The reader will obtain from the book an impression of Western life far truer than that to be derived from most literature of the sort.

A Royal Hunt. By MRS. E. C. WILSON. Pp. 394. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

Writers have long found the his-