

These are but indications of the vigorous and vivacious mode of treatment of this great work. It is impossible in a brief book notice to give it adequate treatment, to do more than glance at its character. So important is this theme and its treatment that we shall devote to it in the near future a special chapter. In romance and heroism, in historic and religious development, in spiritual uplift and outlook, it is a perpetual inspiration. The price of this great work, \$15 for the set of seven volumes, is exceedingly cheap.

"The Appreciation of Sculpture." By Russell Sturgis, A.M., Ph.D. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo. Pp. 235. Price, \$1.50 net.

There are few subjects about which the average observer is less qualified to judge in accordance with the canons of art criticism than sculpture. Pictures we all think we know something about, but the grammar of sculpture is to most of us a sealed book. We, therefore, hail with great pleasure an authoritative work by a connoisseur in this oldest and most difficult form of art—a form too which reached a perfection which has never been equalled by modern sculptors over two thousand years ago.

Our author describes the development of sculpture from the early Greek, and still earlier Egyptian period, through the centuries to the present time. The gradual loss of exquisite conception and proportion, and technical execution, which made the Apollo Belvidere and the Venus de Milo the rapture and despair of all the ages, are traced. The revival of sculpture in the queer elongated figures which guarded the doors of the Gothic churches, the more realistic work of the Renaissance, the splendid achievements of the Italian revival, and insensible decline of the Italian decadence, are described. Of growing interest to the reader will be the development of recent art as treated in the successive chapters on form, sentiment, and monumental effect. The keen analysis and criticism of the author will enable the reader to form an intelligent judgment on the important art work of the early and more recent times. The sixty-four half-tone plates of the most important work in the different schools of sculpture enhance the value of this volume. For a book of its high character the price is very moderate.

"The Mountains." By Stewart Edward White. Illustrated. Toronto: Morang & Co. Pp. 282. Price, \$1.50.

Mr. White has won a unique place as an epic singer in poetic prose of the mountains and forest. His strong stories of "The Blazed Trail," and "The Silent Places," will be recalled by many and will procure a warm welcome to his latest volume. This account of mountaineering in the far west breathes the keen and difficult atmosphere of the snow-clad Sierras. The coast ranges, the foothills, the pines, the canyons and valleys, the giant forests, the night winds, the mining camp, the big game, are all graphically described. We can enjoy in our arm-chair all the mountain adventures that we need in these pages, minus the inevitable fatigue and perils. The book is admirably illustrated. We must protest, however, against the increasing tendency in literature to the use of profane language. We suppose the mountaineers use it, but that is no reason why the author should repeat it. Sir Walter Scott could describe every phase of life without offending his readers, but nowadays lady writers, who would resent, any charge of lack of refinement, will swear like troopers in their books, while they would almost faint if they heard the same words from others.

"Our Christmas Tides." By Theodore Ledyard Cuyler, D.D., LL.D. Author of "Recollections of a Long Life," etc. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 101. Price, \$1.00.

The venerable Theodore Cuyler still brings forth fruit in old age. His fine taste and evangelical spirit are the highest qualification for editing a book of messages from the poets, the sages and the seers on the significance of Christmas-tide. Some of the imperishable Christmas hymns and carols and Christmas sketches are presented in dainty pages with striking carmine decorative borders. A full-length portrait of the editor, and photos of scenes in Bethlehem and scenes associated with the first Christmas embellish the book.

"The Dynamic of Christianity." A Story of the Vital and Permanent Element in the Christian Religion. By Edward Mortimer Chapman. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. viii-345. Price, \$1.25.

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