

In Part III. metre is handled. This deals with the sounds, and has to do with poetry specially as addressed to the ear. This is the longest part of the book. Here rhythm, accent, quantity, pause, rhyme, and blank verse, the qualities and combinations of sounds, the various metres of English verse, stanzas of all kinds, the sonnet and foreign forms of verse, are treated in an enlightening way.

Careful study of this manual would do much to save valuable time frittered away on novel-reading, while poetry, the higher, stronger, and more stimulating kind of literature, is largely unread. Then, too, it would aid in giving an appropriate estimate of the most enriching part of our literature, as a potent factor in the culture of scholarly men. Because of the formative force of the great poets on the thinking of all time, he who would cultivate power of expression and finish of style will seek their closer acquaintance, so as to think their thoughts as well as use their words. For such an attainment Professor Gummere has rendered splendid service.

A HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES.
By Robert Ellis Thompson, D.D. Cloth 8vo, 424 pages. Price, \$2.50.
New York: The Christian Literature Co.

This volume is one of a series of manuals on Church History planned by the late Prof. Schaff, a series to cover the history of the principal denominations.

Not only because of its importance as a factor in the religious life of the United States, but also because of its great importance as a member of the Presbyterian family, the history of this church deserves to be well known. That this book meets a desideratum will be generally acknowledged, and it should be well read by Canadian Presbyterians.

Dr. Hodge wrote Presbyterian history from the old school point of view, and Dr. Gillett leaned just as strongly to the new, so there were many points of wide divergence. But Dr. Thompson, writing when the smoke of battle has cleared away, and with irenic temper, has produced a work that will meet with eager acceptance.

The author is careful to record the beginnings of the Presbyterian Church from the original sources, tracing carefully the influence of the Scotch-Irish and Dutch plantations on the one hand, and the "New England way" on the other, showing how the attractive and repellent forces they exercised moulded the life of the church.

The rapid growth of the church is vividly sketched, and the causes of dissension clearly indicated. We are thus enabled to see how an extremely rigid statement of special doctrines and a want of adaptation in polity to a young and growing community, whose religious exigencies demanded