

*Five Hundred Dollars, and other Stories of New England Life.* By HEMAN W. CHAPLIN. Pp. 301. Second edition. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price 50 cents.

This book is pronounced by Colonel Higginson, in the *Independent*, "the best volume of New England stories ever written." We have not read all the others, so cannot say; but they are a very notable collection, not like a photograph, copying all the insignificant details, but like an artistic etching, giving a strong and vivid impression of reality. They nearly all deal with the strange sea-side life of New England—the men half sailors, half farmers, equally at home rounding Cape Horn or ploughing a scrubby wind-swept hillside in Massachusetts Bay. The hand of an artist is shown in these clear-cut scenes. The lesson of "The Village Convict" is very striking, and the humour of "St. Patrick," and "The Minister's Great Opportunity," is quite delicious.

*Dying at the Top; The Moral and Spiritual Condition of Young Men of America.* By the REV. J. W. CLOKEY, D.D. Chicago: W. W. Vanarsdale. Price 50 cents.

This book is an endeavour to show that the life-tree of America is "dying at the top," that its boughs and roots are shrivelling, and that society, especially among young men, is so corrupt that it is a national peril. We do not believe a word of it. It is true that there is a great deal of vice, especially in the great cities, but when we think of the 75 or 80 per cent. of foreigners, many of them the very slough cast off by the vilest cities of the Old World, the marvel is that they have been so largely made amenable to law and order. The author admits that the present day is the best in the history of the world. Never were there so many young people enrolled in the service of Christ. Nearly 2,000,000 are engaged in Sunday-school work. Nearly every town has its vigorous Y. M. C. A., the young are working in the Church

as never before. The Christian Endeavour, the Epworth League and kindred societies are organizing them for the conquest of the world for Christ. In response to the call for foreign missionaries, 2,000 young men exclaimed, "Here am I, send me!" Fifty years ago almost every college was a hot-bed of infidelity, now they are the centres of Christian activity, almost every one with its vigorous Y. M. C. A. Dr. Dorchester's "Problem of Religious Progress" shows that never were the auguries for the conquest of the world for the Messiah-King so bright. And it is the young men now in the schools and colleges and shops and factories who must largely achieve this glorious work. Of the golden future we may say to them, "Go ye up and possess the land, for ye are well able."

*Three Years in Centre London: A Record of Principles, Methods, and Successes.* By EDWARD SMITH, Wesleyan minister. London: T. Woolmer, 2 Castle Street, City Road, E.C.

This unpretentious volume is a really valuable contribution to the evangelistic and pastoral literature of Methodism. It is the record of extraordinary success in soul-saving, and church building, in the true spiritual sense, achieved in the face of the most formidable difficulties in one of the most discouraging fields in Christendom. The principles on which this work was carried on appears to us to be sound and Scriptural; the methods employed are not only in harmony with the teaching of the New Testament, but such as are fully justified by reason and common sense; and the results are such as to prove that the old-fashioned Gospel which our fathers found to be the power of God unto salvation to every one that believed in their day, is no less adapted to meet the moral and spiritual requirements of our own times.

We heartily commend the book, not only as being well written and full of interest, but as being eminently calculated to do good. The