

weeks the largest Protestant church in this city was crowded with eager listeners to the simple, manly, burning words of this youthful evangelist. Mr. Rainsford is by birth an Irishman (born in Dublin in 1850), although educated chiefly in England. He had predilections for a military life, and in his eighteenth year accompanied some seven hundred English emigrants to this country to assist in getting them settled in Canada. He then crossed the continent, chiefly on horseback, on a hunting expedition. On his return to England he studied for "holy orders," and on his ordination devoted himself largely to evangelistic work, first in England, then in the United States and Canada. This book contains seventeen characteristic sermons and "Bible readings," a sketch of his life, and an excellent photograph of his handsome person.

*Errors and Fallacies in a Pamphlet entitled "Catholicity and Methodism" Exposed and Refuted*, by JOHN G. MARSHALL, 8vo. pp. 56, Halifax. Methodist Book-Rooms.

This is a vigorous reply to the late pamphlet of the Rev. James Roy, M.A., assailing several of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith as held by the Methodist Church. The venerable Judge Marshall has been specially fitted, by a long course of legal training and balancing of evidence, to investigate and weigh the arguments adduced. He takes up consecutively the opinions of Mr. Roy, and clearly points out their departure, in many cases, from Scripture and orthodoxy, and ably refutes their errors. We must, however, dissent from the assumption of the learned Judge that the Catacombs of Rome cannot afford proofs of Christian doctrine. We cannot think that that opinion is based upon an adequate examination of the evidence which may be adduced on this subject. The learned Dean Stanley, who is eminently qualified by his thorough investigation of that evi-

dence for expressing a sound judgment, writing on this subject remarks: "What insight into the familiar feelings and thoughts of the primitive ages of the Church can be compared with that afforded by the Roman catacombs? . . . The subjects of the painting and sculpture" (and he might have added, "especially of the inscriptions") "place before us the *exact ideas* with which the early Christians were familiar. . . He who is thoroughly versed in the imagery of the Catacombs will be nearer to the thought of the early Church than he who has learned by heart the most elaborate treatise even of Tertullian or of Origen."

*History of the Great Fire in Saint John*. By COLONEL R. H. CONWELL. 12mo., pp. 359, illustrated. Boston: B. B. Russell; Toronto: Might and Taylor.

This is a remarkably vivid account of the greatest disaster which has ever befallen any Canadian city. Instead of dealing in vague generalities, the author takes a single individual and follows the thrilling adventures of a leading merchant and his family during the course of the fire. He then takes up the subject historically and gives an account of the founding and early progress of the city, and of its remarkable later development. A description of the progress of the fire, with illustrations of its strange blending of tragic and absurd incidents, and a noble tribute to the spontaneous outbursts of charity and administration of relief follow. Col. R. Conwell, as a successful author, writes with the pen of an accomplished *littérateur*. The book is of absorbing interest, and proves that fact may be often stranger and more deeply thrilling than the wildest fiction. It is embellished by steel portraits of Governor Tilly, Mayor Earle, and John Boyd, Esq., chairman of the relief committee; and by thirteen chromo-lithographs of the city before, during, and after the fire.