

cashing in our speculations before they are fully ripe, and selling experience short. Emerson, the serene, would look very proper in Harvard's new quadrangle, and his influence would be good there. For, after all, the highest product of civilization is not war ships, nor devil wagons, nor wealth, nor any material thing whatever, but wisdom. It begins, just as it always did, in the fear of the Lord, and it ends, doubtless, as it always did, in love.

### ARE IRISH LANDLORDS AND TENANTS RECONCILED?

The concession afforded by the British government to the Irish peasantry is epoch-making in the largest sense of the word, says Harper's Weekly. What Mr. Wyndham proposes is that the British government shall lend to Irish tenants, in sums ranging from \$2500 to \$5000, according to the size and value of the individual holding occupied or desired, \$500,000,000, which is to be repaid in annual installments stretching over a period of sixty-eight and one-half years. The basis for the computation of the price of each holding is the judicial rent which, about seven years ago, was fixed by a land-commission court for the second statutory term.

The first term of fifteen years began, it will be remembered, in 1882, when the Gladstone Land Act of the previous year became operative. We do not yet know, however, how many years' rental the peasant will have to pay in a lump sum in order to become the owner of his holding. Of late the average rate of purchase in the open market has been seventeen years of the judicial rents. There is no doubt, however, that the tenant will be willing to pay more than the market price if the state will lend him the purchase money. It has been suggested that twenty years' rental would be an equitable price, but there is reason to believe that Mr. Wyndham's bill will assure to the landlords even more favorable terms.

Not all of the difference, however, between the market price and the compensation now to be awarded will fall upon the tenant. In addition to the \$500,000,000 which will be advanced by way of purchase-money to the peasantry, the British government is to give the landlords a bonus of \$60,000,000, which is to be distributed among the vendors in the proportion of five to fifteen per cent. of the prices paid by the purchasers. The smaller the estate sold, the larger the percentage added by way of bonus. Why should more than the market price be offered to landlords? We answer, because the first and second revision of rents by the land courts have resulted in an average reduction of forty-two per cent., and have already brought the landlords within the verge of ruin. A price equivalent to seventeen or even twenty years' purchase of the latest judicial rents would leave a landlord next to nothing after the encumbrances on his estate had been cleared away. The purpose of the bonus is to give the landlord something for himself, and thus to induce him to look favorably on the transaction.

### Literary Notes

JOHN CAMPBELL, L.L.D., F.R.S.C.

One of the most remarkable theological works that has appeared of late is, "Vision

and Authority," or "The Throne of St. Peter," by John Oman, M. A., B. D. It is a large 12mo. or small 8vo. of three hundred and forty-four pages, published by Hodder & Stoughton of London, and sold by James Hope & Sons, Ottawa, for \$2.50. It is not a polemic against the Church of Rome or any other Church, but a treatise on the philosophy of Religion. It is divided into four books or divisions, which are, "The Internal Authority (that is, of Religion) the External Authority; The Church's Creed and The Church's Organization." In the first, while favouring that kind of evolution which traces the gradual development of religious life, Mr. Oman will not allow the present conditions of that life to be fully explained by trackable causes dealing with External Authority, he rejects all infallibility from without as interfering with the Freedom which is one of God's chief purposes in man. The Kingdom of God is within. The book on the Church's Creed is broad and comprehensive, utterly unsectarian, unphilosophical, but reverent and devout. That on organization contrasts Hildebrand's Ideal of the Church, and all attempts to rule by power, with the manifestation Christ made of the Divine rule by love and sacrifice. Human Freedom and Divine Love are two great watchwords of this deeply interesting volume, by the vision and appreciation of which the race is being gradually brought into harmony with the eternal order of the Universe.

Mr. Oman's book is not one to skim over. Though his language is clear, his thoughts are deep. It is well written, terse sentences and paragraphs are weighty with wisdom regarding the greatest of themes. To attempt a full discussion of his work would require a volume as large as his own. Every Minister should read this volume slowly and carefully. Those who do so, will find it a theological library in itself. It is the work of one who has not only thought deeply, but who knows in his inmost soul what spiritual experience is, and yet who asks this world of readers to take nothing for granted. Could men, theologians, philosophers and scientists be made to peruse its pages it would be and still may be, an epoch making book in the Religious World.

The Nineteenth Century and After for April (Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York) has the usual varied programme. Most of the articles treat of questions of the day. Those who are interested in social questions, and surely that includes us all will read with interest such contributions as those of the Countess of Warwick on the Salvation Army's social experiment, or Sir R. Hunter on the Present Position of the Licensing Question or J. View Hardie on the Independent Labour Party. There are also able discussions of foreign affairs and literary questions. Questions concerning the condition of the Church of England also occupy a prominent place.

### A NEW BOOK ON BIRDS.

Last year the reading public of the United States and Canada were captured by two books of personal narrative, "Up from Slavery," by Booker T. Washington and "The Making of an American," by Jacob Riis. This year already we have a book of similar outstanding quality in another field viz., that of natural history. Though it lacks their wealth of personal adventure, yet more than usual interest attaches to this

narrative because of its attractive style, its instructive quality, the remarkable work of which it is the record.

Perhaps there is no one on this continent in our day who has done more to enkindle personal interest in the bird kingdom than the author. He has not only given distinction to the ornithological department of a great University but he has established a "laboratory" of six rooms in connection with his own house in which he has about five hundred live birds, native and foreign under constant observation and study. He has thus inaugurated a new method in ornithology and one promising good results.

It is both interesting and instructive to learn in the opening chapters what influences directed the author's footsteps along his present pathway, and we are shown how apparently trivial incidents may be invested with great importance in shaping the bent of life.

Then follow ten chapters giving an account of the author's early professional work and his successive excursions to different parts of the United States, to Mexico, Hayti, England and France for the observation and study of birds in their native haunts and in museums. The narratives of the excursions are very attractive, but interest centers in the investigations of bird life, and the large amount of new information that the author has added to this new department of science.

The closing chapter is a stimulating statement of the problems awaiting solution at the hands of expert observers, with hints of the methods to be pursued.

The volume opens up a new field of delight to the lover of nature, and reveals what splendid possibilities of mental training lie in unsuspected quarters.

It should find a place in every school and family library, not only because of the contagious enthusiasm in nature study that it will arouse, but also, because of the delight that its perusal will afford to both young and old.

Will N. Harben, while gathering material in the Georgia mountains for his novel, *The Substitute*, one day ran across a little congregation on the banks of a creek. A country parson, without his coat, stood in a group of candidates for baptism by immersion, while all about on the ground sat the spectators. The preacher began with the usual defence of his particular mode of baptism, and was making a long winded talk when a Methodist parson rose in the crowd and began a rather sharp argument against the remarks of the first speaker. Among the candidates for immersion was a tall, gaunt woman whose hair was tightly twisted in a little knot behind her head. It was plain from the way she kept rolling and unrolling her poke bonnet in her hands, and the flashing of her eyes, that she was growing impatient. Presently she spoke out, "Look here, Brother Quagmire," she said, frowning darkly, "if you are a-goin' to baptize me you'd better set about it; the sun's goin' down an' I got three miles to walk. I don't care a red cent how that thar man was baptized. I say if you're a-goin' to put me under water to-day you'd better do it. I ain't a-goin' to stand here with these thin things on an' catch my death o' cold listenin' to what any Methodist has to say." She was immediately baptized.

The opening article in *Good Housekeeping* for May is an exceedingly interesting one on "Rideau Hall as a Home," describing the residence of the Governor General and the manner of life he lives there with his family. Among the other readable articles we notice one, "Does a Garden Pay," which is written in a helpful, sensible style.

\*The Story of a Bird Lover by W. E. D. Scott, Curator of the Department of Ornithology, Princeton University. Cloth 8mo, gilt top, 372 pages, \$1.50 net. New York. The Outlook Company.