

British Columbia, 1887: A Ramble in British Columbia. By J. A. LEES and W. J. CLUTTERBUCK. With map and seventy-five illustrations. London and New York: Longmans, Green & Co. Pp. 387. Price \$2.25.

The noble scenery, vast extent, and almost exhaustless resources of the Dominion of Canada, especially of the more newly-opened portions of it, are more and more attracting the attention of the British tourist. The present volume is one of the raciest of its kind. The writers are experienced globe-trotters, and speak familiarly of their adventures in Ceylon, Norway and elsewhere. Their object was prospecting for a home amid the mountain valleys of British Columbia. They were delighted with the country and its climate. They give a good-humoured account of their adventures in roughing it in the Far West, indulging at times in John Bull's privilege of a hearty grumble at the mosquitoes and whatever else did not suit them, and devoting rather too much space to their account of their table *menu*. They are, however, optimistic philosophers, and are disposed to give praise where it is due. They were much pleased with Toronto. Jarvis Street, in its summer beauty, they thought one of the handsomest streets in the world. The numerous engravings are all new, being made from their own photos and sketches. Such books will do much to bring our country before the British and American public, and most Canadians can learn from it much that is new and instructive.

The Land Beyond the Forest: Facts, Figures and Fancies from Transylvania. By E. GERARD. With maps and illustrations. Pp. viii.-405. New York: Harper & Brothers. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

Some one has said that in these days, when men run to and fro so much in the earth, there are no longer any foreign countries. An exception must be made of the unfamiliar country described in this book.

The romantic region of Transylvania, in the south-east of Hungary, is to most readers an almost unknown land. Yet few parts of Europe present such features of interest, from its historic associations, its picturesque scenery, customs and costumes, and from the quaint folk-lore and traditions of the people.

The accomplished author of this book has, for the first time, to our knowledge, done justice to this interesting region. Mrs. Emily de Laszowska-Gerard is the wife of an Austrian officer who has had sixteen years' acquaintance with Austrian military life, and has resided two years in Transylvania. She has a keen sympathy with the people, and this book has been a labour of love. The country is a treasure-mine for the artist, and she has collected a number of illustrations of the quaint architecture and costumes of the country which will be quite unfamiliar to western eyes. It is indeed a chapter out of the Middle Ages. The population is strangely mixed—being made up of Lutheran Saxons, Greek Church Roumanians, Catholic Magyars, and 80,000 gipsies of no very definite religion. One of the most charming features of the volume is the folk-lore songs, superstitions and traditions. They go back to the very roots of civilization. Over these plains swarmed Attila and his fierce and fiery Huns, of whom the Magyars claim to be the descendants; and for centuries this was the battleground between the Christian and the Ottoman. Its traditions, and songs, and tales cannot fail to be of absorbing interest.

A United Church; or, Ecclesiastical Law: Its Sphere, Diversity, and Possible Unity. By the REV. E. A. STAFFORD, LL.B., D.D. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 72. Price 10 cents.

This is a thoughtful study of the essential constitution of the Christian Church in its broadest sense and in some of its subordinate organizations. The author shows the essential principles in which these organizations are one. He clearly discriminates