

The Fate of Republics. By PROF. L. T. TOWNSEND, D.D. Pp. 303. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

This book has already passed through several editions, and is revised and its historical part brought down to date by its accomplished author. Anything written by Prof. Townsend will well repay reading, and his historical summaries are remarkable for their brilliance and condensation. He shows by a wide induction of facts that the republics of antiquity and of the Middle Ages fell through their own corruption, and he prognosticates a similar fate for that of the United States, under the menace of the perils arising from social and political evils, and from aggressive Romanism. "The facts presented," he says, "appear already as black and portentous clouds along our country's horizon, and day by day the gloom thickens." One of the perils he specially refers to is that from illiteracy, not merely among the newly emancipated slaves in the South, but in the border States, where one of the school commissioners states that the people as a whole are making greater efforts to raise pigs than to educate their children.

The greatest peril seems to us to be the rôle played by the saloon in politics. But we are far from sharing Professor Townsend's pessimistic views as to the future of the American Union. There is patriotism and religion enough to triumph over all these menacing ills. The so-called republics of Greece and Rome were not republics at all, but an oligarchy of tyrants. The stablest empire on earth to-day, that of Great Britain, is more really a republic, through the democratisation of society and of the Churches, than any the world ever saw before. The United States has done marvels in absorbing and assimilating into its political life many millions of the worst classes of Europe. Now that that influx is likely to be checked, the power of the Churches and of the schools will be the great moral antiseptic that will save the nation from corruption.

We quite agree with Dr. Townsend that "the only thing that can save the United States from the fatality of historic republics is practical Christianity among the masses of the people." But we think that the million of Sunday-school teachers, the ten millions of Sunday-school scholars, and the nearly two millions of young people pledged to Christian work and Christian consecration in the Epworth Leagues, Christian Endeavour Societies and King's Sons and Daughters, are a pledge and portent of the preservation of the Republic from the destruction that has overtaken the selfish oligarchies of antiquity. We prefer, instead of Dr. Townsend's jeremiad, Brownning's exultant prophecy, "God is in His heaven; all's right with the world."

Picturesque India. By W. S. CAINE, M.P. 8vo, pp. 606. London: Geo. Routledge & Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$3.65.

This is the best book on India, within reasonable size and cost, that we know. Mr. Caine, who is the well-known energetic Member of Parliament for Borough-in-Furness, an active worker in political and social reforms, and an ardent friend of missions, has rendered great service to all who would form some idea of Britain's great Indian empire, by collecting so much valuable information as is found in this book, and by presenting it in such attractive form. Mr. Caine is at once an acute observer and vivid recorder of what he has seen.

In looking over these sumptuous pages we have brought before us graphic pictures by pen and pencil of the teeming populations of the great cities, those humming hives of industry; the many-coloured processions, pomp and pageantry of barbarous kings and princes; the strange architecture of palaces and mausoleums; the ghats and tanks and tombs. These are all reproduced in vivid description and in accurate portraiture. Indeed, one of the most striking characteristics of the book is its ample and admirable