

## HOLIDAY BOOKS.

The celebrated Boston Publishing House of Lee & Shepard makes a specialty of elegant illustrated holiday and birthday gift books. These while gotten up in the highest style of the engravers', printers', and binders' art, are yet so moderate in price as to be within the reach of almost every one. For a number of years they have issued an annual volume of exquisite interpretations of nature designed by Miss Irene Jerome, of Chicago, which have won wide fame. These are: "Nature's Hallelujah," "One Year's Sketch Book," and "The Message of the Bluebird." This year their *chef d'œuvre* is entitled "A Bunch of Violets," by the same accomplished artist. There is fine poetic feeling in her designs. Seldom have we seen the sombre majesty of the pine, and the swaying grace of the willow, and the tender beauty of the violets so exquisitely rendered as in this sumptuous volume. The binding is itself a work of art—a royal quarto 10 x 12 inches, in English old gold cloth, with emblematic design. The price in this style is \$3.75. Morocco or tree calf, \$9.

Another beautiful little book issued by the same House is "Faith's Festivals," by Mary Lakeman. It is a gem of printing on fine ivory paper and in white cloth and gold, price \$1. The experiences of Faith, as child, maiden, wife, mother, and grandmother, with Christmas memories and Easter hopes suggest religious teachings of the highest importance.

Messrs. Lee & Shepard also issue a number of standard hymns and poems, specially appropriate to the holiday season, beautifully illustrated. One of the most beautiful is Alfred Domett's grand Christmas hymn, "It was the calm and silent night." Another is that grandest of hymns, "It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old" (No. 141 in our hymn book). Then we have Tennyson's immortal New Year's hymn, "Ring out wild bells to the wild sky," with exquisite English winter landscapes, and a

number of hymns dear to the heart of universal Christendom: "Abide with me," "Rock of Ages," "Nearer, my God, to Thee," "My faith looks up to Thee," "Home, sweet home," "The breaking waves dashed high," "Oh why should the spirit of mortal be proud," Gray's immortal "Elegy," and "Curfew must not ring to-night." These are published in quarto, cloth, full gilt, for \$1.50; in alligator, in neat box, same price; also in "Golden Miniature" style, *i.e.*, old gold cloth, with bright gold vignette; and in delicately tinted flexible covers, tied with silk ribbon, for 50 cents each. Any of the above books may be ordered through the Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.

*A Gate of Flowers, and Other Poems.* By THOMAS O'HAGAN, M.A. Toronto: William Briggs.

The author of this dainty volume reveals true poetic instincts and no small skill in poetical expression. What we admire chiefly is the patriotic ring of several of his poems. The college memorial poems and his Christmas hymn are so creditable as to have called forth the kindly commendation of the veteran poet Whittier.

## LITERARY NOTES.

The celebrated Publishing House of Cassell & Co. have issued a new literary venture—"The Woman's World"—edited by Oscar Wilde. It is a beautifully illustrated quarto of 48 pages. Price 35 cents or \$3.50 a year. It will be of special interest to our lady friends, and anything that this great firm undertakes is sure to be a success.

The Minutes of the Spring Conferences, 1887, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, now before us, is a closely-printed octavo of 233 pages. (New York: Phillips & Hunt. Price \$1.00.) It is a marvellous evidence of the growth of Methodism in the New World. It includes also ten Conferences in Europe, Africa, and India.