ed editor of the Nashville Christian Advocate, the leading organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. He was one of the pioneer Methodist preachers in the state of Cali-Nowhere can the founding fornia. of empire, the creation of cosmos from chaos, be so clearly traced as in that state; and in the record of those eventful early years. Dr. Fitzgerald has photographed some half a hundred of the more striking and dramatic aspects of a state of society largely passed away. His now sketches of life among the miners, the ranchers, the Chinese, the Indians, the gamblers, and desperadoes, are as graphic as those of Bret Harte or Mark Twain. The first series was so successful that it ran speedily through four editions, and a second series has been called for. One of the sketches recounts the tragic death by the hands of the Modoc Indians of the Rev. Dr. Thomas, bookagent in San Francisco of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Canadian readers cannot better form an acquaintance with Southern Methodist literature than through these tascinating volumes.

standard Library-Life of Cromwell. By PAXTON HOOD. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. Toronto Wm. Briggs. Pp. 288, paper, price, 25 cents.

;

:

;

;

2

۱

P

.

t

۱

ŝ

t

.

ŝ

١,

r

٢

5

This is the latest and one of the best lives of England's uncrowned king that we know. The writer is a teany admirer of the Great Protector, whose true place in history Carwhetherst assigned. The book gives a vivid portraiture of the times of the Protectorate, is written in dramatic sive, and has three sturring ballads on the hero of the work. It is a stat 12mo.,-a much more convetient size than the thin quartos-and is wonderfully cheap, less than oneteach the price of the English edition. The publishers offer \$10 in books for the best plan of organization of a teading circle, and \$130 in books for tebest critical essays on their issues cf 1883.

Standard Library. - Science in Short Chapters. By W. MATTHEW WILLIAMS, F.R.A.S., F.C.S. Pp. 308. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Cloth 75 cents. Paper 25 cents.

The new Standard Library Series by this enterprising house starts This is an even better book well. than Paxton Hood's Cromwell. No reading is more fascinating and instructive than the revelations and discoveries of modern science, popularized for the million. We have read with the intensest interest Mr. Williams' theory of the sun, new to us, viz., that an attenuated atmosphere pervades all space, whose pressure on the sun's surface amounting to 15,000 times that of the air on the earth, and its interception by the sun's motion, are the source of the solar heat, the corona, sun-spots, the zodiacal light, magnetic storms, comets, meteors, etc. But such a medium, however attenuated, it seems to us, would cause a continuous retardation of motion of all the heavenly bodies.

Among the other subjects treated in a singularly lucid manner, are lunar volcanoes, sun-spots, meteors, world-smashing, science and spiritualism, the ice-age, and origin of "till"—much more satisfactory than Mr. Donnelly's theory in "Ragnarok"—and other lighter and more gossipy topics. Such a body of good reading for twenty-five cents is a marvel of cheapness.

Gems of Illustration from the Sermons and other Writings of the Rev. Thomas Guthrie, D.D. By the Rev. JOHN LIGGINS. Svo., pp. 196. New York' Funk & Wagnalls. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

The London *Times*, in 1860, described Dr. Guthrie as "the most eloquent orator in Europe." The charm of his oratory is the number illustrations derived from every kingdom of nature, and from almost every field of literature. Mr. Liggins, who was for many years a missionary in China and Japan. has been a close student of the voluminous writings of Dr. Guthrie, and has here classified, under appropriate