

"The Narrative of some of the Lord's dealings with George Muller." Dr. David Gregg, the pastor of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, in **Individual Prayer as a Working Force** (60c. net), shows how prayer was a real cause producing actual effects in the life of Abraham, of Christ, and of Paul, and is such also in the life of the church and of the individual believer of to-day. The **American Tract Society, New York**, sends us **The Rod that Budded**, by Robert J. Miller, D.D. (\$1.25)—a skilful unfolding of the great truth, that the personal and social progress and happiness of mankind are the fruitage of the Cross. Its truly devout spirit, its simple style and its apt illustrations make the reading of this book alike profitable and pleasant. The purpose of **Earthly Discords and How to Heal Them** by Malcolm J. McLeod (Revell, 75c. net) is to present the living Christ as the great Reconciler bringing peace to human life, which warring forces have turned into a vast battle-ground. **Getting One's Bearings**, by Alexander McKenzie, D.D. (same publishers, \$1.25 net), is a series of papers by a very successful pastor, on the art of so relating oneself to the world and its problems as to make the most of life. The sermons by W. J. Dawson, the well-known English preacher, published by Revell (\$1.00) under the title, **The Reproach of Christ**, are marked by the author's characteristic strength of style and a firm hold of evangelical truth. C. Anderson Scott, has succeeded admirably in his design of giving "a simple explanation of what it means to be a Christian in thought and practice," in **The Making of a Christian** (Upper Canada Tract Society, 50c.)—an excellent volume to put into the hands of young communicants or inquirers. In Sir W. T. Gairdner's **The Three Things that Abide**, also from this Society (50c.), we have a series of helpful discourses on the Thirtieth of First Corinthians. We have reserved to the last, G. H. Morrison's charming little book, **The Gentle Art of Making Happy** (Revell 35c. net)—a series of beautiful discourses on various Biblical precepts for the guidance of those who seek to bring happiness to others.

TWO BROWNING BOOKS

Two new Browning books have reached us. **Guidance from Robert Browning in Matters of Faith**, by John A. Hutton (Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier, Edinburgh, 90c.), is a book of four chapters written by one who is very close to the secret of Robert Browning, and who possesses that sympathetic insight without which Browning is dull reading. The aim of the author in his prefatory note—"not to estimate the poet, but simply to urge his message as a basis and motive for faith and hope and love," is admirably carried out.

The little volume by Cora Martin MacDonald, **A Study of Browning's Saul** (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, 50c. net), contains the poem "Saul," followed by a careful, thorough and discriminative study of the same. Incidentally the author calls attention to alliteration, figures, and the poet's use of external nature in the poem. Browning's creed as suggested by his poetry is given on the closing page.

A BUNCH OF STORIES

A whole bunch of stories is at hand. Two quite representative ones from A. S. Barnes & Company, New York, may be mentioned: **The Boss**, by Alfred Henry Lewis (409 pages, illustrated, \$1.50), and **The Circle in the Square**, by Edwin Sears (386 pages \$1.50). "The Boss" is the Chief of Tammany Hall, and gives, in an exceptionally skilful way, the unvarnished tale of how he rose from a vagabond boy's life in the streets of New York to the virtual dictatorship of that great city. The book has evidently been written by one who has been considerably behind the scenes. It will be relished by all who want to know the devious ways of politics and politicians of the baser sort; and it has its warning, too, for good citizens who shirk their duties and allow the machine to manage public affairs. "The Circle in the Square" describes the ways and doings of a little aristocratic circle in a Southern city, whose mansions were situated on the Court House Square. It is an "after the war" tale, and is described in its sub-title as "The Story of a New Battle on Old Fields," the new battle being against the pride that breeds indolence, and the shiftlessness and lack of public spirit that allow fevers to breed and destroy for want of hygienic measures; the battle, too, of a brave soul to rise above mean and narrow social prejudice and serve a thankless community. The book has a delightful Southern flavor.

Sons of Vengeance, by Joseph S. Malone (Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto, 299 pages, illustrated, \$1.25), is also a Southern book—"A Tale of the Cumberland Highlanders." It has the "feel" of truth in it; but it is hard to imagine the combination in the same person of the deacon who leads the singing and is powerful in prayer at the prayer meeting, and the man who goes out with just as good conscience to slay his enemy in a neighboring feud. The story has some strong situations and pretty love scenes, and will be read with curious interest. **The Way of the Sea**, by Norman Duncan (same publishers, 332 pages, \$1.25), takes us far off, alike from greedy politicians and keen-eyed mountaineers. It is salt of the sea, and keen of the terrible Northern blasts. Norman Duncan knows thoroughly the "Newfoundlanders of the upper shore," simple, sturdy, steadfast men, as well as sailors brave. Perhaps the sketches of which the volume is made up are too uniformly strenuous, with too much of the lashing of the tempests and the war of the storm and the hardships of the fisher folk. But they are grand, for all that, and with a tonic like the breath of the ocean. Never a boy but will read them, or a man but will be the better of the touch they give him with those hardy, noble sons of toil on our northern shores.

Scottish folk—aye, and those that are not Scotch—will relish **The Souter's Lamp**, by Hector MacGregor (same publishers, 272 pages, \$1.25). It is a series of sketches linked together somewhat after the manner of the Thrums or Drumtochty idylls, and centering on the life of a little Scotch hamlet. There is abundance of rich and racy dialogue, and all the comedies and tragedies which are so vividly brought to the surface in a small community. The author has the story-teller's gift, and we see, through his eyes,