

or whether an intellectual atrophy and religious superstition, such as we behold to-day on either side of the lower St. Lawrence, should characterize also the whole, or greater part, of what is now the Canadian Dominion and the American Union.

The conquest of Canada by the British was the most fortunate event in its history. It supplanted the institutions of the middle ages by those of modern civilization. It gave local self-government for abject submission to a foreign power and a corrupt court. It gave the protection of the *habeas corpus* and trial by jury, instead of the oppressive tribunals of feudalism. For ignorance and repression it gave free schools and a free press. It removed the arbitrary shackles from trade, and abolished its unjust monopolies. It enfranchised the serfs of the soil, and restricted the excessive power of the seigneurs. It gave an immeasurably ampler liberty to the people, and a loftier impulse to progress. It banished the greedy cormorants who grew rich by the official plunder of the poor. The waste and ruin of a prolonged and cruel war were succeeded by the reign of peace and prosperity; and the pinchings of famine by the rejoicings of abundance.

Mr. Fiske treats also many incidents of the domestic history of New England. He examines the strange story of the Salem Witchcraft, and describes the great awakening under the preaching of Jonathan Edwards, and, later, of George Whitefield. The work is marked by all Dr. Fiske's historical illumination and grace of style, although it lacked the finishing touches of his pen. Like Parkman and Windsor, he has laid Canada and Canadians under deep obligation by his historical works.

"William Butler. The Founder of Two Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church." By his Daughter. With an introduction by Bishop C. C. McCabe. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 239. Price, \$1 net.

It falls to the lot of very few men to found two such successful missions as those of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the great British dependency of India and in the Republic of Mexico. No story could be of more profound interest, or be a more practical continuation of the Acts of the Apostles. Dr. William Butler, though of English descent, was of Irish birth

—one of the many gifts of the Green Island to the great Republic. His mission to India began in 1856, just before the Mutiny, which wrecked so many missions, and well-nigh overthrew British rule. We have heard Dr. Butler describe the awful scenes of those dread days. The story is vividly retold in these pages; and also the account of the Gospel triumphs, whereby spears were turned into pruning-hooks.

Of not less interest is the story of the planting of Methodism in Mexico. Its plain truths are stranger than fiction. God went before his Church in the pillar of cloud and fire. The very seat and centre of the long dominant Catholic Church, the Franciscan monastery, is now a Methodist church and school and press—the centre of evangelistic influence for the whole of Mexico. Here Dr. John Butler, son of the pioneer missionary, administers the affairs of an aggressive Methodism throughout the entire Republic. This is a book of such importance that we purpose making it the subject of a special article.

"Italian Life in Town and Country."

By Luigi Villari. With eighteen illustrations. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. ix-327. Price, \$1.20 net.

Italy, the "land of all men's past," has a strange fascination for the tourist. Its classic memories, its ancient architecture, its scenic splendour, its religious problems, its amiable and interesting people, exert a potent spell. Yet this long, narrow peninsula presents greater contrasts than any other part of Europe. This volume of the series is written by an Italian, otherwise many of its comments and criticisms would carry less weight than they do. He is frank as to the faults as well as generous to the virtues of his countrymen. He devotes illuminative chapters to the social and home life, political life, religious life, education, amusements, literature, and art of Italy. The climate favours out-of-door life, of which the people take full advantage. There is no word for home, and not much of that for which it stands. Even the palaces are cold and comfortless, the dwellings of the poor are squalid and miserable. While the Germans have five meals a day, the Italians live on two. Families are large, children swarm everywhere, especially among the poor. These are