

complete. He regards it as a system of the noblest philosophy or of Christian ethics, containing principles worthy of being made the foundation of all true society and, with a deep reverence for the authority of the Great Teacher, the author proceeds to explain and illustrate those principles in their relation to, and practical bearing upon, the lives of men. Though from time to time Mr. Boardman gives utterance to opinions and interpretations with which all may not agree, yet the work as a whole may be

read and studied with profit. The exposition was first given as a course of lectures, fourteen in number, treating of Christ's teaching concerning blessedness, the church, fulfilment, reconciliation, asceticism, words, perfection, worship, prayer, wealth, sonship, society and character. One cannot well rise from the perusal of these lectures without having added something to the store of one's ideas bearing upon the great Mountain Instruction.

LITERARY NOTES.

MESSRS. Hunter, Rose & Co., in anticipation of the early completion of the story in this magazine, have brought out in book form Mr. Wilkie Collins' new novel, 'The Black Robe.' The author, after his usual manner, which was also that of Mr Charles Reade, constructs his story and designs his plots with a purpose—that of the present work being to expose the subtle machinations of Jesuitism and to hold up to public obloquy priestly intrigue and the Church's covetousness. Like all of Mr. Collins' stories, this new one fastens itself upon the reader's attention, and, with the art of which he is such a master, carries him intently along with him to the end of the book. This Canadian edition is published by arrangement with the author, and is issued uniform with his previous novels copyrighted by the publishers.

A complete and elaborately indexed Catalogue of the Library of the Ontario Parliament has just been issued by the Librarian, with the assistance of his brother, Mr. John M. Watson. The work on every page manifests intelligence and industry in its compilation, the classification and detailed enumeration of the contents of the library being only surpassed by the facilities for reference which the catalogue affords. Mr. Watson has done a special service to the student of Canadian history in citing the contents of the forty-six volumes of Canadian pamphlets, and in supplying a list of the Canadian newspapers, from 1830 to the present time, which are among the treasures of the Library.

We are in receipt of the eighteenth annual issue, for 1881, of Mr. Martin's *The Statesman's Year Book*, a statistical and historical summary of the various countries of the civilized world. The volume, we acknowledge, is of much utility as a reference book, particularly to him who makes acquaintance with it for the first time. To make it a profitable investment each year to the purchaser, however, the revision of the several countries should be undertaken by some competent person in each of the localities from whence the official returns are drawn. This strikes us as being specially necessary in the case of Canada, where the information, statistical and general, might be more ample and of later date than appears in the work. To give the population of the cities of the Dominion as it was in 1871, for instance, and to repeat this, with much of a similar kind, every year, is not to show the most commendable enterprise. The information under 'Church and Education,' moreover, is absurdly meagre and inconsequential. In many respects the book could be improved and made of greater value, did the compiler not rely so much, as he seems to do, on official blue-books and, as is often the case, on antiquated works of reference. The space given in the volume, annually, to the enumeration of the sources of information, we also think, might be turned to a more useful purpose. The publishers are Macmillan & Co., London and New York; the Canadian agents, Willing & Williamson, Toronto.