

Reviews.

"THE SLIDING SCALE from Scriptural Truth and Primitive Rites to Union with Rome." By a Separatist. Willard Tract Depository, Toronto. A tractate on the Romeward tendencies of prevailing Ritualistic practices, in which are gathered a large number of interesting and instructive statements regarding rites, such as the orientalizing of churches, surpliced choirs, etc., in an order very like to printers' type just knocked into pi. The author is undoubtedly right in viewing the growth of such practices in various churches as indicative of a trend Romeward. We doubt whether he has laid his hand upon the principles which go far to justify his prejudices; otherwise he would not, on his title page, talk of primitive rites. Primitive Christianity, *i.e.*, if N. T. Christianity is meant, has no rites, but life and love, and the liberty that flows therefrom. The Cross is a simple emblem, and when under reproach evidenced bravery in acknowledging it. At present it is made the symbol of a sect, and should be avoided, according to the principle exemplified by Paul, 1 Cor. x. 28. Even in our own worship we may therefore read with profit of the tendencies indicated in this work, and undoubtedly existing. There are one or two statements which shake our confidence in our author's accuracy of research, *e.g.*, when he states that eight thousand Nonconformists, *ished* in prison under Charles II., and that the Anglican Book of Common Prayer was a result of the Bishops' determination to revenge themselves after the Protectorate. The Savoy Conference made little change in the Prayer Book, and the sufferings of the Nonconformists were the more severe outside prison walls. There is however, much interesting matter in this little book, which, put in an orderly form, would render it very valuable at this present crisis in our religious and political conditions. B.

Literary Notices.

SHE HATH DONE WHAT SHE COULD.—A Poem. Mrs. R. Robinson. 15 pp. The immediate occasion of this very neatly printed effusion was the third Annual Meeting of the C. C. Woman's Board of Missions; its source, a full heart and ready pen. Critically, we would say the versification runs smoothly, and there are flashes of true poetry, such as—

As night's fair queen reflects the beams
Of Sun's bright golden face,
And with soft silvery radiance gleams
O'er many a lonely place—

So should our souls, to Jesus turned
And living in His light,
Reflect some rays of Heavenly love,
To make the Earth more bright.

Sympathetically, we enjoy its eminently Christian tone, and commend it earnestly for such lines as these:—

I'll regulate my household ways
According to Thy Word,
And make each daily task an act
Of service to my Lord.

Mrs. Burton, 66 Charles St., Toronto, will supply copies meantime.

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE for July has interested us. We have read with pleasure Roman's further experience at the Kara mines in Siberia, and how he outwitted the wily Russian officers, and got among the political prisoners. "Winchester Cathedral" and "Inland Navigation of the U. S.," are elaborately illustrated articles. "Lincoln's Life," which will be the authentic biography of the great President, recounts the abortive peace efforts of Horace Greeley. Rev. Dr. Buckley has a good article on premonitions and dreams. \$4 a year. The Century Co., Union Square, New York.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. This weekly publication of 64 pages, 8vo., reaches us regularly. Littell & Co., Boston. \$8 a year. It is composed of the cream of the British monthlies and quarterlies. The issue for 13th of July contains, The Savage Club, A Queer Patron, The Roman Family, Geo. Crabbe, Sardinia and its Wild Sheep, Dr. Johnson and Charles Lamb, Mt. Athos in 1889, Not Quite Lost, and four poems. No notable article appears in Britain, but is re-produced in Littell. Such a publication could not be issued in Canada, nor could Littell & Co. take the same freedom with United States magazines. Copyright laws are queer.

ST. NICHOLAS for July, 96 pages, packed full of appetizing things for the boys and girls. There are many young people who seem to regret they are getting "too old" for St. Nicholas. We are not, ourselves, of that kind! Century Co., Union Square, New York. \$3 a year.

HOMILETIC REVIEW, July. Funk & Wagnalls; 18 Astor Place, New York; \$2.50 to ministers. Five substantial articles, viz.: Preaching, Modern Biblical Criticism, The Papacy and Popular Education, and Egyptology; Nine condensed Sermons and Addresses; Exegetical and Miscellaneous; Editorials. An excellent publication, with great discounts on Books, to subscribers.

THE TREASURY for Pastor and People. July No. contains a sermon by Dr. McCallagh, of Brooklyn, with portrait and biography, three other Sermons, Editorials, Sunday School and Prayer in t'ing topics, "Questions of the Day" (four articles), etc. E. B. Treat, 5 Cooper Union, New York. \$2 to ministers.