

contest where ten hungry workmen are struggling for nine opportunities to labor. But what an oppression is organized labor to the unfortunate outside its protecting arms let the following pathetic story illustrate :

An old man, a workman, had been suspended by his union because he was too poor to pay his dues. The union men in the shop where he was employed thereupon demanded his immediate discharge. His employer was obliged to send him away. The man, unable to find work elsewhere because of the power of the trades-unions, came back to his old master and implored him for God's sake to give him something, anything, to do to save him from starvation.

The employersaid to him : "I dare not employ you at your trade, or the union will order a strike. I will give

you the job of sweeping out the office and pay you enough to keep you in food."

The next day a committee of his men waited upon the employer and said : "The union has fined you \$200 for employing a non-union man. If he stays here to-morrow you will be fined \$400 more, and if he is here the third day your shops will be closed."

The old man was turned out to starve.

These are some of the problems revealed by the strike, and which the Church cannot afford to ignore. A fierce battle, a struggle for existence, a struggle for human rights, a struggle for justice, a struggle for light, is going on all around us. Will the Church be a leader in this battle-field, or will she let the conflict sweep by her unheeded to an uncertain end?

BRIEF NOTES ON BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO CLERGYMEN.

BY J. M. SHERWOOD.

John B. Alden. "The Woman's Story as Told by Twenty American Women," with portraits and sketches of the authors, by Laura C. Holloway, 12mo, pp. 541. Mrs. Holloway is favorably known to the literary world as the author of "The Ladies of the White House," "Mothers of Great Men and Women," "Adelaide Neilson," and a dozen other popular works. It was a happy thought to select a story from a score of our representative female writers of fiction and embody them in a single book, appending : portrait and a brief biographical sketch of each. We have thus a composite picture of the best types and characteristics of our most noted and popular female writers. As these sketches were "selected by their authors for this volume," and in every case the writers pronounced them to be their best sketch work, we are able to test their judgment by the verdict of the public. The "sketch" prefacing each story is in admirable taste—brief, terse, sensible, and informing, without flattery or laudation. The place of honor is properly given to the Queen of American fiction, Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, whose "Uncle Lot" was the forerunner of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and is a graphic sketch of New England life of olden time. Among the other notable writers represented are Harriet Prescott Spofford, Rebecca Harding Davis, Edna Dean Proctor, Marietta Holly, Louise Chandler Moulton, Miss Alcott, Rose Terry Cooke, Marion Harland, Margaret E. Sangster. As Americans we have reason to be proud of such a list. We doubt if any

other nation can make a better exhibit of living female talent in the world of fiction. The book merits and will doubtless get a wide circulation.

A. C. Armstrong & Son. "The Sermon Bible." The second volume of the series is now issued, embracing 1 Kings to Psalm lxxvi. 8vo, pp. 520. We have already expressed our judgment respecting the work (see January HOMILETIC REVIEW, page 95). We see no reason to change it. That it will be popular with a large class of preachers we have no doubt, and will prove helpful if judiciously used.

B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va. "The Path to Wealth." 12mo, pp. 440. A Discussion of God's Money Laws ; the Relation between Giving and Getting ; Cash and Christianity, by a Blacksmith ; also, Papers on Systematic Benevolence, by various well-known writers, with an Introduction by Bishop J. H. Vincent. This title-page shows the scope of the book. The discussion takes a wide range, and while not logically or systematically conducted, the author utters many timely and important truths with force and point. It is a strange medley of theories and facts—philosophy and experience, speculation and dogmatism, wisdom and nonsense, written with a good purpose and in a Christian spirit. The "Blacksmith Shop" and "Village Philosophers" figure largely in the book. The author is not another Elihu Burrett, but he is worth reading nevertheless.

Thomas Whittaker, New York. "Sermon Stuff," by S. D. McConnell, D.D., Rector of St. Stephen's Church, Philadelphia. 12mo, pp