

existence of a First Cause—this alone should make him rank among the greatest benefactors of religion.

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

THE ELECTRIC WORLD.—An illustrated weekly review of current progress in Electricity and its practical application. Published by the W. J. Johnston Company, Limited, *Times* Building, New York. A fact worthy of more than passing notice, inasmuch as it gives evidence of the wonderful development of electrical science in our midst, within recent years, is the intensely interesting character of not a few of our scientific journals. The *Electrical World* is one out of a long list of publications issued by the W. J. Johnston Company, treating exclusively of currents, potential, voltage and like expressions of electrical terminology, truly not very interesting in themselves, but deeply so, when introduced in their application to the labours of the household, of the farm and of other scenes of common toil. The *World* for December has a rich table of contents. "Electricity at the World's Fair" leaves no room to doubt that a power plant such as the world has not yet seen, is presently being set up in Jackson Park. "The Modern Development of the Dynamo," being an abstract of a paper read at the general meeting of the Society of German Engineers at Hanover, exhausts the question of electric lighting, so far at least as the machines thus far employed are concerned. J. F. Mottelay contributes the second portion of his "Chronological History of Electricity," and Dr. John Hopkinson has an article of special importance on "The Cost of Electrical Supply." The *Electrical World* is published every Saturday. Subscription, \$3, payable in advance.

THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED.—The Sabiston Company presented their patrons with something extra for the holiday season, in their large and embellished edition of the *Dominion Illustrated Monthly*. With the exception of "Canadian Winter Sports," by S. M. Baylis, the number is "the regular Christmas Story" throughout, whether told in prose or in poetry. The best of the tales are "Arcady in Acadie," by Charles G. D. Roberts, and

"In the Midst of the Waters," by J. Macdonald Oxley.

THE CIVIL ALLEGIANCE OF CATHOLICS.—A paper read before the Catholic Truth Society of Ottawa by the Rev. M. J. Whelan. The appearance in neat pamphlet form, of Father Whelan's able paper on Civil Allegiance, will be warmly welcomed not only by those who listened with interest to the reading of it a short time ago, but by the wider circle of Catholics who were deprived of that pleasure. For those unacquainted with the facts of the case, a word as to the occasion of the paper, will not be amiss. The last annual Gunpowder-Plot celebration was emphasized in one of our city churches, by a discourse on Civil Allegiance. One point attempted by the preacher was to prove that the Catholic religion did not leave men free to yield faithful and true allegiance to the civil power, in support of which he cited what he alleged were the words of the late Cardinal Manning. According to the daily press, the Cardinal was made to say: "I acknowledge no civil power. I acknowledge no temporal prince. I claim to be the chief ruler and dictator to the consciences of men, of the prince who sits on the throne, the peasant who tills the soil, of the privacy of the domestic household and the member of parliament who legislates." With no small amount of difficulty the reverend preacher was persuaded to point out his citation, when, as was surmised from the beginning, it was found that the text of the late Cardinal was disfigured beyond recognition and that the words imputed to him were not in reality his, but rather words which the Cardinal placed in the mouth of the Sovereign Pontiff in illustration of the Holy Father's attitude towards the Italian revolutionists, who sought to make him subject to them. Father Whelan thereupon undertook to place in the proper light, the position of Catholics with regard to the civil authority and to vindicate the eminent churchman to whose loyalty the whole English nation bears willing witness. The latter, Father Whelan tries by the test of his own writings, quoting at length from "The Vatican Decrees in their bearing on Civil Allegiance," wherein Cardinal Manning so thoroughly refuted Mr. Gladstone's expostulation on the subject of Catholic