

Book Notices.

The Early Schools of Methodism.

By the Rev. A. W. CUMMINGS, D.D., LL.D. New York: Phillips & Hunt. 12mo., pp. 432. Price \$2.

The author of this unique volume is a native of Canada, and owes his conversion to God to the Methodism of his native land. For many years he has been a resident in the United States, but has never lost his attachment to Canada, which he often visits. He spent several days very pleasantly at the late General Conference.

Dr. Cummings is a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church, but has spent most of his active life as Professor or Principal in various educational institutions. He is a pronounced enthusiast in education. Dr. Cummings has performed a vast amount of labour in searching Conference and other records, by an extensive correspondence involving the toil of writing more than 2,000 letters, to ascertain the correct status of all the schools of Methodism both in England and America. Having himself been connected with Methodist schools in several States he could more easily write respecting them. So far as we know, there is no other book that contains such a mass of rare information which ought to be of great interest to every Methodist throughout the world.

Our Canadian readers will be especially interested with the paper of Dr. Burwash relating to Victoria University, Cobourg, which is a comprehensive history respecting that oldest of Canadian educational institutions.

Dr. Cummings is to be congratulated on having been able to complete such a valuable work, which will serve as a reference volume for many years to come. The Methodist Church has no need to be ashamed of the efforts put forth by so many of its people to promote the cause of education. We wish for the work of our venerable friend a wide circulation.

The Mysteries of God. By PHILIP

HENRY GOSSE, F.R.S. A series of Expositions of Holy Scripture. Cr. 8vo. Toronto: S. R. Briggs. Price \$1.25.

Mr. P. H. Gosse is well known as an accomplished scientist. He at one time lived in Canada, and has published a charming book on his Canadian experiences. We think that he is a much better authority on scientific than in Biblical exposition, and even in science he has some extraordinary views. There can be no question as to the devoutness of his spirit, and many important religious lessons can be learned from the present volume. But, with all his scholarship, we think his interpretation often visionary and misleading. The crude literalism of his conception of the glorious imagery of the apocalypse is, we think, very illusory. His views on the restoration of Israel, the second advent and the future events of the present dispensation are strongly millenarian. He contends that the new earth may be greatly extended in area by the absorption of the ocean, that the nature of carnivorous beasts may be so changed that the lion will literally "eat straw like the ox," that the finally saved shall dwell on this earth and "multiply and replenish it" by physical generation, and then, as the earth becomes crowded, colonize the myriad orbs of heaven. Serious criticism is wasted on such vagaries as these.

Possibilities of Grace. By REV.

ASBURY LOWREY, D.D. New York: Phillips & Hunt. Toronto: William Briggs.

This book treats on a subject which has been the occasion of much controversy in various sections of the Church of Christ. It is more than probable that some advocates of holiness have done injury to the cause which they desired to promote. Their advocacy has not