

and selfish. The task the writer has set herself is to bring these two sets together so that the influences for good may prevail. Such a thing cannot be done too quickly in real life, and is by no means a rapid process in the story. The interest centres mainly in Mart Connor, who, though one of the roughest of the poorer set, shows a depth of character which often calls forth the reader's admiration. His ultimate triumph over the evil in himself ought to make the book most helpful to young men.

*Ballads and Poems.* By GEORGE R. SIMS. London: John P. Fuller, Wine Office Court, Fleet Street. Toronto: William Briggs.

This is what may be called the poetry of the slums, if, indeed, that be poetry which describes with realistic power the wretchedness and wrongs, lit up here and there by touches of heroism and native nobility, of the great "submerged tenth," to use General Booth's phrase. We are no great admirer of the thieves' and costermongers' dialect in which many of the poems are written. We do not think that the Augean stable of London misery will be cleansed by tiny rivulets of verse like this. It needs a mighty river, the streams of a moral Peneus and Alpheus, turned through their alleys by some modern Hercules. In this volume there are, however, poetic touches, as in the famous story of "Ostler Joe," and the touching "Lights of London Town," with its sad refrain:

"Oh, cruel lamps of London, if tears  
Your lights could drown,  
Your victims' eyes would weep them,  
Oh, lights of London town."

*The Missionary Controversy: Discussion, Evidence and Report, 1890.* 8vo, pp. 388. London: Wesleyan Conference Office. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

Here is the whole story of the unhappy controversy which has for a couple of years agitated the Wesleyan Church in Great Britain. All the evidence is before us, and the candid reader will have, we think, no

difficulty in coming to the conclusion that the charges were not sustained.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

*The Dominion Illustrated*, Montreal. Price \$4 a year. This fine illustrated weekly entered upon its sixth year with an enlargement from sixteen to twenty-four pages. It is a cause of patriotic gratitude and thankfulness that this young Dominion is able to maintain such a high-class illustrated paper. Almost every part of the country has been depicted with pen and pencil in previous numbers. It gives special attention to Canadian topics, and the art work is of a very superior character. Mr. John Reade, who has won distinction in other fields of literature, and has had long journalistic experience, and who has a fine literary instinct, will doubtless make the new series even more successful than the previous ones.

*The Third General Conference of the Methodist Church Photographic Group.* C. W. Coates, Montreal. Price \$2. This is a large and well-executed photograph of the late General Conference, showing the interior of St. James' Methodist Church, the handsomest Methodist church in the world. It contains excellent portraits of nearly all the clerical and lay delegates to the Conference. Prominent in the foreground are the General Superintendent and officers of the Conference. The heads are a little crowded in places, but the effect of the whole is admirable. Each portrait was taken separately, and then artistically grouped. A number of notable visitors occupy the galleries. It makes a beautiful souvenir of the Conference, and will, we hope, find a place in very many Methodist homes.

The name of the publishers of the Rev. Dyson Hague's book, "The Protestantism of the Prayer-Book," inadvertently omitted from the review of the book, is the J. E. Bryant Publishing Company, Bay Street, Toronto.