

THE BOOK PAGE

Rev. F. A. Robinson, of our Home Mission and Social Service and Evangelism Board, is, one shrewdly suspects, the "little preacher" of the **Trail-Tales of Western Canada** (Marshall Brothers, London, Edinburgh and New York; Department of Evangelism, Presbyterian Church in Canada, Toronto, 255 pages, with 9 pages illustrations, \$1.00 postpaid); a "little preacher" who has looked the rough world of the Western wilderness men straight in the face. But these shaggy, hard-bit fellows have soft hearts, when one can find the way to their hearts, as the "little preacher" did. Above all, and this is the peculiar glory of the book, when, through the preacher's words, the great love of God reaches into their souls, the old passes away, and all becomes new. The fourteen Trail-Tales are all well told. They range from the horrors of The Snake Room, to little Ruth, the manse-child's sweetly compelling influence with the Prodigal, and illustrate, for Western Canada, what Harold Begbie's, *Twice Born Men* illustrates for old London,—the irresistible power of divine grace.

The Growth of the Christian Church, by Robert Hastings Nichols, Professor of Church History in Auburn Theological Seminary (The Westminster Press, Philadelphia, Vol. I., 163 pages, Vol. II., 224 pages, each volume \$1.00) is "a presentation of church history suitable for the use of classes of young people of High school age." The first volume covers Ancient and Medieval Christianity, and the second, Modern Christianity. Written in a clear and interesting style, with questions and bibliography at the close of each chapter

and a copious and well arranged index, these volumes are admirably adapted to class use.

The basal position of Professor Ernest Von Dobschütz, in his book, **The Influence of the Bible on Civilization** (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 190 pages, 16 half-tone illustrations, \$1.25 net), is that the Bible is primarily a book of devotion, that its main authority and influence are, or ought to be, in the spiritual purification and enlargement it gives to those who read and study it. He finds, therefore, that very frequently, in the course of the centuries, the Bible has been misused, and its place and function misunderstood, but that, even so, its influence on civilization, as well as on the spiritual life direct, has been marvelous and continuous. That influence, the author traces out, with varied and curious information, from the earlier centuries of the Christian era, when every Christian who could afford it tried to own at least a copy of some single book of the New Testament, through the later times, when the reading of the Bible by laymen was prohibited, and down to the present, when the world contains more Bibles than ever before. Three of the very interesting chapters are: *The Bible Begins to Rule the Christian Empire*, *The Bible Stirs Nonconformist Movements*, *The Bible Trains Printers and Translators*. We by no means subscribe to all the author's positions and views; but he covers an interesting and seldom traversed field in a thoroughly well informed and instructive fashion.

In **The Right Track**, by Clara Louise Burnham (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York,

Mr. Sunday School Superintendent

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