

"Geographic Influences in American History." By Albert Perry Brigham, A.M., F.G.S.A. Boston: Ginn & Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xiii-336. Price, \$1.25; by mail, \$1.40.

Buckle and other writers of his school have asserted that history is merely a matter of soil, climate, and environment, or, as otherwise expressed, "Man is what he eats; character is a function of latitude." Such dicta, says Professor Brigham, are entirely too strong, and are sure to confuse rather than guide. That environmental influences character need not be asserted, and the purpose of this book is to interpret and explain such influence. The author begins with the geological and physiographical character of the country, and shows how they affect civilization. The book is exceedingly interesting and instructive, not only to students and teachers, but to the general reader. It gives new interest to travel and to the study of history. The book is illustrated with seventy-two striking half-tones and sixteen maps and physiographic reliefs. The influence of the Appalachian Barrier, and the great lakes on commerce; and the chapters on mountain, mine, and forest life, are full of suggestion to ourselves as well as to American and Canadian readers.

"Wesley and Goethe." By James W. Bashford, Ph.D. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 97. Price, 35 cents net.

A few months ago we published in this magazine an extended estimate of the contrasted characters of Wesley and Voltaire. Principal Bashford here makes a not less interesting and instructive comparison of the great preacher and the great poet of the eighteenth century. Wesley lived to the age of eighty-eight, Goethe to the age of eighty-three, and their lives were largely parallel in time. The one was a flaming evangelist spending his life for the salvation of souls, the other was a self-centred egotist who trampled under his foot the conventions of society and laws of morality in his sordid selfishness. He was a great poet, it is true, and Dr. Bashford credits him with an intellectual acceptance of Christianity in his old age.

The book is a thoughtful, just, and generous study of these two foremost

intellects of their time, with the result, in the writer's judgment, that probably Wesley has had no superior since the Master trod the earth. Lecky devotes to him more space in his history than he gives to any king, cardinal, or general. Cardinal Manning, the highest authority in the Roman Church, pronounced John Wesley "the greatest man modern England had produced." James Freeman Clarke, the distinguished Unitarian writer, states that "the Christian Church has produced only three men of the highest type, Paul, Luther, and Wesley;" and Southey writes, "Wesley will exercise more influence centuries and probably millenniums hence than perhaps any other man of his age." This book will well repay thoughtful study.

"The Dream of Dante." An interpretation of the Inferno. By Rev. Henry F. Henderson, M.A. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 136. Price, 2s. 6d.

The vision of the Tuscan poet of the unseen worlds is one of the noblest conceptions of the middle ages, and one of the world's greatest poems. Yet a book written in a foreign tongue six hundred years ago must have difficulties and obscurities. To explain these, to interpret its spiritual significance, to set forth its beauties and its lessons, is the purpose of this book. It serves as a key to unlock the meaning of one of the greatest works ever written. It will be found helpful, not merely to young students of Dante, or those who wish to know something of his genius and achievement, but also to those who have made a special study of his works.

"Our Angel Friends in Ministry and Song." A Gift Book for Every Day in the Year. By Alfred Fowler, D.D. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo. Pp. 606. Price, \$2.50.

The great purpose of religion is to make the unseen real to our minds. Where the faltering footsteps of reason cannot follow, the revelation of God unveils the future to our view, and by faith we discern the invisible. Cloud-encompassed as we are by the things of time and sense, we need, day by day, to lift our souls above the sordid cares of earth, and catch inspiration from the verities of the unseen. "As we trudge along the