

Book Notices.

"Wesley and His Century." A Study in Spiritual Forces. By the Rev. W. H. Fitchett, B.A., LL.D. Toronto: William Briggs. Montreal: C. W. Coates. Halifax: S. F. Huestis. 8vo. Pp. vii-537. Price, \$1.50 net. By mail, \$1.65.

This will be unquestionably the people's Life of Wesley. Dr. Fitchett is one of the most popular and brilliant writers of the age. His "Deeds That Won the Empire," "How England Saved Europe," and "Fights for the Flag," have stirred the hearts of the people as few books of recent times. He has the historic imagination which enables him to make his readers see the very persons and things whom and which he depicts. No nobler subject for his canvas could he find than that great movement which lifted England from a Slough of Despond and saved it from a revolution which, like that in France, shook both throne and altar in the dust. And admirably has he treated his noble subject. He traces the household forces which went to the making of the man and training of the saint. With broader outlook he describes the quickening of the nation and the evolution of the Church which has filled the world with its ministrations and missions. The closing chapter describes some personal characteristics of John Wesley, his love affairs, his odd opinions, his power in literature, and the gentle euthanasia of his death. The book has portraits and fac-simile letters. For one of its size, to say nothing of its merit, it is remarkably cheap.

"A History of the Reformation." By Thomas M. Lindsay, M.A., D.D. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo, pp. xvi-518. Price, \$2.50 net.

That great reform of which Luther was the prime mover in Germany will never lose its interest to mankind. This one has special features which differentiate it from any others we know. Few have given much attention to the popular and family religious life in the decades before this great movement, yet nothing could be more important, for the Reformation was an evolution rather than a revolu-

tion. There was in the hearts and lives of the German people a sincere and reverent fear of God, though overloaded and corrupted with the accretions of Romanism. Hence a most interesting section is devoted to the social conditions in town and country and religious and family life of the German people. This is prefaced by a brief study of the papacy, of the political situation of Europe, and of the Renaissance, or the transition from the mediaeval to the modern world. Book II. treats the personal life of Martin Luther, the corruptions of the Church which called forth his indignant protest, the collision with the power of the Empire at the Diet of Worms, the Peasants' War, the subsequent events to the death of the great Reformer. Other chapters discuss the organization of the Lutheran Churches and the Reformation in Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The book is based upon very wide search of contemporary documents, and is written in a very interesting style.

"Fenwick's Career." By Mrs. Humphrey Ward. Author of "The Marriage of William Ashe," etc. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xi-377. Price, \$1.50.

A new book by Mrs. Humphrey Ward is a literary event. This, her latest work, contains some of her best work. She depicts the slow and sure deterioration of character through lack of moral courage and loyalty to truth. The lesson is, To be weak is to be miserable. John Fenwick had splendid artistic gifts, but he was a selfish egotist, jealous of the success of others, ashamed of his country-born wife, and through his moral cowardice, makes shipwreck of his career. It is a wonderful analysis which shows how "the little speck within the fruit, the little rift within the lute," grew and widened to the ruin of his life. The tale is saved from being a tragedy by the restoration to moral manhood and faith and loyalty of Fenwick through the potent spell of a wife's and daughter's love. Several of the scenes of this story are laid in our own Dominion, which gives it to us a special interest, though the accomplished author's geography is sometimes a little astray.