

Story's exquisite "Roba di Roma." His "Conversations in the Studio" exhibits the marvellous play of his genius, the remarkable breadth of his reading, and his cultured criticism. Story strikes us as one of the finest products of American genius. We know no modern sculptor who surpasses him in the plastic art. He is master of a classic English style. His poetry has a grandeur akin to that of his favourite artist, Michael Angelo. The essays in this volume exhibit him not only as an accomplished art critic, but as one familiar with classic literature and philosophy, and as a Shakespearcan critic of acumen and insight.

We are inclined, however, to think that, like most artists, and especially like most sculptors, he unduly minimizes the efforts of early Christian art. It is not true, as has often been affirmed, that the early Christians entirely abjured art on account of its idolatrous use by pagans. They rather baptized it like the neophyte converts from Paganism and consecrated it to the service of Christianity. Indeed, that early Christian life, under repression and persecution, created a more imperious necessity for the expression of its loftiest hopes and aspirations in a Christian symbolism, which was often of extreme poetic beauty and of deep spiritual significance.

Nevertheless it is true, as our author shows in his first essay of this volume, that on Michael Angelo, that this great man was the true creator of modern art, especially of sculpture. He was a titanic genius, great as sculptor, painter, architect, engineer, poet, and prose writer. The marbles of the tombs of Medici, the prophets and sybils and the Last Judgment of the Sistine chapel, the mighty dome of St. Peter's, are all trophies of his genius. Two other essays, saturated with Greek and Latin learning, are those on Phidias and the Elgin marbles and on classic modes of art production. The gem of the book, we think, is the "Conversation with Marcus Aurelius." "Of all the books that ancient literature has left," says our author,

"none is to be found containing a record of higher or purer thought or more earnest and unselfish character, than the Meditations of Marcus Aurelius. In this little book are rules for the conduct of life which might shame almost any Christian." Our author summons up the shade of the mighty dead, and holds with him high converse on the lofty themes of God, the soul, righteousness, and duty. This seems to us as fine as any of the "imaginary conversations" of Landor.

*Toronto University Studies in Political Science.* Edited by PROFESSOR ASHLEY.

The occupant of the new chair on Political Economy in Toronto University has already accomplished much in the solution of social problems. The second essay published under his editorship is a very lucid exposition on the subject of municipal monopolies and their management, by A. H. Sinclair, B.A. It treats of certain requisites of city life--as water-works, street railway, gas supplies, electric light, and introduces a comparison of their public and private management. This comparison Professor Ashley remarks is the first impartial attempt in that direction, and should do something to moderate the ardour of extremists on either side.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

The handsome volume, "Toronto, Old and New," reviewed in the June number of this MAGAZINE, we omitted to state was published by the *Mail Co.*, Toronto.

Hart & Co., publishers, Toronto, announce a book by O. A. Howland, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, on "The New Empire: Reflections on its Origin, Constitution, and its Relations to the Great Republic." This is received and will be reviewed in our next number.

The same publishers also issue an edition of Professor Roberts' fine translation of Gaspe's story of the old régime, "Canada of Old."