

Notices of Books.

QUELQUES LETTRES PASTORALES : The Ottawa Printing Co., Ltd.

This is the unpretentious title of a handsome brochure of some 170 pages, containing a translation into French of six letters addressed, between the years 1894 and 1899, by His Excellency Monseigneur Falconio, now Apostolic Delegate in Canada, to the members of his flock, both clergy and laity, in sunny Italy. The translator is the Rev. Dr. Lacoste, O.M.I., of the University, than whom no one could be better qualified. The letters are important as showing the condition of affairs in Italy under an irreligious government. They reveal to us a people and a country brought to the brink of ruin by laws subversive of morality and by an entirely secular system of education. From the first letter, written while His Excellency was Bishop of Lacedonia, and which is entitled "The Evils From Which We Suffer And Their Remedy" we select a few passages. "Once admit that religion is indispensable to the good government of people, to the tranquillity of families, to the well-being of the State, and it necessarily follows that religion must be known ; since without the knowledge of it, its teachings cannot be accepted nor its precepts observed. *Going teach ye all nations* : this is the commandment of the divine Master to His Apostles ; and He immediately adds, "Who heareth you, heareth Me," to indicate to the faithful the obligation that rests upon them of learning the Christian doctrine. But, alas ! what attention do people pay to-day to the acquiring of religious knowledge ? Are there not in our day Christians who deserve the reproach which St. Paul addressed to the Athenians, that they worship a God whom they know not ? Of how many Christians can one say, that they truly possess a knowledge of God, that they have sufficient acquaintance with the mysteries of religion to believe in them, or of the law of God to observe it, or of the sacraments of the church to receive them with benefit ? If it is true, as St. Paul assures us, that the science of a Christian should consist in his knowledge of Christ crucified, of the Christian mysteries and