

*War and Peace.* By COUNT LEON TOTSTOE. *Before Tilsit*, 1805-1810. Two vols. Pp. 322 and 357. New York: William Gottsberger. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.75; paper, \$1.00.

The author of this historical tale of the Napoleonic war is one of the distinguished of the Russian writers. He has attracted much attention lately by his remarkable book, entitled "My Religion," in which he adopts literally the teachings on the Mount and shows how they would abolish war, Socialism, Nihilism, and would regenerate society. These volumes give a vivid picture of society during the storm and stress period of the Napoleons' conflict with Russia. It is full of life and movement. The earth-shaking Titans of to-day appear in its pages. Court and army life are delineated by one who is evidently familiar with both. The book is translated into French by a Russian lady, and from the French by Clara Bell, expressly for the present edition. Notwithstanding this double translation it reads in easy idiomatic English.

*Alice Withrow; or, the Summer at Home.* By LUCY RANDOLPH FLEMMING. Illustrated, pp. 241. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co. Price \$1.25.

The object of the writer of this volume was to prepare a Sunday-school book which should be instinct with direct religious teaching, and also be free from the sensationalism by which these books are often marked. She describes the efforts of a young girl to lead a Christian life, her frequent failures through infirmity of will and stress of temptation and the final triumph of religious principle. The sympathies of the reader are carried along with the gentle heroine throughout the story. A good deal of humour is developed in the account of her missionary efforts, and of the way in which she is egregiously imposed upon in her endeavours to do good through the duplicity of the objects of her misplaced confidence. The scene is laid in Virginia, and one of the most

interesting characters is the pious old aunt 'Liza, the coloured nurse, whose wise sayings are couched in quaint Negro dialect.

The identity of the name with that of the writer of this notice led to inquiry, through the publisher, as to its selection. The author, who is the wife of a Presbyterian minister in Virginia, replies that the name is by no means an uncommon one in that State, and those who wear it are descended from Scotch Covenanting ancestry. This corresponds with the traditions of the Canadian branch of the family, who for their loyalty to King and country, left Virginia at the outbreak of the American Revolution, and received U. E. Loyalist land grants in Nova Scotia.

*The World's Wonders as Seen by the Great Tropical and Polar Explorers.* By J. W. BUEL. 8vo, pp. 768. Brantford: Bradley, Garretson & Co. Price, cloth, \$3.75.

This is an age of compression. Busy people require that the results of discovery and exploration be condensed into small space so that he that runs may read. This is what is done in this volume. It gives the substance of many original books of travel, which cost too much time and money for the average reader, and which are unduly taken up with unnecessary details. Mr. Buel gives a clear abridged statement of the explorations of Livingstone, Sir Samuel Baker, Captains Speke and Grant, Stanley, Du Chaillu, A. R. Wallace, and Cummings, in Africa and other tropical countries; and of the adventures of Sir John Franklin, Dr. Kane, Dr. Hayes, Captains Hall and McClintock; Lieuts. Greely, DeLong and Schwatka and other Arctic explorers. The book is thus a cyclopaedia of modern discovery, with the advantage of having more narrative interest than, from their fragmentary character, most such books possess. The book is illustrated by about 200 engravings. Some of these, however, are not as well printed as the general text of the work.