

FIFTY YEARS IN THE CHURCH OF ROME.*

Father Chiniquy's long promised book, "Fifty Years in the Church of Rome" has now made its appearance. It is a somewhat extensive work, containing over 800 pages; but so interesting is the narrative that the reader will not willingly lay it aside until he has completed its perusal. It is the merest truism to say that Charles Chiniquy is no ordinary man, and it is hardly fair to judge him by our ordinary standards. He has all the characteristics of his race. His is not the calm, placid nature of the average Saxon. He possesses the vivacity and emotion of the nation from which he derives his origin. He is not given to that self-denying reticence to which we are so accustomed. He gives voice to his emotions with a frankness and a fulness from which the stolid Englishman, the imperturbable Scotchman or the self-possessed Canadian would shrink. In estimating the spoken or written utterances of this remarkable man, we have to take into account that he belongs to a race with which we in Ontario are only imperfectly acquainted.

In forming a just estimate of Father Chiniquy we have also to take into account his peculiar training and life-history. Educated from infancy in the traditions of Roman Catholicism, his earliest associations being connected with its teachings and usages, and several of his mature years having been spent in the mysterious ways of Jesuitism, his thoughts and feelings must necessarily be very different from those generally entertained by life-long Protestants. It is more than doubtful if in all cases due allowance has been made for the position and circumstances of this singularly earnest man.

The position occupied by Father Chiniquy is peculiar. It must not be forgotten that what Rome in her charity calls his apostasy, exposes him to relentless hatred. He is no coward as has been repeatedly demonstrated. His life has been frequently threatened, yet he has never flinched. He has faced dangers that bold men would have gladly avoided. He carries marks by which he can be identified till his dying day. He has frequently had to encounter attacks by infuriated mobs, and yet he has lived to a hale old age to bear his unflinching testimony against the spiritual tyranny, oppression, idolatry and corruption of the Romish system.

To a large extent, the work he has now given to the world is in the form of an autobiography, with the advantages and drawbacks incident to that form of composition. It has all the fascinating interest usually attached to personal narrative, with no less interesting and acute disquisitions on the dogmas of the church with which the author was so long connected. He speaks with a candour that is oftentimes surprising, laying bare with unsparing hand many of the abominations that those unacquainted with the inner workings of Romanism can have no idea of. He has been long behind the scenes and is familiar with all the intricacies of the system. In his own graphic and incisive way he narrates incidents and describes scenes that will astound and sometimes shock average readers.

There are glimpses into vistas that will be peculiarly interesting to those who desire to obtain a comprehensive view of Canadian history. Many of the public men in the Province of Quebec receive incidental mention, and much light is thrown on under currents of opinion that the priestly power is unable to repress.

Of his early days Father Chiniquy gives a vivid account. Usually the events and incidents of childhood make a deep and lasting impression on the memory. In his case there was no exception. His school days were full of incidents and he succeeds in recalling them with rare circumstantiality and minuteness. He tells how a devout mother instilled into his mind the unforgettable lessons of early piety, and how at her knee he loved to read the narratives of Scripture, thus, in spite of the system with which he was so long connected, bearing unequivocal testimony to the value of early training in religious truth. The account of his first confession is as significant as it is graphic.

The record of the great work he was enabled to accomplish in connection with the cause of Temperance, and which spread his fame will be read with keen interest. The same has to be said of his gradual approach to the full light of Gospel truth, and

the almost insuperable obstacles that were thrown in his way; how he triumphed over them and eventually stood outside the pale of Rome free man. No less interesting is that portion of the book in which he speaks of his relations to Abraham Lincoln and the causes he assigns for the assassination of one of the greatest of the American Presidents.

Whatever estimate may be formed of this, his greatest book, one thing is certain, it will compel every reader to think. The result of its perusal will not be the same in every case. The devout and unprejudiced Roman Catholic cannot continue to have the same unshaken confidence in the sanctity of his Church, and Protestants will be induced to pray more earnestly that the many now in spiritual bondage may acquire the full freedom with which Christ makes His people free.

Books and Magazines.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. (Boston: Littell & Co.)—This indispensable weekly continues to supply its readers with the best and freshest contributions to current literature.

THE admirable Report on the State of Religion, presented to the Synod of Hamilton and London by the Convener, Rev. John Thompson, of Sarnia, has been published in neat pamphlet form. Its wide circulation will be productive of great good. Copies can be had from Mr. J. R. Gemmell, Sarnia.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—From week to week this first-class magazine for the young is filled with instructive and entertaining reading, comprising descriptive and dialectic papers, elevating and refining stories, poetry of variety, and numerous engravings finely executed.

OUR LITTLE ONES AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—This regular visitor to thousands of homes is finely suited to the class of readers for whom it is specially prepared. It contains reading grave and gay, just such as the young ones delight in. It is handsome in appearance and finely illustrated.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The midsummer number of this magnificent monthly for young readers is a charming one. The papers are varied and interesting, all of them well fitted to instruct and amuse the class for whom they have been specially prepared. The illustrations appearing in the pages of *St. Nicholas* are very numerous and very fine.

CANADIAN METHODIST MAGAZINE. Edited by Rev. W. H. Withrow, D.D. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—The editor continues his interesting narrative of his "Walks About Rome," the paper being embellished with a number of illustrations. One characteristic of this issue is the brevity of the papers. A variety of interesting topics are discussed in a pleasant and readable style. Dr. Badgley contributes a most interesting paper on "Pantheism."

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. (New York: Macmillan & Co.)—A subject that has occasioned much keen discussion in and out of the British Parliament is the condition of the Crofters. This forms the subject of the opening article of the current numbers of the *English Illustrated Magazine*. It is from the pen of James Sime, and is adorned with a number of excellent engravings. The other illustrated and descriptive paper is a continuation of "The Pilgrimage of the Thames." This number is particularly strong in fiction. In addition to "A Family Affair," a new serial, "Beneath the Dark Shadow," is begun, and a capital short story by Mary E. Hulrah affords pleasant reading. Poetry is also well represented in this admirable number.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—This standard magazine for August is unusually attractive, being a special midsummer number. The contents and illustrations are for the most part peculiarly appropriate to the season. The frontispiece is a charming picture illustrative of a poem by Austin Dobson. A paper which Canadian readers will readily turn to is entitled: "A Trip on the Ottawa," by Mrs. Sandham, and is finely illustrated by sketches from her husband's pencil. "Social Democrats in the Reichstag" throws light on German Socialism. The fiction and poetry of the number rank high in merit, while the usual features, such as the

Easy Chair and Drawer, are more than ordinarily attractive.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—If no special effort has been made to produce a midsummer number of this favourite monthly, the August issue is one of remarkable excellence. Its readers look for and receive a good number every month, but the present surpasses anything that has appeared for a long time. Oliver Wendell Holmes continues his delightful "New Portfolio," Charles Dudley Warner gives a second instalment of "On Horseback," and "Higher Education" is thoughtfully discussed by E. R. Sill. The splendid serials now appearing in the *Atlantic* make interesting progress. A Chinese contributor, Wong Chin Foo, gives the "Story of San Tzon." Criticism and poetry are both good and abundant in this number.

THE CROSS AND THE DRAGON. By Rev. B. C. Henry. (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.)—The author of this most interesting and valuable work on China was for ten years a Presbyterian missionary in Canton. He is evidently a man gifted with keen powers of observation. He has written a work that conveys much fresh information respecting China and the Chinese, with whom we on this Western Continent are to a limited extent being brought into contact. If any one desires to have a comprehensive and intelligent conception of this vast Eastern nation he will find it clearly expressed in this book of Mr. Henry's. The extent, character, and results of Christian agencies are given in moderate compass, and will prove most useful to all friends of missions. There is a brief introduction by Joseph Cook prefixed. The book will be highly prized by all into whose hands it may come.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The midsummer holiday number of the *Century* opens with a lively, anecdotal account, by Henry Eckford, of life at "Camp Grindstone," the summer meeting-place, for games and races, of the American Canoe Association, in the Thousand Islands. It is profusely illustrated by W. A. Rogers. W. D. Howells, in his picturesque series on Italian cities, writes of his walks through Siena, illustrated from Pennell's etchings and pen-and-ink sketches, some of them of full-page size. There is an admirable paper, with portraits, recounting the anti-slavery agitation of other days. Kenyon Cox writes interestingly on "Dogs." The fiction of the number embraces "A Story with a Hero," by James T. McKay, the concluding part of "Silas Lapham," by W. D. Howells, and the seventh part of "The Bostonians," by Henry James. The August contributions to the *Century* War Series, besides Mrs. Burton Harrison's recollections of "A Virginia Girl in the First Year of the War," which has a story interest also in the picture of Southern ways, and its amusing anecdote of civilian life in camp, contains papers by General Fitz John Porter on Malvern Hill—"The Last of the Seven Days' Battles," and another chapter from the "Recollections of a Private," both being illustrated. Topics of the Time, Open Letters and Bric-a-Brac complete a delightful number of this favourite monthly.

The following is an extract from the award of the adjudicators appointed to decide on the essays sent in in answer to the offer of prizes by the Sabbath Alliance of Scotland for the four best essays on the Sabbath: Having undertaken to act as adjudicators of the four prizes offered by J. T. Morton, Esq., of London, for the four best essays on the Sabbath, we have read and examined with due care the 240 essays which have been submitted for our inspection, and we have been able to arrive, after anxious consideration, at an unanimous judgment in favour of the following essayists, who have thus gained the prizes of £100, £50, £30, and £20, respectively, viz.: 1st. Rev. Thomas Hamilton, A.M., York Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast; 2nd. William Converse Wood, Secretary, Massachusetts Sabbath Committee, Boston, America; 3rd. Rev. James Or B.D., East Bank United Presbyterian Church, Howick; 4th. J. T. Smith, LL.B., 30 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh. We would further add that several of the other essays were of distinguished merit, amongst which we desire to specify those bearing the following mottoes, viz. *Apolcypetali Sabbatismos*, *He Knoweth our Frame, Das alte Wahre fass es an.*—(Signed) J. C. Burns, D.D.; J. Marshall Lang, D.D.; Alexander F. Mitchell, D.D.; Robert Rainy, D.D.; Andrew Thomson, D.D.

* FIFTY YEARS IN THE CHURCH OF ROME. By Father Chiniquy. With portrait. (Chicago: Craig and Barlow.)