

The Unseen Friend. By LUCY LARCOM. Boston and New York: Houghton and Mifflin. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

The author of this thoughtful and poetic volume, has long since won a place in many hearts by her poems of religious life. Her prose meditations are not less beautiful than her writings in verse. It is emphatically a book for a quiet hour when the soul communes with its own thoughts and is still. The subjects treated will indicate in part the scope of this volume: "Glimpses of Him," "From Persons to the Person," "It and He," "The Divine Human," "The Heavenly Breath," "The Perfect Friendship," "Visions and Duties," "Nature Redeemed," "A Cloud of Witnesses," "As Seeing Him."

An American Missionary in Japan. By REV. M. L. GORDON, M.D. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 300. Price \$1.25.

This volume will be of special interest to Canadian Methodists on account of its dealing with the missionary problems of the country where our most signal missionary successes have been won. Dr. Griffiths, in his introduction, claims that Japan is yet to be, under divine providence, God's messenger to Asia. But a few years ago it was death to become a Christian, now, in the Imperial Parliament of Japan, are fifteen pronounced Christian members, a remarkable proof of the success of Christian missions. The stones thrown in persecution in the village of Ametzu have been built into the foundations of the church. Many remarkable conversions are here recorded. Our author is enthusiastic in his praise of Japan and its people as a field and subjects for missionary effort. He specially commends the educational work which is being done among women and girls. Of the schools for these classes there are fifty-one with 2,049 students. He also strongly commends the medical missions, and pays a well-deserved tribute to our own Dr. McDonald for successful labours in this field. He urges the unification

of the mission societies in that country, of which there are more than thirty. "Is it any wonder," he asks, "that the Japanese are puzzled and ask, 'are there thirty Christs or is only one of them the true Christ?'" At the same time he strongly affirms the Christian cordiality and co-operation of these societies. The book abounds in interesting sketches of missionary life and travel, Japanese preaching and the like. He refers to the recent reaction against Christianity, but says the tide is turning, that while there may be difficulties and dangers ahead, there is strong ground for confidence.

The Crusade of 1383, known as that of the Bishop of Norwich. By GEORGE M. WRONG, B.A., lecturer of history in University College, Toronto. Toronto: Williamson Book Co. Pp. viii.-96.

This is a succinct and clearly written monograph on an interesting episode in English history. It describes a crusade after the crusades—a conflict, not between Christians and Moslems, but between the adherents of rival popes. It exhibits the methods of the new school of history in giving vivid pictures founded upon contemporary chronicles and other authorities, of the condition of the people, instead of dry-as-dust records of the doings of kings. The sketch of the condition of England in the fourteenth century, with the well-etched characters of parish priests, monks, friars, sunpours, and the like, impresses one as of striking fidelity. The stormy campaign in Flanders with its valiant fighting, cruel slaughter and meagre results, is clearly set forth. It is an admirable example of the best methods of historical study; the list of the contemporary authorities, state papers, and the like, being fully given. This monograph is designed to form part of a larger work on the history of England, which we hope the accomplished author will find opportunity to complete. We congratulate the students of Toronto University on the privilege of pursuing historical studies under the guidance of so accomplished an adept in that fascinating task.