

Literary Notices.

"OUR LITTLE ONES." (The Russell Publishing Co., Tremont Street, Boston. \$1.50 per annum.)—The number for May is a perfect nursery gem, and children of a larger growth may find a pleasure therein. Illustrations of first rank; letterpress ditto. Our little one has just run off with it in gleeful triumph.

THE GREAT REVIVAL of the 18th Century, by Rev. E. Paxton Hood, with a supplemental chapter on the Revival in America. \$1.25. (American Sunday-school Union, Philadelphia.)—A most seasonable republication of a series of papers which first appeared in the *Sunday at Home*, from the pen of a ready writer. At a time of religious deadness, when brutal sports, wilful luxury led by a reckless Deism, prevailed; when the clergy threw off their surplices to rush to the games on the village green; and with a population not much in excess of Canada for the kingdom, the city of London could hang a criminal every week of the year, the great movement with which the names of Whitfield and Wesley are inseparably connected began. The England of the eighteenth century should be commended to the study of those who esteem the former days as better than these. Cock-fights and bull-baiting were among the more innocent sports of the day. Coarse profanity and indecent jocularity characterized the refined company of the time. Let the coarse satires and poems of Woolcot and Prior be read and pictured as forming staple quotations in literary circles, and Paley's charge to the clergy, where adultery is deprecated on the part of parsons as likely to spoil their influence for good; let a state of society be conceived, so far as the great mass was concerned, divested of all the educational, philanthropic and benevolent activities of modern times, and some vivid realization may be formed of what England was when Whitfield, the Luther, and the Wesleys, the Calvin of this reformation, began their work. The rise of lay preaching, spite of Wesley's early indignation against it—"Thomas Maxfield has turned preacher, I find," said John Wesley—is an interesting chapter, and instructive. The names of Walsh, Fenwick, Nelson, Bradford and others are worthily preserved in connection with this aspect of the movement. The revival of sacred song, too, and the impetus given to the hymn movement, have left permanent lines. The general feeling regarding the singing of the revival may find illustration in the case of the man in the north of England, who, when taken by a companion to a great Methodist preaching, replied to an enquiry at the close as to how he liked it, "Weel, I didna care sae much about the preaching, but, eh, man! yon baliants were grand."

A chapter is taken up with incidents from the life of an all but forgotten name, Silas Told, a seer of dreams,

a hearer of Wesley, and the indefatigable comforter of the condemned cell, which in those days was often tenanted by men and women more sinned against than sinning. Most seasonably in this hour, when faith is loosening and religion emanating, do these lines record anew how the old Gospel is, under all circumstances, when received, the power of God unto salvation.

REVIVALS, by Dr. Herrick Johnson (F. H. Revell, Madison Street, Chicago), is a manual of 34 pages, full of earnest, sympathetic common sense on the place and power of revivals in the Church. Its scriptural character may be gathered from the paragraph on the "Conditions essential to *Revival*" (which is truly pointed out as having a place in renewing the failing life of a Church), which simply quotes, without comment, 2 Chron. vii. 14; Psalm li. 10-13. Pastors and people may read and ponder with profit.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TIMES of Philadelphia continues its weekly visit, freighted with wise and weighty words for the advanced pupil, teacher, and pastor. Its position is too much assured to need favourable comment. Perhaps the best we can say is that it fully maintains its well-earned character.

THE CENTURY for May opens with an interesting sketch called "The Canadian Mecca," a pleasant, racy description of St. Anne de Beaupré and some Quebec scenery. Its contents that follow are all worth reading, and full of instruction. *Saint Nicholas* for the same month is an exceptionally good number, which implies, as we mean, no small praise. Its article on Wolf-reared Children is vivid and suggestive. The children read or listen with awe that leaves a salutary lesson behind. The Century Co., New York, is not only sustaining but increasing the reputation of these deservedly popular magazines.

THE TREASURY OF DAVID (Vol. II.), by C. H. Spurgeon. (Funk & Wagnalls, New York.)—Funk & Wagnalls are doing a great work in thus reproducing, with their *Homiletic Monthly*, these volumes of Spurgeon's, and at a cost scarcely covering the labour of production. Of the work itself we would briefly say that it bears the impress of its author, and opens up the mine of old Puritan literature from which some of his brightest gems and quaintest thoughts have been gathered. It is a complete "Treasury" of sayings and of comments, original and gathered, upon the marvellous psalms which have been the chosen vehicle of praise utterance in all circumstances of the Jewish and Christian Church. In war and in peace, in trouble and in joy, by land and by sea, at home and abroad, these psalms have companioned life's pilgrim, and there are few men living better fitted than Spurgeon to gather around them the reverent criticisms and expositions of those to whom they have been strength indeed. This he has faithfully done.