

Literary Notices.

THE CHESTER COTERIE. By Kate Livingston Hamilton. This is a vigorous narrative in which a circle of quite young people work out certain problems of church work, especially the raising of money without resorting to any methods not thoroughly defensible. At the same time the book shows us how these young people solved the higher problems of self-consecration and of brave service for their divine Master. The influence exerted by the members of this circle over each other is suggestive of that unconscious service which the young may render and of the good they may do without design, if only their hearts and lives be right. Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, Pa. Price, \$1.00. MacGregor & Knight, 125 Granville St., Halifax, N. S.

THE RUM SHOP PHOTOGRAPHED.

The grog-shop is a two-edged sword, and cuts both ways at once. It is a rotating machine for the snaring of souls. It catches our young men and boys before they reach the church or Sabbath-school while they are on their way—and never reach its doors, or else it catches them as they return, and mars or neutralizes the blessed lessons there imparted. Between the two there is the old “irrepressible conflict” over again. It is war to the knife, and knife to the hilt, and only one can win. And in this warfare we of Christ’s army are outnumbered. There are twelve saloons to every church, and twelve barkeepers to every minister. The church opens its doors two or three days in the week. The saloon grinds on and on with its mill of destruction all the days of every week, all the months of every year. That we are outnumbered, is not all. We are out-generaled as well. The people of the rum-shop propose in their hearts not only to mar and neutralize, but to obliterate and displace the lessons of church and Sunday-school. They have their series of lessons, with which our International Series cannot at all compete. They have studied carefully the tastes, tendencies, and preferences of boys and young men, their natural and innocent taste for variety, fondness for amusement, preference for young company, and they pander to all these in ways that take hold upon death.—*Frances E. Willard.*

CONSECRATION AND MANLINESS.

The essence of true manliness lies in living a life of full consecration to God. The heroism which was fostered in the midst of imminent dangers, in eras of martyrdom or times of civil war, cannot be ours. But one kind of heroism is possible to us all—that of standing by God’s truth, God’s work, God’s day, and God’s redeeming Son, no matter what may be the consequences to ourselves.

There seems to be an idea prevalent that to be an out-and-out Christian, to carry our religion into the business and into the family as much as into the chapel and the class room, to give up all sins, all idolatries, and all questionable things about which we have grave doubts, not to be forever clamoring for our supposed “rights” and keeping a sharp eye on “number one,” not to spend half our time in rubbing up to a fine polish our miserable reputation and self-worship, but to go all lengths with Christ and for Christ; it seems to be thought by some that such a course will make a man feeble and effeminate, and unfit him for a nineteenth century business life. But is it so? No; it is at the devil’s caricature of holiness you have been looking, not the Bible portraiture. Open the great book! Read the life of Samuel, judge and prophet; read the story of Joseph, first the slave, then the ruler of Egypt; read the account of Daniel, the praying prime minister of Babylon; read Isaiah, and John the Baptist, and the tender, mighty, and immortal Paul; were these men weaklings, incomplete developments of manhood?—*The King’s Highway.*

Every wakeful moment should be usefully employed. God lends them to us. He will call us to a strict account for their usage. They have wings that wait their own record of our use of them on high. When once past, they will never return to us. But their misuse will come back to us with fearful condemnation by and by, or their right employment shall add stars to our crown of rejoicing for evermore.

If you are thinking of some self-denial, do not cut off your pleasures for the sake of mortifying yourself, but make some sacrifice that will help another. The end of sacrifice is not pain, but helpfulness.