

young people, who are the chief readers of fiction, are better left in ignorance. Not that the work outrages the proprieties, but the chronicle of crime and the harrowing tragedy of the tale create a too absorbing interest in its scenes. For energy and vividness of style the author may be called the Victor Hugo of Germany. The sketch of the radical editor with his strong "academical-politico-philosophical thirst for beer," is full of humour. The glimpses of German newspaperdom reveal the touch of one behind the scenes. The anarchist Hackenthal, "a desperate man grown too lazy for labour, who longs and plots for catastrophes, since whoever else may be crushed by the ruins, he cannot be worse off," is a striking type of his class.

LITERARY NOTES.

The tenth Annual Report of the Wesleyan Methodist S. S. Union is a volume of 360 pages (price 4 shillings) full of information and statistics as to the working of that noble institution.

We are indebted to the Southern Pacific Railway Co. for two admirable tourists and settlers' guide books, "Bentley's Handbook of the Pacific Coast," and "Homes and Happiness in the Golden State." They are both elegantly illustrated, and abound in useful and interesting information.

Talks on Temperance, by CANON FARRAR, (New York National Temperance Society), contains 200 pages of eloquent temperance addresses, by one of the finest masters of English living. Price 25 cents.

The most valued of our literary exchanges is the *Atlantic Monthly*. We read it through from beginning to end. It depends for its success on the value of its articles, independent of illustration, and well maintains its historic reputation. It will be clubbed with the METHODIST MAGA-

ZINE for \$3.20. The full price of the *Monthly* is \$4.

A recent issue of the *Popular Science Monthly* more than maintains its high average excellence. Among the articles of special value are a Criticism of Herbert Spencer, by Emile de Lavaleye, and a rejoinder by Spencer; interesting articles on whales, on monkeys, on moths, on kerosene, on the fuel of the future, and one which will prove of much attraction to Canadians, by our accomplished contributor, J. M. Oxley, of Ottawa, on "The Mediterranean of Canada"—our magnificent Hudson's Bay.

We are glad to see Canadian writers occupying positions of such credit in the American and British Press. We spoke recently of Dr. Sutherland's able contribution to the *Monthly Review*. The last number of the *Quarterly Review*, of the M. E. Church South, contains also an admirable article by the Rev. W. Harrison, of the New Brunswick Conference, on The Great Exception—*i. e.*, Christianity the great exception to all the historic failures to meet the spiritual needs of man. Our friend the Rev. E. Barrass, M.A., of the Toronto Conference, also contributes to the same review a very interesting and instructive paper on Joseph Barker, Minister and Skeptic. In *Zion's Herald* Bro. Barrass also gives an excellent sketch of the Rev. John Rattenbury, of the *English Conference*. This brother's versatility and literary industry are extraordinary. We meet his writings in half a score of English and American journals. Our able contributor, J. M. Oxley, to whose article in the *Popular Science Monthly* on the Mediterranean of Canada we elsewhere refer, recently won a prize, open to the world, for the best condensation of Hawthorne's Scarlet Letter. He is also a successful contributor to *The Week*, *Wide-Wake*, *S. S. Times*, *Youth's Companion*, *Christian Union* and other periodicals.