

to find, though not too late, that without the lost word all else is dust and ashes. The First Christmas-tree tells how thirteen hundred years ago Winfried of England, the Apostle of Germany, smote the oak of pagan worship and substituted therefor the pine tree, ever since sacred to the Babe of Bethlehem. The story of the Mill is a prose poem quite in the vein of Tennyson's Idylls, with an even more quaint archaic manner. The book is one of the most dainty and beautiful of the holiday issues, its coloured pictures being of rare artistic merit.

"The Art of Noble Living." By Robert P. Downes, LL.D. London: Chas. H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 422. Price, 6s.

Dr. Downes by his previous works, "Pillars of our Faith," and "Woman, Her Charm and Power," has achieved distinction as an author of originality and force of thought, grace of diction, generous sentiments and lofty ethical purpose. Yet an author may have all these without that nameless something which raises his work to the level of higher literature. That touch this book in marked degree possesses. The book is rich in allusion to the greatest writers, thinkers and doers of the race, and in quotation from their "winged words." All readers of cultivation and taste will richly enjoy these chapters. They treat of noble living in its relation to youth, character, self-culture, work and service, society and religion. They set forth an ideal of noble living, its rewards, and utter a forceful call thereto. Dr. Downes is a graceful poet himself and his own lines admirably set forth his conception of the ideal life:

"Artists of the Soul are we,
Moulding life and destiny;
Workers at a task sublime
Which defies the touch of time."

"Chapters on Preaching." A Manual for the Guidance of Young Preach-

ers. By Rev. Geo. Fletcher, Tutor in Pastoral Theology and Church organization in the Wesleyan College, Richmond, Surrey. London: Chas. H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. vii-176.

The pulpit is the preacher's throne of power. There he gets the ear and can reach the conscience of the multitude as nowhere else. There he must put forth his best efforts. The art of preaching is one which he is ever learning, but has never fully learned. These wise counsels of a teacher of preachers cannot fail to be of great advantage to the wider circle than the Richmond students—to the men throughout world-wide Methodism who are exercising their holy calling in the fear and love of God. It is a little book, but full of pith. It sets forth the preacher's message and his mission, the wise use of the Scriptures, the preacher in his study, and the pulpit as affected by the times, the sermon in relation to the whole service, and the preacher's daily work.

"New Testament Holiness." By Thos. Cook. Author of "My Mission Tour in South Africa," etc. London: Chas. H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 207.

The great purpose of Methodism has been, in the words of its saintly founder, to spread Scriptural holiness throughout the land. Sometimes this old Wesleyan doctrine has been misrepresented or inadequately set forth. It has been the subject of discussion which has not ministered unto godliness. It has been to multitudes a blessed and heart-felt experience which has raised their Christian life to a higher plane. Thomas Cook, the distinguished evangelist, whose exposition of this Scriptural teaching has brought such benefit to multitudes of souls, here sets forth with clearness and cogency this old Methodist and Bible doctrine, as taught so clearly in the words of Wesley, Fletcher and the New Testament writers.

Lastly came Winter, clothed all in frieze,
Chattering his teeth for cold that did him chill;
Whilst on his hoary beard his breath did freeze,
And the dull drops, that from his purple bill
As from a limebeck did adown distil:
In his right hand a tipped staff he held,
With which his feeble steps he stayed still;
For he was faint with cold, and weak with eld;
That scarce his loosed limbs he habel was to wald.

—Spenser.