

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Smiles and Tears

By Rev. E. Harrass, M. A. Toronto: Hunter Rose & Co.

This little book purports to consist of sketches from real life, although most of the names of persons and places mentioned are fictitious. The writer of it is a Methodist minister, who has already been before the public as the author of a book entitled "Gallery of Distinguished Men," and other works. His style as a writer is plain, chaste, sometimes elegant, and far removed from everything of a sensational character. He is possessed of that genial but unobtrusive vein of humor, and that quiet appreciation of the comicalities of life, which are so frequently to be met with among men of his class. These qualities in the writer render his sketches very readable; and by his judicious choice of subjects, and his wise treatment of them, he has taken care that the reader shall find the book profitable as well as pleasant. The first chapter is occupied by "The Happy Pilgrim," and in this sketch at least, if in no other, the real names of persons and places are used. It is a brief, but well-written account of the life of Philip Paul Bliss, author of "Hold the Fort," and many other hymns. Then come "The Dutiful Son," "The Old Horse," "Sprueman's Lodge," "The Runaway Tailor," "Bachelor's Hall," "The Model Minister," "The Delinquent," "Missionary Singers," "Jethro," "Three Beacons," "Old Nanny Brown," each occupying a chapter, and each in its own way furnishing quiet amusement and solid instruction.

The Princeton Review.

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The January number of the "Princeton Review" contains, "The Conscience as a Witness for Christ," by President W. D. Killen, Presbyterian College, Belfast; "The Monetary Conferences of 1867 and 1878," by Professor Walker, Yale College; "Moral Government," by Professor B. F. Cocker, D.D., University of Michigan; "Political Effect of the Decline of Faith in Continental Europe," by John W. Draper, LL.D., University of New York; "The Day at Caesarea Philippi," by Prof. Bernhard Weiss, D. Th., University of Berlin; "The Pulpit and Sceptical Culture," by Stuart Robinson, D.D., Louisville; "The Surrender of Fugitives from Justice," by Chief Justice Cooley, Michigan; "The Philosophy of Casualty," by J. Hutchison Stirling, LL.D., Edinburgh; "Causes of Commercial Depression," by Professor Thorold Rogers, University of Oxford. This long-established Review is now issued once every two months instead of quarterly as formerly. These bi-monthly numbers contain much more matter than the quarterly numbers did. And instead of the price being raised to meet the expense of these improvements, it has been made lower than ever. With such inducements the subscription list ought to be greatly increased. And, after all, the greatest inducement is that the writers for this publication are of such a class, and their productions of such a character, both as to importance of subject and ability in treatment, that men of thought and intelligence, whose minds are in any considerable degree occupied with the great questions of human life, cannot afford to do without it. Rev. A. Kennedy, London, Ont., is always ready to supply Canadian subscribers with this valuable publication.

THE HYMN-BOOK COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly, which met at Hamilton last June appointed a Committee of ten to prepare a Hymn Book. It was evident from the speaking and voting in the Assembly that the desire for such a book prevailed very widely. Many were in favour of the immediate issue of a selection from the three hymn books, used in Scotland and the English Presbyterian book. It was resolved, however, that the range of selection should not be limited to those books, and that the completed collection be submitted to the Presbyteries, and to the next General Assembly.

The Committee consisted of the following members: Rev. Dr. Jenkins and Rev. Dr. Gregg, Joint Conveners; Dr. James, of Hamilton; Mr. Thompson, of Ayr; Mr. Macdonnell and W. B. McMurrich, Esq., of Toronto; Professor Mowat, Kingston; Mr. Black, of Erskine Church, Montreal; Mr. McRae, St. John; and Mr. Murray, Halifax. The members of Committee com-

menced their work within a few days of the Assembly's rising. Dr. Jenkins, Mr. McRae, and Mr. Murray, met at Halifax, and selected a large number of hymns, which were submitted to the brethren in the West. The Western brethren held several meetings at Toronto, and carefully revised the work of the Eastern brethren, and formed a large list, a copy of which was submitted some weeks ago to each member of Committee. A full meeting was summoned to take place at Montreal on the last day of the old year. Eight of the ten members were able to attend. The other two, Professor Mowat and Mr. Thomson, would have been present if they could—and they laid their views by letter before the Committee. The meetings were held in St. Paul's Church, commencing at ten o'clock a.m. on the 31st ult., and with brief intermissions till ten o'clock p.m., on the day named, and also on New Year's Day. The Committee's task was not concluded till six o'clock on Thursday the 2nd. The list that had been prepared during the past six months was very carefully revised, hymn by hymn. Then each member of Committee submitted a supplementary list, and these lists were subjected to a double revision. The result is a collection of, say, 300 hymns of the choicest description. These are to be printed on slips, with the least possible delay, and to be sent to Presbyteries. It is hoped that Presbyteries will examine the collection in time to make the returns before the first of May. This will give the Committee an opportunity to complete their work before the meeting of Assembly, in June. There is reason to hope that the Committee's work will be on the whole acceptable to the Church. Certainly they have—individually and collectively—taken abundant pains. While the pains taken by the venerable Dr. Gregg, of Knox College, deserve special recognition and remark, it was plain none of the members lacked in enthusiastic devotion to the task assigned to them. In order to show the extensive field over which the Committee has travelled, we may mention that the old U. P. book contains 468 hymns; the new, 368, the English Presbyterian book 520; the Church of Scotland book 200, and the Free Church, 144. The Free Church has a Committee at present engaged in the work of revising and enlarging their Hymn book. In these five books there are, say, 1,000 different hymns. About 640 of these occur in some one of the books. About 170 occur in some two of the five; 72 in three; 62 in four; 41 in five. One hymn occurs in all five, and in our "Five Hymns" appended to the "Psalms and Paraphrases." This one is found in almost all Hymnals: it begins, "Blest morning whose first dawning rays beheld the Son of God."

There is a considerable number of excellent hymns whose authorship cannot be ascertained. To the hymnology of the Presbyterian Churches, as represented in the books named, Watts contributes 85; Bonar, 52; the Wesleys, 48; Montgomery, 44; Newton, 38; Doddridge, 36; Kelly, 31; Cowper, 26. A score of others are drawn upon for one or more hymns.

The Committee of Assembly examined and re-examined at least two thousand five hundred hymns, probably in the aggregate a much larger number, and availed themselves fully of the results of experience as exhibited in the Hymnals of all the Churches, but especially of the Presbyterian family. We believe the Committee will gladly welcome hints from Presbyteries as to hymns which they consider might be added to the collection. It is evidently very desirable that the collection should be as select, and at the same time as comprehensive as possible, and through the co-operation of Presbyteries the Committee will be able to make it so. —*Presbyterian Witness.*

THE City of Glasgow Bank liquidators have only obtained \$4,000,000 as the first instalment of the call upon the shareholders due on the 30th of December, instead of \$10,000,000 which was called for.

OUR friends across the line are showing a little nervousness at the threatened importation of the ostracized German Socialists. Certainly these men represent the worst type of this Socialistic evil, and are anything but an agreeable accession to any country.

ACCORDING to Leonard Bacon, the Old Catholic movement led by Dr. Dollinger, has collapsed. A great deal was expected from this revolt from Ultramontanism, perhaps too much; but it was clear to many that it wanted to dwell too near to the old fold to be safe.

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

TO REMOVE SPOTS OF BLACKING FROM CARPET.—Scrub the spots with hot water and borax, using little soap; rinse with clear water, and rub dry with a clean dry cloth. Spots of blacking may be taken from carpets with a mixture of one ounce of powdered borax, dissolved in one quart of boiling water and a small piece of soap, about the size of a walnut, cut fine and dissolved with the borax; bottle this up, and use to take spots from carpets or cloths.

SAVE THE OLD BONES.—Don't let old bones lie around in the fence-corners. They should be preserved, as they contain phosphoric acid, one of the most valuable ingredients in manure. Put a layer of wood ashes in the bottom of a cask, and then add a layer of bones; then add another layer of ashes, and so on, until the cask is filled. Keep the mixture wet, and in a few months the potash in the ashes will have so combined with the phosphoric acid in the bones as to give you a most valuable fertilizer.

ROAST STEAKS.—Pepper and salt your steaks, put them in a stew pan with half a pint of water, a blade of mace, two or three cloves, one anchovy, a small bundle of sweet herbs, a piece of butter rolled in flour, a glass of white wine, one onion; cover it close, and stew very slowly till tender; then take out the steak, and fry it in fresh butter; take off all the fat they were stewed in; then strain it all back into the pan, and make it all hot; put the steak in the dish, and pour the sauce over it; if you can get oysters add a quarter of a pint.

RUSKS.—Break very small, six ounces of butter into a couple of pounds of fine, dry flour, and mix them into a little paste, with two teaspoonfuls of mild beer yeast, three well-beaten eggs, and nearly half a pint of warm new milk. When it has risen to its full height, knead it smooth, and make it into very small loaves or thick cakes, cut with a round cake-cutter; place them on a floured tin, and let them stand in a warm place, to prove, from ten to twenty minutes before they are set in the oven. Bake them about a quarter of an hour; divide them while they are still warm, and put them into a slow oven to dry. When they are done. Four teaspoonfuls of sifted sugar must be added when sweetened rusks are required.

WHITE SOUP.—To a large knuckle of veal put five quarts of water, three large onions, four anchovies, a tablespoonful of black and white pepper; two or three cloves; let it boil till reduced to half the quantity; then strain it, and let it stand till cold; then take off the fat and settlements at the bottom; take a quarter of a pound of sweet almonds, blanched, pounded, and then rub them through a sieve, with some cream, and add still more till your soup is white; put five yolks of eggs beaten with part of the cream, and put to the soup when it boils, but it must not be boiled after the eggs are put in; when it goes to table add a few very small French rolls stuck with almonds.

HOME-MADE CRACKED WHEAT.—Cracked wheat, which has in the last few years become a staple article of food, may be made at home at a much less cost than when bought ready prepared from the grocer. Use the best wheat, which at \$1.50 per bushel, would cost two and a half cents per pound. Spread the wheat upon a white cloth, and pick out of it all the oats, straw and the like; set it in some open dish in the stove to dry, but not to scorch; when very dry run it through a coffee mill, set so as to crack every kernel. This will be a kind of wheat-hominy, mixed with some fine meal. To cook it, let the water be boiling, then stir in the wheat, and keep it stirred till it has done settling; then a very gentle fire will keep it boiling with an occasional stirring. A big fire will surely burn it. It is better to boil it an hour or more. This may be eaten warm, with any kind of dressing, or when cold, like corn mush, be sliced and warmed for use. If stirred when in a cooling state it becomes sticky, like paste. It may be taken up hot into dishes, and cut into slices or otherwise when cold.

BOY SMOKERS.—What the effect of tobacco is upon the human system is a question still in dispute among scientists and experts. But there can be no doubt as to its deleterious influence upon the young. The facts in this case are forcibly presented in a recent number of the *British Medical Journal*, which, referring especially to the habit of smoking upon the health of boys under sixteen years of age, says, "A celebrated physician took for this purpose thirty-eight boys, aged from nine to fifteen, and carefully examined them. In twenty-seven of them he discovered injurious traces of the habit. In twenty-two there were various disorders of the circulation and of digestion, palpitation of the heart, and a more or less marked taste for strong drink. In twelve there was frequent bleeding of the nose, ten had disturbed sleep, and twelve had slight ulcerations of the mucous membrane of the mouth, which disappeared on ceasing from the use of tobacco for some days. The doctor treated them all for weakness; but with little effect until the smoking was discontinued, when health and strength were restored."

ARE OTHER PLANETS INHABITABLE?—On this question Professor Newcombe remarks: We know that no animal giving evidence of self-consciousness is developed except under the joint influence of air and water, and between certain narrow limits of temperature; that only forms of life which are intellectually very low, are developed in the ocean; that there is no adapting power exercised by nature on our globe whereby man can maintain a high degree of intellectual or bodily vigour in the polar regions; that the heats of the torrid zone also impose restrictions upon the development of our race. The conclusion which we may draw from this is, that if great changes should occur on the surface of our globe, if it should be cooled down to the temperature of the poles, or heated up to that of the equator, or gradually be covered with water, or deprived of its atmosphere, the higher present forms of animal life would refuse to adapt themselves to the new state of things, and no new forms of life of equal elevation would take the place of those destroyed by the change. There is not the slightest reason for believing that anything more intelligent than a fish would ever live under water, or anything more intellectual than the Esquimaux ever be supported in regions as cold as the poles.