

Book Notices.

The Map of Life, Conduct and Character.
By WILLIAM EDWARD HARTPOLE
LECKY. New York: Longmans, Green
& Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co.

For over forty years Lecky has been one of the most considerable intellectual forces of the English-speaking world. As the author of the "Intellectual Development of Europe" and of many volumes of history, and as a member of the British House of Commons, he has largely moulded public opinion. In this volume he gives us the conclusions of a ripened experience on the conduct of life. He finds the chief elements of happiness in a life full of work, in duty bravely done, in the creation of unselfish interests and in resisting the temptations of luxurious idleness which would bring the wretchedness of *canoni*. He notes some of the false ideals in life, its luxury and ostentation, its false moral judgments, its depravities as illustrated in war, in the malevolent press, in the mendacities of finance. He utters wise words on the use of money, on marriage, and on the right use of time.

This book is high-class literature. Of this the demand for a second edition within a month after the first is evidence. It contains much of worth and wisdom. The philosophy is that rather of Zeno than of St. Paul. His conclusion is: "The great guiding landmarks of a wise life are indeed few and simple; to do our duty—to avoid useless sorrow—to acquiesce patiently in the inevitable."

With a loftier wisdom than that of the great scholar, the wayfaring man may lay hold upon the strength of One who is mighty to save and who can impart to our human weaknesses divine strength which "always causeth us to triumph in Christ."

Mr. Lecky in a striking passage points out the perversion of morals which permitted such a distinguished man as Cardinal Gibbons to condone the treachery and violation of their oaths by the Fenian conspirators.

How England Saved Europe—The Story of the Great War. By W. H. FITCHETT. In four volumes. Vol. I. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$2.00.

The author of this book is a Wesleyan

Methodist minister in Australia, the head of a successful college, and also editor of the Australian edition of the *Review of Reviews*. He won fame by his vivid narratives of "Deeds that Won the Empire" and "Fights for the Flag." In this work, on broader canvas, he treats the noble theme of the great war against the arch despot, Napoleon. At this time of stress and strain, when most of the nations of Europe are venting their spleen against the grand old champion of liberty, it is well to notice how glad they were of her aid when the Corsican conqueror was overthrowing the oldest dynasties on the Continent and placing his kinsmen on their empty thrones.

It is an heroic story. Not for herself but for her allies were these battles fought. Secure herself, by the protection of "those ancient and unsubsidized allies, the winds and waves that guard her coast," she crossed the sea to aid the Spaniards, the Germans, the Russians to throw off the yoke of Napoleon—and she accomplished her task. Then, as now, her strong right arm was her navy, that at St. Vincent, at Camperdown, at the Nile, and at Trafalgar, dealt such weighty blows.

Dr. Fitchett records this epic of empire with striking vigour and vivacity—in a way that makes the blood tingle in one's veins. The hero of this volume is England's greatest sailor, Nelson; as the hero of succeeding volumes will be her greatest soldier, Wellington. The romance of fiction is even more surpassed by the romance of history. The book is brought out in the Scribner's best style with sixteen portraits and other pictures, and eight plans of Britain's sea-fights.

The Great Sinners of the Bible. By LOUIS ALBERT BANKS, D.D. New York: Eaton & Mains. Cincinnati: Curtis & Jennings. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

Dr. Banks is one of the busiest preachers with tongue and pen on this continent. He has made his down-town church in Cleveland a power for righteousness. Too often Sunday evening services have been secularized by musical attractions and sensational sermons in order to draw the crowd. But there is no attraction equal to that of the old-fashioned