

labours by the illustration of this volume, in which are hundreds of portraits of the hymn writers whose songs have been an uplift and an inspiration to human hearts in every land beneath the sun. It adds wonderfully to our appreciation of these noble hymns to know the circumstances under which they were called forth and the noteworthy and sometimes thrilling incidents by which they have been accompanied. Copious indexes are given. The editor strongly commends the practice of having a song-service in which the evening shall be devoted to the hymns of some of these great writers, as Wesley, Bonar, Havergal, Watts, Montgomery, Cowper, and the other sweet singers of the Churches' universal choir.

*Samantha at the World's Fair.* By JOSIAH ALLEN'S WIFE (Marietta Holley). Illustrated by Baron C. De Grimm. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls. Toronto: William Briggs.

"Samantha Allen" has won wide fame by her shrewd, witty comments on things in general and on the minor and major morals of society in particular. With her peculiar vein of humour there is shrewd common sense, a biting sarcasm in scathing wrong, and a generous appreciation of everything that is good. This is just what we would expect of Mrs. Holley, who, we believe, is a good Methodist lady.

The World's Fair, with its oddities and eccentricities, and the diversions of the Plaisance, furnish excellent opportunities for her vein of humour. She never loses a chance to strike a blow at the liquor traffic and other forms of evil, all the more effective because they are not at all "preachy." She finds ample opportunity to express her views about woman's rights, the W. C. T. U., the absurdities of fashion, and other moral reforms. She scores the Exhibition management for their Sabbath-breaking and the Government for its treatment of the Indians. A very funny picture exhibits the majestic

statue of Columbia disfigured by fashionable attire—leg-of-mutton sleeves and all the rest of it.

Baron De Grimm's numerous pictures catch the very spirit of the letter-press. The page of numerous authentic portraits of Columbus is really not much of an exaggeration after all of the diverse presentments of this world-famous man. Josiah himself is an admirable foil for his worthy wife, his tastes are so exceedingly unæsthetic. He preferred the "butter-woman," which was worth thirty cents a pound, anyhow, "to a hull carload of marble figgers," and the "picters made of corn and oats and beans" to the finest art triumphs of the Fair. Samantha's remonstrance with the Princess Eulalia for cigarette smoking is very unconventional and very funny. Besides the general laugh which it will provoke, the book will leave a wholesome impression on the mind, which is more than can be said of most so-called books of humour. That writer is a benefactor of the race who will employ the shafts of irony and satire in the denunciation of wrong and defence of right.

*The Holy War made by Shaddai upon Diabolus for the Gaining of the Metropolis of the World; or, the Losing and Taking Again of the Town of Man-Soul.* By JOHN BUNYAN, with a preface by Alexander White, D.D., author of "Bunyan Characters," etc. Antique style. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 70c.

The greater fame of Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" has to a large degree eclipsed that of his "Holy War." We fear that both these books are nowadays more talked about than read. We heartily commend this antique style edition of a noteworthy book. The military figures adopted and the description of the siege of the town of Man-Soul will make it fascinating reading for even boys and girls, while mature Christians will find profound instruction in its wonderful allegory.