

Book Notices.

Equality. By EDWARD BELLAMY. Toronto: George N. Morang. Pp. 412.

Among the most pressing questions of the times are the economic questions. There is a social unrest throughout Christendom. This is manifested in gigantic strikes, in Nihilism and Anarchism, in Bryan campaigns, in Henry Georgism, and in the theories of Mr. Bellamy. A favourite method of the social reformer, from the time of More's "Utopia" down, is to project his theory in the form of a story describing ideal conditions in the far future. Bellamy's "Equality" is a sequel to his "Looking Backward," which we heard Bishop Vincent strongly commend from the pulpit.

Mr. Bellamy asserts that less than two per cent. of the population of the United States own seventy per cent. of its wealth, and less than one per cent. of the population own fifty-five per cent. of its wealth. Under Mr. Bellamy's new social economy everybody is better fed, better clothed, better housed, and of larger growth. Electricity does nearly all the work and enables one to see and hear anything that is going on in any part of the world. The telephone and phonograph almost entirely take the place of writing. Horses become as extinct as the paleozoic scurians. The air-ship careers through the sky, and electric ploughs break up the soil. The country is largely reforested. Chemically prepared food takes the place of butcher's meat, clothing is made of paper, as are the dishes and cooking utensils. The reign of fashion has ceased, and that of common-sense begun.

Through the equitable adjustment of this social millennium each individual has a balance in the State bank of \$4,000 a year. All public services are nationalized, as water-works, lighting, ferries, railroads, telegraph, mines, and the traffic in intoxicating liquors. If Mr. Bellamy could secure the abolition of the latter he would go far to bring about the millennium of which he dreams.

A great revival has taken place in which a new religion is evolved—"a religion which has dispensed with rites and ceremonies, creeds and dogmas, and banished from this life fear and concern for the meaner self; a religion of life and

conduct dominated by an impassioned sense of the solidarity of humanity and of man with God; the religion of a race that knows itself divine and fears no evil, either now or hereafter." Of course, war is abolished and universal culture and industrial peace everywhere prevail, and the Golden Rule is the rule of life and conduct. We have no space here to criticise Mr. Bellamy's theory. Notwithstanding its visionary character it suggests many lines of development along which society may progress.

A History of Canada. By CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS. Boston: Lamson, Wolfe and Company. Toronto: George N. Morang. Octavo, pp. 493. Cloth. Price, \$2.00.

Few countries have so interesting and romantic history as our own beloved Canada. The tale of early discovery and exploration, the daring adventures of its sailors, its voyageurs and couriers-de-bois; its Indian wars, its sieges of Louisburg and Quebec, and of its many frontier forts; the struggle between the French and English for the conquest of the continent, the heroic story of the United Empire Loyalists, the gallant defence of Canada against vast odds in 1812-1815, the strife of parties, the settlement of great constitutional questions, the struggle for responsible government, the evolution of a federated Dominion stretching from sea to sea—these furnish a theme worthy of any pen, however gifted.

Professor Roberts, one of our most distinguished Canadian poets, has treated this noble theme with sympathetic touch, patriotic feeling and poetic insight. The first condition of a rational patriotism is an acquaintance with the history of the land in which we live. This book will make its readers more loyal and patriotic Canadians. Its literary style is excellent and it strikes us as fair and impartial in its discussion of national and international politics. An interesting chapter is devoted to the intellectual and material progress of present conditions and outlook of Canada. Prof. Roberts' vision of our country's future is like that of Milton's of the land from which we have sprung: "A nation not slow and dull,