

clesiastical subjects. In debate it was remarked that he was conspicuously fair to opponents, wise, courteous, charitable, open-minded. All these qualities were especially illustrated, not to mention others more of a political character, in the part he took on the subject of Temperance, the preservation of the Lord's Day intact for worship and rest, and in particular, in his attitude towards and strong advocacy of greater union among Christian bodies. To see and effect this may be said to have been the consuming desire, even the passion of his last and ripest years. To this, all who spoke of him have borne witness.

A few verses of the "Sands of time are sinking" were sung, Rev. Dr. Warden offered prayer briefly, and pronounced the benediction; the body was borne to the hearse, the funeral cortege, very large and observed by many spectators, was formed, and wended its way to Mount Pleasant cemetery, where, surrounded by the mourners, friends, and representatives of public bodies and schools of learning, the last rites of reading the scriptures and prayer were observed as the shades of a grey, dull evening were falling upon the silent, mourning company.

Dr. Caven was conspicuously in his public life and service a Canadian, and he was an honored, and in a still more eminent degree, a blessing to the church which trusted and loved him and which he served and adorned, to Knox College, to our educational institutions in the widest sense, to his country and fellow-men. His was a singularly large full and well rounded out life. He was one whose life for its nobility from every point of view, and the tributes paid to him by his contemporaries at his death, will be long remembered, and may well serve as an inspiration to all Canadians to live the noble, upright, true, unselfish life of devotion to duty and to the highest ideals of Christian citizenship. Dr. Caven was so modest, so unobtrusive, so wholly void of all attempt at display, that his true greatness is apt to be underestimated, and will we believe, be better understood and appreciated by those who come after, than by us who have lived side by side with him.

#### GRAVE FACTS.

Recently in London, England, Lord Chief Justice Alverstone was the principal guest at the dinner of the Authors' Club. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who presided, referred to the laxity of the law and its administration in the United States, and said that that great nation had outgrown its legal strength with appalling results. Whilst Great Britain in the Boer war lost 22,000 lives, the United States lost in the same three years 32,000 lives through murder or homicide. This, the speaker said, would be a piteous end to the high hopes of those who looked to America as the Utopia of the future; but he added, America would crush this foul growth by strengthening the machinery of the law and putting judges on a higher basis. Lord Alverstone, in replying, said that he agreed with every word Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had spoken, and that his remarks were no stronger than he had heard from many Americans themselves. But in regard to the treatment and reclamation of

convicted criminals, Lord Alverstone said Great Britain had much to learn from America, and Americans were working hard to make their system not only humane but truly preventive of crime.

These are grave facts, bespeaking the need of every religious force that can be brought into action.

#### Our Book Table.

LIFE'S NOBLER PENALTIES is another welcome booklet from the pen of Rev. George H. Morrison, M.A., whose "Gentle Art of Making Happy" was noticed in these columns a few months ago. "At the back of every privilege there lie strange penalties; for every advance we make, all favors we enjoy, there is a certain price to pay in this mysterious world; it seems to be a law in this dark universe that with everything we gain we should lose something. I wish, then, to present one or two facts to you to view them in the light of noble penalties. And I trust it may help some to be more cheerfully courageous, which after all is one of life's greatest victories." With this laudable object in view our author treats his subject, very tenderly and helpfully. (The Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto. Price 35 cts. net.)

THE GIST OF THE LESSON, a concise exposition of the International Sunday School Lesson for 1905, by R. A. Torrey, is so well known as to require no lengthy notice at our hands. It is so "concise" as to be readily carried in the vest pocket. (Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto. Price 25 cts.)

OUR LATEST INVASION; An account of the influx of Roman Catholic orders into Great Britain, consequent upon the passage of the Association Bill in France. In this little book Mr. David Williamson, in response to numerous requests, has gathered into convenient shape a number of articles written for the Sunday at Home, which makes interesting, if not startling, reading for British Protestants. The writer makes a plea for authentic and complete statistics of the religious orders in Britain, which would give a basis for further action; all monastic institutions in the country should be open to thorough government inspection; no burials should be permitted to take place within the private grounds of monasteries and nunneries; and he concludes that "Great Britain must awake to the peril which this latest invasion brings, and must yield not one inch of Protestant ground to these foreign invaders who have been expelled from their native land as enemies to the common wealth." (Upper Canada Tract Society; price 35 cts.)

QUIET TALKS ON PRAYER; A new book by S. D. Gordon, will be gladly welcomed by all who have read his highly suggestive and deeply spiritual "Quiet Talks on Prayer." The meaning and mission of prayer are dealt with in a practical manner under the following headings: Prayer, the greatest outlet of Power; Prayer, the deciding Factor in a spirit conflict; The earth, the Battle-field in Prayer; Does Prayer influence God? The other general topics discussed are: Hindrances to Prayer, How to Pray, and Jesus' Habits of Prayer. This book, like its predecessor, will prove a blessing to thousands, and we heartily commend it to our readers. (The Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto. Price 75 cts. net.)

A SHORT HISTORY OF ANCIENT EGYPT, by Percy E. Newberry, and John Gars-

tang, Dana Estes and Company, Boston. The introductory note tells us that "The purpose of these pages is to present a short history of Ancient Egypt from the founding of the monarchy, until the disintegration of the empire three thousand years afterward." The authors of this work have done their work excellently, dividing the matter into eleven separate chapters with several sub-headings in each chapter. The opening chapter gives a general description of the country, then follow chapters on the various periods ending with the Persian invasion and the final conquest by Alexander. The book will prove of value to those who wish to gain an idea of the history of the great nations of the past, and who have not a great deal of time to spend in such study.

NANCY STAIR, by Elinor Macartney Lane. Poole Publishing Company, Toronto. In this "Novel" is worked out a remarkably good character sketch of Nancy Stair, the daughter of Lord Stair, who wrote remarkably good poetry, met Robert Burns, was wooed by a grand duke, and found her vocation in becoming wife of a commoner, and a happy mother. The story purports to be written by her father and shows the charming Nancy from the time she is a little girl of four or five already writing verse, up to the time when she gives up poetry to live it with the man she nearly lost through the eccentricities of her genius. The book has all the flavour of the eighteenth century, and has also a brightness and originality lacking in many works of modern fiction.

GOD'S GOOD MAN, by Marie Corelli, William Briggs, Toronto. Marie Corelli needs no introduction. She has been before the reading world for many years, and is, perhaps, one of the most talked of women writers of the present day. This book is, however, something of a departure from her usual style, being a simple love story with nothing unpleasant in it. The greatest objection one can raise is its length, nearly six hundred pages being rather too long to follow the ordinary love affair of even a most interesting couple. We can nevertheless congratulate Miss Corelli on having returned to the style which made her popular as the writer of "Thelma." The author's note at the first of the book, where she begs mercy, or at least fairness at the hands of critics and reviewers, is the most interesting part of the book, being quite original.

THE BINDWEED, a novel by Nellie K. Blissett, The Musson Book Company, Toronto. While the names of the principals in this book are fictitious the romance gives a graphic description of what happened to the King and Queen of Serbia, and gives the reader a clear insight into the intrigues that are constantly going on in the troubled state of the Balkans. The book is readable, but one feels that no good purpose, if no evil one, has been served by the writing of such a tragedy.