

*A Little Tour in France.* By HENRY JAMES. With illustrations by JOSEPH PENNELL. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xiii—350. Price, \$2.50.

This is not merely an elegant book for the holidays, but for all the days. It has the light impressionist touch of which Mr. James is such a master, and it is accompanied by exquisite sketches, executed in the same poetic spirit by that sympathetic artist, Mr. Pennell. And where will one find such quaint pictures of architecture, such romantic chateaux and impressive cathedrals, and picturesque gates and towers as in the valleys of the Loire and Rhone? Mr. James knows his France well and treats the theme with a lover-like tenderness. In no part of Europe outside of Italy are there so many old Roman remains. The amphitheatres of Nimes and Arles are in wonderful preservation, and the memorials of the heroic age of the Church, when weak women like Saint Perpetua and Saint Felicitas bade defiance to the persecuting power of pagan Rome, abound. The book recalls delightful memories of Avignon and Vaucluse, and of the quaint old towns of the picturesque Rhone valley. It is a delight to turn these cream-laid pages and to dream over the finely etched bits of highways and byways, castle and keep and cathedral close.

*The Religion of Democracy.* A Memorandum of Modern Principles. By CHARLES FERGUSON. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 170. Price, \$1.00.

This is an eloquent, too eloquent, we think, discussion of some of the principles of the new time. A calmer treatment would carry greater conviction. The author has lofty ideals, strong sympathy with the people, and an optimistic view of the future. "One empire," he says, "seems an inspiring possibility—a multiplicity of empires is mere unreason and the flow of fate." Yet there are perils that menace the present. "In the last mill of civilization the bodies of the poor are ground, but the oppressors also wear the yoke of servitude and are treading in the mill." "The name of the hour is Opportunity, and an infinite waiting for the coming of the poets and the artists

who shall rejoice in life on any terms, hearing the singing of the heart of God sending back a brave antiphonal across all the deserts and wildernesses of the world." We can hardly agree with the estimate that this is "one of the greatest books of the decade," that the author "probes as deep as Carlyle and smites with the strength of Ruskin."

*Eros and Psyche.* A Fairy Tale of Ancient Greece. Retold after Apuleius by PAUL CARUS. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xv-99. Price, \$1.00.

This story of Eros and Psyche is one of the most tender and beautiful of the Greek mythology. "It reflects," says Dr. Carus, "the life of classic antiquity more strongly than any other book, poem, or epic. It describes the attitude of man towards the problems of life, especially that problem of problems, the mystery of death and the fate of the soul in the unknown beyond. The Greek religion," he continues, "consisted in the performance of certain rites which were administered by the priests in the name of the state for the public benefit. Neither faith nor morality was required. But the performance of sacrifices and other ceremonies left the heart empty." The cravings of the soul led to the mysteries and secret teachings of Orpheus, Dionysus, and other deities. Dr. Carus tells once more the touching tale of a love reaching beyond the grave, with its suggestions and foregleams of immortality, not the full assurance of Christian confidence, but the cry of the human heart for life beyond the veil. The exquisite illustrations by Paul Thumann and the classic cover design, form a dainty setting for this ancient myth.

*Ecumenical Missionary Conference, New York, 1900.* Report of the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions, held in Carnegie Hall and neighbouring churches, April 21 to May 1. In two volumes. New York: American Tract Society. London: Religious Tract Society. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. Vol. I, 558; Vol. II, 484. \$1.50.

There is a strange significance in the fact that just on the eve of one of the most terrific persecutions and slaughter of the Christians of mission lands should