

escape ; to seek it out in a book and read it betrays vacuity of intellect, such as might come over a Klondyker after exhausting the Bible and Shakespeare, and finding nothing else to exercise not his mind but his eyes on. There are many people of more leisure than the Talker, perhaps of greater charity and larger daring ; but, like the Americans in Quebec, he has to surrender to "Weeping Ferry." It is too much for him.

John Kendrick Bangs has appeared at least twice in the Talks. "Coffee and Repartee" and "A Houseboat on the Styx" have been noticed with approbation. His present work is "Paste Jewels," and is a 16mo. of 202 pages, published by Harper & Brothers, of New York and London, at a dollar and a-quarter. In seven chapters, Mr. Bangs tells the story of Thaddeus and Bessie (he says it is a true story) and their domestic servants or hired help. Some of these had been recommended by employers, anxious to get rid of them, as jewels, but they turn out to be paste of the worst description. I did not find the book very entertaining, but members of my household were moved to mirth by it. Most domestic establishments are the scenes of such peculiar experiences in connection with the servant question that it would require a powerful imagination to beggar them. Yet, Ellen, and Mary, the English nurse 'Arriet, and Jane are very amusing characters to contemplate, though tiresome enough in real life. This would be a good book for a sewing or similar circle, not too evangelically superior to vanities, to have read to it, in order for a half-hour to convert the Willing Workers into the Cheerful Cherkers. There is something explosive in the very name of Bangs. Good students don't care for bangs, whether in the form of slamming doors or of any other noisy demonstration. Noise and thought cannot work together favourably.

"Shrewsbury," by Stanley Weyman, has 410 12mo. pages and 24 illustrations by Claude A. Shepperson, and is published in Longman's Colonial Library, represented in Canada by the Copp, Clark Co. of Toronto. This book teaches the