

"Return." A Story of the Sea Islands in 1739. By Alice MacGowan and Grace MacGowan Cooke. Authors of "The Last Word," etc. Illustrated. Toronto: The Copp, Clark & Co., Ltd. Pp. 544. Price, \$1.50.

This is an intensely dramatic and fascinating story. Its scene is laid in the early days of South Carolina and Georgia. The authors have made a careful study of the times, and the distinguished statesman Oglethorpe, and the great preacher George Whitefield appear prominently in its pages. Then as now the drink habit was the curse of mankind. A penitent sinner thus protests to Whitefield: "But the drink—the drink—the drink, man! Do you know what it is? It hath cast me out from my father's house, after I had disgraced him; it hath shamed me before every friend I ever possessed; and now it is losing me the woman I love. What must I do to be saved from it?"

The striking title of this book is the name given to a little lad, the son of its heroine, who, captured by the Indians, was happily restored to his parents, bringing with him reconciliation of estranged hearts. The authors are saturated with the old ballad literature of Scotland, and their chapter headings from these old ballads strikingly fit the movement of the story.

"A Thousand Miles in the Heart of Africa." A record of a visit to the Mission field of the Boer Church in Central Africa. By J. du Plessis, B.A., B.D. With two maps and twenty-nine illustrations. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 176. Price, 3s. 6d.

The literature of missions is of immense volume and value. Missionaries are in many lands the true pioneers of civilization. This book gives an illuminative account of a mission for which we did not give the Boers credit, one in Angoniland, in the heart of Central Africa. The book recites the trials and triumphs of mission effort in one of the most difficult regions of the world—regions smitten by fever, cursed with superstition and cruelty. Side-lights are thrown upon the Roman Catholic and Church of Scotland missions in the Dark Continent. The Blantyre Cathedral is a magnificent structure of stately architecture, which the writer says "astonishes us almost as much as would the discovery of a Madonna of Raphael in a native hut." There is for Africa a great

future, and it is an inspiration to read what has been accomplished, and a challenge to the Christian Church to take up the work which must yet be done. The book is handsomely illustrated.

"Christus in Ecclesia: Sermons on the Church and Its Institutions." By Hastings Rashdall, D.Litt., D.C.L. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: William Briggs.

The author of this book is a devout and scholarly representative of the Broad Church party in the Anglican communion. If their conceptions of ecclesiasticism prevailed, Nonconformists would have very little to complain of; differences would soon come within sight of adjustment. But amid all the differences of the three great parties, Evangelical, High Church, Broad Church, the one unifying conception after all is "The Church," and "The Establishment." Our author praises the Oxford Movement, with the High Church position of which he does not agree, for restoring "the idea of the Church," and believes that the Romanistic tendencies of the movement will die away. He then points out the "broad" idea of the eucharist, baptism, grace, and other great religious terms. Apostolic succession he opposes without if or but—and denounces the spirit that would unchurch nonconformist denominations, upon whose work the Spirit of God pours His blessing. He insists on the priesthood of all believers; the clergy being simply representative of the whole class, appointed to a work in the interest of the whole. He recognizes the good of the narrower views of the Evangelicals, and points out the fact that therein is often found intensity of Christian spirit which is not the characteristic of the party of "liberal theology."

At the same time truth must be the ultimate aim. They must give their message as they see it, and organize for greater effectiveness, for their weakness is in their isolation and timidity. If this presentation of church ideas does not quite fulfil the Divine ideal, it is certainly a sincere, devout, scholarly, yet simple presentation of one line along which holy men are thinking to-day, and which is not far from the central truth of the kingdom. The careful reading of this view cannot but be of immense service to our intelligent ministry, in preparation for the great world-conflict in which all Churches should unite, at least in appreciative sympathy. C. S. E.