Review of the Newest Books

By H. S. ROSS

"FARMINGTON." By Clarence Darrow, Attorney-at-Law, Chicago. Published by B. W. Huebsch, New York City. Price \$1.50.

This book is republished in response to the demand that has persisted since it was permitted to go out of print after its second edition some years ago. Besides being a narrative of the events that contribute to the joys and tribulations of youth and of the life of the countryside, it forms a chapter in rural sociology and thus of the authentic history of America. William Dean Howells said that FARMINGTON belongs with Tolstoi's Childhood, Boyhood; and Youth; perhaps it deserves the equally great compliment of comparison with Mr. Howell's classic. "A Boy's Town." Friends of Mr. Darrow will not be disappointed in their expectation of whimsicality, humor and a touch of philosophical cynicism, but it is all introduced gently and not so as to be incongruous in this fragile souvenir of a bygone

POLLY MASSON, by William H. Moore. J. M. Dent & Sons, Limited, London and Toronto. \$1.75.

In this novel the author of "The Clash" again shows that he has been a keen student of human nature and of the inner motives which move politicians and persons like Lady Bateman who help to make or mar the careers of public men.

William Larned, M.P., makes many shrewd statements as he passes from success to success.

Throughout the story the author gives us with a sugar coating his now well-known views of the so-called "Quebec problem."

Even when in lighter vein the style is chaste and dignified.

"A LAWYER'S STUDY OF THE BIBLE," by Sverett Pepperrell Wheeler, A.M. Publishers, Fleming H. Revell Co. Price, \$1.50 net.

The experience of a long and busy life has led the author to the conclusion that the principles of action which are taught in the Bible are wise; that they are the true foundations for right living; that they contain the principles according to which social reforms can be most wisely promoted and are, to use the words of Coleridge, "the best guide to political skill and foresight."

It seems to him that most of the errors into which religious people have fallen from age to age, have been occasioned by a partial and inadequate study of the Bible. If he is right in this it follows that it is a matter of great importance to know and follow the rules which should guide us in the interpretation of the Scriptures.

In the first chapter of this book the author has endeavoured to present these rules as we have been taught them by the greatest judges of England and America. In subsequent chapters he has endeavoured to state the conclusions upon many questions of present interest, to which a study of the Bible, according to these principles, has led his mind.

One of the objections to the present authority of the Scriptures he points is drawn from the great changes in human conditions since they were written. It is undoubtedly true that conditions change from age to age, and that rules which are wise in one generation often are not susceptible of literal application in another. But, on the other hand, the fundamental principles of human conduct, and the moral laws of God are unchangeable.

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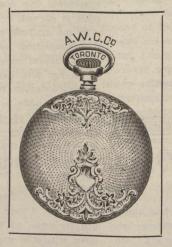
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