

longer serve the purpose for which they were intended. These facts Mr. Pritchett substantiates in detail by statistics which must give pause to every advocate of the denominational college; for they make it plain that as a class such institutions when compared with either privately endowed or tax-supported undenominational colleges are a lamentable failure. The theory that a church has "peculiar fitness and efficiency as an educational agency" may be dismissed in a few words. It is based on the absurd assumption that a college may be properly controlled by another organization, the primary object of which is not education, but the propagation of a certain religious faith. The secondary object is in the long run bound to be subordinated to the primary. President Pritchett's conclusion, then is that the wisest way is for the church to exert its influence in the college just as it exerts it in the community "by helpful co-operation, by Christian friendliness, by sympathetic fellowship." From this view, few men who are not passionate sectarians will dissent.

#### "THE COIGN OF VANTAGE."

The Rev. Dr. Herridge, of St. Andrew's Church, Ottawa, has just completed his semi-jubilee; he gained his position when he was quite a youth, and has maintained it with increasing credit to himself and advantage to his congregation; many who were not able to be present at the celebration will congratulate both minister and people on the happy event and pray a relationship so living may long endure. In these days of change, length of service is in itself a testimony to stability of character and consistency of life. To minister steadily and successfully in the central position held by Dr. Herridge he needed to be what The Interior correctly says that he is "a man of intellectual and spiritual power. His addresses are eminently fitted to stimulate Christian manhood and to impart spiritual insight." In these brief essays full wisdom imparted in a light charming style Dr. Herridge gives his point of view, shows his way of looking at life, and sets forth his ideal and interpretation of this drama, that we call human life. The cynical critic might hastily catch at the title, as revealing the tone of "the superior person," but the writer's modesty would soon drive away that kind of prejudice. "He claims no merit for standing in what he regards as 'The Coign of Vantage,' but will be glad if there is enough truth in his vision to be of some little service to others who, like him, not merely watch the world-drama, but have to take their place in it."

In these essays the author embodies in various forms that which he has represented in his ministry, namely, a well-balanced life. He has no admiration for "the falsehood of extremes." As a wise man, he would of course admit that the man of one idea has a place, and that much good has been accomplished by those whom the world has branded as "faddists" and "fanatics," but he himself aims after a real comprehensiveness, a noble tolerance, a true symmetry. Yet the author has his own dreams (see the last essay: A Christmas Dream), he has not lost enthusiasm and become a cool self-satisfied critic, but these are dreams of larger freedom and more cordial co-operation. In fact while sanity or balance is the mark that the reviewers note in these essays, it is well to remember that the writer has recognized the need of positive enthusiasm and secret inspirations. "These cherished

inspirations in a large measure determine what names shall appear on the roll of the immortals. Galileo vehemently suspected of heresy and condemned to imprisonment at the pleasure of his judges, still held to the truth, that his labors had revealed, and so opened the door to a wider acquaintance with Nature's laws. Exiled from Florence, and disinherited by his fellow countrymen, Dante would never have written the *Divina Commedia* but for the stirrings of unselfish patriotism and of pure love for the gentle Beatrice. Savonarola thundered forth his warring messages, and at last dared the fires of martyrdom because his vehement nature always kept before it the image of a regenerated church in which every unwholesome fettering of conscience should be destroyed, &c."; and so on through a very noble inspiring passage which we invite the reader to ponder for himself in the chapter entitled "Secret Inspirations." We wish the book all success; it is suitable for these grey days and for brighter days as well. While there is a general point of view giving a certain unity to the contribution, each essay may be taken by itself and found suggestive and stimulating.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

The age of romance in missions is by no means passing away. Heroes on the field are as numerous today, if not more so, than at any period since the dawn of the missionary enterprise over a century ago. To this company, Dr. Grenfell, of Labrador belongs, to whose unremitting and unwearying labors is due the marvellous work established in that wild and desolate region under the care of the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen. The life of Dr. Grenfell and the nature of the work he has been enabled to perform is graphically told by James Johnston, A.T.S., in a neat volume just published by the Mueson Book Company, Limited, of Toronto. The book contains a portrait of the missionary, map and numerous illustrations. "Grenfell in Labrador" should be found in every Sunday school library throughout the wide Dominion. The book will make a suitable Christmas present to young or old. The price is 50 cents.

The life of Jesus of Nazareth portrayed in Colors; 80 pictures by William Hole, R.S.A., R.S. Price, \$2.50.

This attractive looking book is sure to prove a popular Christmas gift. In paper printing and binding the publishers (The Mueson Book Company, Toronto), leave nothing to be desired, while the 80 full page colored plates make it a beautiful work of art. Of this feature of the book Mr. Hole, in a prefatory note modestly says: "In these pictures I have aimed at the realization of nothing more than was visible to the outward eye of a contemporary assuming the attitude of a follower of the prophet of Nazareth, who observed and recorded the incidents of his daily life, his mighty works and no less marvellous teaching, but with that dull perception of the profound significance of these things which was shared even by his chosen disciples." Dr. George Adam Smith, author of the "Historical Geography of the Holy Land," in an introductory chapter, awards the artist high praise. "Every one who knows the land and the atmosphere will feel them again in these pictures," says Professor Smith. And then the pictures are illustrated and illumined by the Biblical narrative.

This is no ordinary book that may or may not reach subsequent editions from the laudations of the press. As a matter of fact, it has already passed the ordeal of the critics, that is, the critics who conscientiously mature their judgment, on a piece of art or literature, not from what it is not or might have been, but from what it actually is. The consensus of these critics, men of the very highest literary standing, has been that Dr. Harper's "Champlain" is a lasting bit of Canadian literature, worthy a place in every library, public or private—a literary production that may possibly, after a generation or two has come and gone, become an object of study in our schools and colleges, strengthening to our assured Canadianism. Dr. G. R. Parkin of Rhodes' Scholarship connection and a Canadian of the highest gifts as an orator and biographer, has lately been calling for a Canadian epic, even in face of Mr. Andrew Carnegie's doubts whether a colony is ever likely to produce such a thing. Has either of these gentlemen ever read Mair's "Teumseh," John Reade's "Prophecy of Merlin" or some of our own Wilfred Campbell's dramatic productions? What is wanting in a colony is perhaps not the poetic talent but the critical appreciation which encourages the fullest development of that talent. Dr. Harper's critics, it may be said, have not unkindly thrown aside his latest production upon or under the heap of "ephemerals" that crowd their review tables from week to week, but have evidently taken pains to discover what there is in it of a lasting literature; and now it remains for the reading public of Canada to find out for themselves what there is in it, as a lifting up towards the higher literary areas which make for "life and breath and all things" in our Canadianism. We have not space to discuss Dr. Harper's work in the details of a full criticism. That it is a work of high literary art and careful finish has been attested by others more capable of judging than we are. That we can truthfully say of it is what it carries one away from the dryasdust region of historic names and memorabilia into a living atmosphere of men and women busied in the actual making of history. Dr. Harper's pen brings us into the very presence of the pioneers of New France, with the lines of each character in careful perspective, and with historic events been woven under within its covers all the details sufficient to make every pentameter picture in it self interpreting; and we feel assured that every reader, who does not pride himself in his neglect of the study of poetry, boasting of it as if it were a virtue, will find a pleasure and profit in reading Dr. Harper's "Champlain" from beginning to end and even then after careful study of it. One of the author's critics, who has placed on record his opinion of the book, says: "I have re-read Dr. Harper's splendid epic with renewed and sustained interest, and its re-reading has but deepened my appreciation of the work and my admiration for the author's genius." This is panegyric which one could make too much of or too little. It comes from a writer of books himself, and one of the highest literary standing. Placing it alongside of our candid opinion, we accept it as a candid opinion. Yet, for all that, it need not prevent the conscientious reader from examining the book for himself and thus help in the removing of the reproach against Canadians that they are a little inclined to turn their backs on the best that is in our own literature or that is in the way of coming into it.

\*Champlain, a drama, by Dr. J. M. Harper. Publishers: Frederick Warne & Co., London; John Lane Company, New York; William Briggs, Toronto.

\*"The Coign of Vantage," by W. T. Herridge. Fleming H. Revell & Co., Toronto and New York.