

## Book Review.

BOYS AT EASTWICK, by M. E. Griffith, author of "Leaves and Fruit."  
James Bain & Son, Toronto.

This is a story of school-boy life,—school-boys seemingly American, and rather precious mischief-makers. We are initiated into Academy life at "quiet, quaint Eastwick," just at an important point in the history of that institution—the resignation of the old teacher, and the engagement of a new one. The heroes of the story are three,—Charlie Cummings, the most popular of the school; Frank Birney, a motherless boy; and Fred Rivers a cousin of Charlie's, living with his aunt Mrs. Cummings. Perhaps we should add to the list Nick Flanagan, a little obscure Irish boy.

The boys of the Academy think that the change of masters is a good opportunity for asserting their independence, and resolve to show the new teacher from the outset, that he is not to carry much authority over them. The first day's events, however, show him a firm but Christian disciplinarian, and the boys begin to despair of accomplishing much towards emancipation from the supposed tyranny. Charlie and Fred have taken the lead, and are heartily ashamed of themselves before the day closes. Frank also is involved in a mischief-making scheme, and here the contemptible character of this hero is brought out in his sneaking away ashamed to confess his fault with the other boys. The course of events goes on, and Frank is sinking deeper in trouble, until he succeeds in throwing all blame of several of his disgraceful actions on poor Nick Flanagan. Frank is soon after detected "cheating" at the examination, and little by little the whole black catalogue of his lies and deceptions is brought to light by Nick's account of his having seen Frank's doings while hidden behind the school door. With disgrace comes remorse, and Frank runs away from home. In the confusion resulting from the discovery of his absence, his sister Nellie is severely burnt by the upsetting of a lamp, and when Frank is brought home next day, he finds his sister near death. She recovers, but hobbles along on crutches ever after. This is the turning point in her brother's life, and he made a resolution to reform.

The author pays a visit to Eastwick some years after, and finds Frank Birney a clergyman, Fred Rivers the doctor, and Charlie Cummings a practising barrister in Philadelphia. Here are the concluding words of this admirable little book:—

"So, thinking of Eastwick and all its changes, the brave words of the grand apostle come to me like a refrain:

*"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*