

## THE BOOK PAGE

**The Church and Men** is the suggestive title of a substantial volume of equally substantial lectures delivered before the students and faculty of the Presbyterian College, Halifax, by Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith, of Fredericton, N.B. (Broadway Publishing Co., New York, for sale also by Westminster Company, Toronto, 222 pages, \$1.50). Dr. Smith describes himself "as one who was one of the great army of working men, and is now seeking to bring the gospel message to his fellows." He discusses in detail the Questions, Is the Church losing her hold of men; and why? and finds the church's main fault to lie in the church herself; she has not done for the men who need her most what her divine commission lays upon her to do. The way back is, that the church shall preach a more social gospel, stand for a more modern and comprehensive view of life, and become a more potent factor in living problems, as the labor question, temperance, municipal and vital affairs. Especially for the younger ministers, and the younger laymen who desire to see the church rise to the full measure of her responsibility for, and hold upon, men, Dr. Smith's volume will do a high service. The discussion is full and candid, and a valuable list of books for further reading on the subject is appended.

Professor William Frederick Osborne's book, **The Faith of a Layman** (Cassell & Company, Toronto, 238 pages, price \$1.00), carries as a sub-title *Studies in the Recoil from a Professionalized Religion*. It consists of a series of essays of a popular sort. The prevailing theme is the impotence of the church because of its professionalism. The ministry is severely arraigned, the laymen less severely, but still pointedly and in abundant detail. The author, who writes with "a flowing pen", is often extreme, but he has said many things that need to be said, and said them with a sufficient edge upon them to make them interesting and to provoke discussion. It is not difficult to sympathize with his call for "a new conviction, a new heroism and a new passion of sincerity". Professor Osborne is a Winnipeg man, and well knows that the Christianity that is to win the West must be no mere dead form, but vital and aggressive.

A book with the title, **Nerves and Common Sense** (The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 280 pages, \$1.25 net) should have a wide sale, if it reaches every one who suffers from "nerves". The book justifies the title. "Give up resentment, give up unhealthy resistance", is its sum and substance. "Healthy yielding" is another way of putting it; and the principle is applied through twenty brief, breezy chapters to all the everyday worries which are answerable for "nerves".

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's visit to Canada a season or two since, has borne fruit in a love story, **Lady Merton, Colonist** (Musson Book Company, Toronto, 351 pages, two illustrations, \$1.25). The interest turns chiefly on the awakening of Lady Elizabeth Merton, "a product of the utmost culture, refinement and luxury of English aristocratic life". When on an across-the-continent tour with an invalid younger brother, she is brought into contact with George Anderson, a resolute, out-of-doors young

Canadian pioneer railway builder and farmer. The story is told in Mrs. Ward's characteristic style, with a magnificent setting, in the earlier and closing chapters, of the great north and west land of the Laurentides and prairies and Rockies. Lady Merton, as the wife of George Anderson, is a charming colonist. The book shows the author's enthusiasm for our new West, and will have a host of Canadian readers.

Scriptural giving is a subject of perennial interest. Rev. W. J. Fowler's volume, **Grace and Gold** (News Publishing Company, Truro, N.S., for sale also by Presbyterian Publications, 60 Bond St., Toronto, 191 pages, 85c.), seeks "to show from the scriptures something of God's revealed plan for the maintenance of His church, and something of the definiteness of His claims upon our substance." The discussion is fresh and thorough. It opens up the scriptures in detail upon the matter of giving. The book is timely and has been highly recommended by such leaders in the church as Rev. Dr. A. Falconer, former Moderator of the General Assembly, and Rev. Principal Gandier, Convener of the General Assembly's Committee on Systematic Giving.

What is Presbyterianism? is a question to which every member of the Presbyterian Church will desire to be able to give an answer. He would wish to know the doctrines, the principles of worship and the form of government for which his church stands. **The Presbyterian Church**, by W. M. Macphail, M.A., General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church of England (Hodder and Stoughton, London, U. C. Tract Society, Toronto, 282 pages, \$1.50), affords a clear and full statement of Presbyterian belief and practice. Does any minister contemplate a series of sermons or addresses on the specific views of our own church? Or does any Bible Class teacher wish to take up that subject with his class? This book will be found of great service.

An exceptionally interesting volume of sermons from Hodder & Stoughton's list has been received from the Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto. The Sermons are by the well-known Glasgow preacher, G. H. Morrison, and is entitled **The Return of the Angels** (335 pages, \$1.35 net). The sermons are Sunday evening sermons, designed expressly "to catch the attention of some at least of that vast class of people who to-day sit lightly by the church." The titles are striking, such as *The Slowness of God*, *The Correspondences of the Deep*, *Our Duty to our Equals*, *Desertion and Drudgery*, and *Vision and Drudgery*. As with all G. H. Morrison's work, the sermons are bright, vigorous and wholesome.

**The Man Who Stole the Earth** is a breezy extravaganza on air-ships and aeroplanes by W. Holt-White, author of *The Earthquake* (Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, 382 pages, \$1.25). *Czars and Kaisers*, not to speak of lesser rulers, are simply flies to be caught with a whisk of the hand by the man who controls the powerful aeroplane fleet; that is the substance of the story, which is briskly told. For a summer day under the beeches, or in the shade of the veranda, *The Man who Stole the Earth* is an enticing companion.