

Recreations. By E. A. STAFFORD, A. B. Pp. 96. Methodist Book Rooms: Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price 35 cents.

We did not suspect our keen, clear, logical and eloquent friend, the ex-president of the Montreal Conference, of being a devotee of the muse of poetry. Yet he has given in this dainty volume, striking evidence of no small degree of poetic "afflatus." The longest poem, entitled "Homeward," is a somewhat pensive meditation on a visit to the scenes of the author's childhood. It is largely autobiographic, and the record of home affections, purified by time and hallowed by death, and the meditations at the graves of the dear departed, will touch many a heart.

A deep vein of religious feeling runs through the whole, and finds expression in such lines as these:—

O faith that burns, eternally renewed,
While mortal bodies fail—their strength
subdued!
O light from heaven that shines along
the road,
As fainting men yearn upwards with
their load;
O bliss! O crown that ends the pilgrim's
strife!
The weary rest, and death is endless life!

Some lighter and more cheery strains follow, including some charming album contributions—one or two of which we shall take the liberty to quote elsewhere. The last poem—"The Discontented Knight," "a Burlesque on the Invincibility of Ignorance and Preconceived Opinion," reveals a vein of humour of which we did not suspect our grave and reverend friend. The volume will prove a charming *souvenir* of the author to his many friends in the east as he is about to remove to the far west.

Lorenzo, and Other Poems. By J. E. POLLOCK, B.A. Pp. 117. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

The most striking poem in this dainty book of verse is that which gives it its name—a poem which owes its inspiration to Coleridge's weird "Rime of the Ancient Ma-

riener." Without being in any sense an imitation of that wonderful poem, it has many points of similarity, especially in its bold and striking imagery. Several of the other poems breathe a spirit of strong patriotism, especially those on Wolfe, Waterloo, Alexandria, and Tel-el-Keber. We cordially welcome such contributions to the more æsthetic department of Canadian literature.

Within the Veil. By the REV. JAS. CASWELL. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

This is a thoughtful and judicious pamphlet on Entire Sanctification, as illustrated in its principles and privileges, and way of attainment, by the entering of the High Priest of the Old Dispensation into the Holy of Holies. This beautiful exposition of an important passage of Holy Scripture will benefit both the head and heart of all who read it.

Parables from Nature. By Mrs. ALFRED GATTY. First and second series. 8mo. pp. 288, 276. New York: G. P. Putnam. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

These books are unique in our literature. They have no parallel, so far as we know, in their graceful and delicate fancy, and in their strange psychological sympathy with inferior animals. They resemble more the charming fables of La Fontaine, or the animal studies of Michelet, or Theophile Gautier, than anything in our language. But they have a depth of religious feeling, and convey a religious teaching unequalled by any French writer that we know, except, perhaps, the Countess de Gasparin. Mrs. Gatty's bird talk, and flower thoughts are exquisite, her sympathy with nature is very keen, and we may learn not a little of both science and religion from her pages. Her parables are charming prose poems, and these dainty blue and gold volumes are a worthy setting for such literary gems. Older scholars, especially the young ladies in our schools, will find these books open new avenues of profit and delight in the study and interpretation of nature.