

Odds and Ends; or, Gleanings from Missionary Life. By Rev. C. H. WHEELER, D.D. Pp. 202. Price \$1.25. Boston: Congregational Publishing Society.

In the historical sketches given of the various missions many things are left out concerning which people have a strong desire to know. Dr. Wheeler was made aware by the inquiries put to him that some information should be given concerning habits, customs, modes of dealing with various problems arising in missionary work, etc. Hence this book, which is a gathering up of the odds and ends of missionary life, rather than a systematic presentation of the mission work in the Harpoot field. Those who have read Dr. Wheeler's other books need not be told that this is breezy, full of humour and of seriousness, brilliant at times, and never dull. It is just the book to increase the interest of the young in missions. It has several good engravings.

The Lost Tide. By JESSIE PATRICK FINLAY. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.

The purpose of this book is to illustrate the *dictum* of Shakespeare:

There is a tide in the affairs of men,
Which, taken at its flood, leads on to
fortune;

Omitted, all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in misery.

It is a strongly-written story of Scottish life. The rich Doric vernacular is admirably given. One of the episodes, which we quote elsewhere, would make a strong temperance tract. Another phrase of Shakespeare's well describes the motive of the tale:

The flighty purpose ne'er is overtook
Unless the deed go with it.

Chronicles of the St. James' Street Methodist Church, Montreal. By G. E. JAQUES, jun. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 116.

This admirable memorial volume

of this time-honoured church did not come under our notice till after the descriptive article on the same subject in another part of this MAGAZINE was in type for the press. We procured the cuts several months ago for immediate use, but absence from home prevented the fulfilment of that purpose till the present time. Our brief article is, however, in no sense a substitute for Mr. Jaques' handsome volume. Every Methodist in Montreal, and many outside of it, ought to have a copy of his beautiful *souvenir* of this grand old church, whose history is to a large extent the history of Lower Canadian Methodism for over eighty years. The book is compiled with excellent taste and indefatigable industry, and is beautifully printed.

LITERARY NOTES.

We have received from Theo. Robinson, publisher, Montreal, a parcel of books to which we can give only a qualified approval. They are legibly printed and cheap—25 and 30 cents—but for a popular Canadian library we would prefer that books of more permanent value had been chosen. Among these books are the now famous "Letters from Heaven" and "Letters from Hell." The latter appeared over twenty years ago in Denmark, and was recently introduced to English readers by the popular author, George Macdonald. We think the themes of these books too solemn to be treated in a familiar manner, in song or sermon, in story or picture. Hence our sensibilities recoil from both Dore's and Dante's representations of the after-world as an attempt to be wise above what is written, which the reverent reticence of Scripture rebukes. Howard Pyle's "Adventures of Captain John Macra" has literary merit and is a good imitation of eighteenth century style, but the subject is an unpleasant one. Amélie Rive's fantastic story, "The Quick or the Dead," is written, in our judgment, in wretched taste, and is a sad falling off from the merit of that gifted author's "Brother of Dragons" and other stories.