

by the Fleming H. Revell Company, and Messrs. Drysdale sell it for two dollars. Its distinguished author is the Rev. W. A. P. Martin, D.D., LL.D., President Emeritus of the Imperial Tungwen College, &c. &c. A Chinese cycle is sixty years, and as within that period, dating back from the present, the chief events of China's relations with the western powers have taken place, Dr. Martin set himself the task of writing the history of that term, largely from a personal standpoint. His large acquaintance with the Flowery Land, both north and south, as well as with its rulers and distinguished men of all classes, together with a happy facility of expression, eminently fitted him for its accomplishment, so that we have in this volume one of the most bright, attractive, and at the same time, instructive books ever written on China. He has something to say concerning missions, but the book deals with topography, scenes and incidents, language and education, politics, diplomacy, war, commerce, manners and customs, and many things beside. Dr. Martin seems to be pre-eminently a fair man, unlike the envoy to Japan, Townsend Harris. He says for instance, alluding to the ill treatment of foreigners by the Chinese: "The conflict that put an end to this cowardly policy bears the malodorous name of the "opium war," conveying an impression that it was waged by England for the sole purpose of compelling the Chinese to keep an open market for that product of her Indian, poppy-fields. Nothing could be more erroneous." Whereupon he proceeds to tell what the real causes were, and all who wish to know these and a hundred more interesting items of importance should get and read *A Cycle of Cathay*, which costs much less and will improve the mind more than a bi-cycle.

Having finished my nine duty books, I may turn to those I have read in the intervals of gardening, bushwhacking, preaching, and visiting mission stations, to say nothing of voting for my unsuccessful friend in the McCarthyite ranks, Colonel O'Brien. One is *The House-Boat on the Styx* by John Kendrick Bangs. This is a very pretty and very funny