

However strong denominational attachments may properly be, it is a cheering sign to see these brethren dwelling for a season in such visible unity. These harmonious assemblages are doubtless prophetic of better and greater things to come.

The subjects discussed at the Washington meeting of the Alliance were all of them present-day questions. This fact is not without its significance. It shows that the best thinkers in the various Churches have their attention earnestly directed to the vital needs of the time. They look at them in the light of Christianity, and endeavour to bring its just and righteous principles to bear on the solution of the intricate problems arising out of the complexities of modern civilization. The subjects that came up for consideration were by pre-arrangement grouped under the heads of the Perils, the Resources and the Responsibilities of the present time. Under the first of these the city as a peril, the perils of immigration, estrangement from the Church, Ultramontanism, the saloon, immorality and the labour question were carefully and thoroughly discussed in a most excellent spirit. The resources of the country were enumerated as consisting in the Christian character of the nation, distinctive Christian benevolence, voluntary support of Christian institutions, higher education, common schools, the Christian Sabbath, financial and material wealth, numerical strength, missions, the utilized energies of womanhood, the power of the press, the latent power in numbers, in power of work, divine promises and the Holy Spirit. The necessity of co-operation in Christian work was ably discussed from various points of view, and called forth many excellent thoughts both sentimental and practical. The closing theme was individual responsibility. Thus it will be seen that a wide range of most interesting and valuable topics were considered during the three days that the Alliance was in session. When the papers read are revised and published in authentic form, they will be read by many who were unable to be present, but who are deeply interested in the questions that occupied the attention of the assemblage at Washington.

Of course the meeting would have been incomplete without the customary but very pleasant receptions now a part of the etiquette of all such gatherings. At the appointed time the delegates formed in procession, and marched to the White House, where they were presented to the President, who, in response to the address delivered by William E. Dodge, the chairman of the Alliance, made a happy little speech.

Among the Presbyterian delegates who attended and took a prominent part in the proceedings, the names of Dr. S. J. McPherson, of Chicago; Dr. A. T. Pierson, of Philadelphia; President McCosh, Dr. L. T. Chamberlain, of Brooklyn, and Dr. Moses D. Hoge, of Richmond, may be mentioned.

Books and Magazines.

THE LIBRARY MAGAZINE. (New York. John B. Alden.)—This remarkably cheap publication presents its readers with the best selections from the current periodical literature of the day.

THE PANSY. (Boston: D. Lothrop Company.)—Among the many competitors for public favour the *Pansy*, as a suitably entertaining and instructive magazine for young readers, has worthily held a foremost place. The December number is decidedly a thing of beauty.

FROM SHORE TO SHORE. (Philadelphia. The American Sunday School Union.)—This is intended as a neat but inexpensive gift-book, suitable for the season. It sketches briefly in verse the voyage of life. The book is well printed, tastefully bound and illustrated.

WIDE AWAKE. (Boston: D. Lothrop Company.)—The December number of the widely known and appreciated magazine for young people is a splendid one. In the full sense of the term it is a holiday number. Author and artist have vied with each other in doing their best, and the result is a brilliant success. The present number begins the twenty-sixth volume.

THE CAPTAIN OF THE JANIZARIES. By James M. Ludlow. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls: Toronto: William Briggs.)—This is a well-written story of the times of Scanderbeg and the fall of Constantinople. There are many striking scenes in the course of the

most interesting narrative. The conditions of life at the time and place described are of a most vivid character.

SEVERAL DISTINGUISHED SOLDIERS of the Civil War, including General Horace Porter, General Alfred Pleasonton, Colonel J. S. Mosby and Colonel T. W. Higginson, will contribute a series of articles to the *Youth's Companion* during the coming year, on "Boys in the Army." The articles will be full of incidents, and designed to illustrate the valour and the peculiarities of young soldiers.

PEOPLE'S LESSON BOOK ON THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW. By Rev. Edwin Rice, D.D. (Philadelphia. The American Sunday School Union.)—This little work is designed to help Sabbath schools, families and individuals in the study of the Gospel according to Matthew. It is plain, simple, direct and the matter well arranged. Much useful information is also conveyed. There is a short Bible dictionary appended.

THE BOW IN THE CLOUDS, or, Words of Comfort for those in Sickness, Sorrow and the Varied Afflictions of Life. Edited by Rev. J. E. Sanderson, D.D. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—This most admirable work will doubtless have a blessed ministry. It has been compiled with great care and insight for the wants of all afflicted ones. The sources whence selections are drawn are very varied, and all of the best. Dr. William M. Taylor writes an introduction to the work.

SONGS OF WORSHIP FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. Edited by Waldo S. Pratt. (New York: The Century Co.)—It is with genuine pleasure that we commend this publication to public favour, of which in every respect it is most worthy. In the selection of hymns and tunes, the greatest care has been bestowed, that only the best should find a place in its pages. Rightly used, it will prove a valuable aid to worship and the cultivation of a reverent and devotional spirit. In appearance, typography and binding, it is admirable.

LETTERS FROM HEAVEN. Second edition. Translated from the fourth German edition. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—This is intended as a companion volume to the "Letters From Hell," which attracted so much attention a short time since. Though the conception of such works may be questionable, the matter contained in this one is free from objection. The Letters are supposed to be written by a mother in heaven to her son on earth. The book contains a number of fine passages, and is well worth reading.

SUNDAY EVENINGS AT ELMRIDGE. By Ella Rodman Church. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—In this number of the "Elmridge Series" we turn away from the fields of nature to the Holy Scriptures. We have here the Sunday evening talks of the young governess with her little people. The talks are about the children of the Bible. The stories are well told, in a familiar, conversational way. The book will be an admirable one for mothers to read to their children on the Sabbath evenings. It will instruct them, at the same time kindling interest and inspiring good and true thoughts.

FRIEND McDONALD. By Max O'Rell. (Toronto: Williamson & Co.)—M. Blouet, the real Max O'Rell, now on a lecture tour in America, has given to the world several piquant and readable books. The latest deals with Scotland. It possesses all the epigrammatic brilliancy and force of "John Bull and his Island." Max O'Rell has a kindly feeling for the inhabitants of North Britain, and on the whole treats them fairly. His humour is bright and sparkling. One thing, however, he does not understand—that is, the religious side of Scottish life and character. The stories he tells, as they have been told to him, are simple exaggerations, and in no degree interpret the deep and true religious feeling that has made Scotland what it is.

AFTER THE FAILURE; or, A Loss and A Gain. By Annette Lucille Noble. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—It was a bad failure which involved others besides the family of Mr. Barton. It was a dishonest failure, too. Doris was suddenly thrown out of a home of luxury, and compelled to think and act for herself. Her misfortune was the making of her. She met it calmly, with common sense and with readiness for hard work, and she grew in time to rich beauty and strength. This is the pith

of the story, but there are others in it who have misfortunes also, who meet their misfortunes in varying ways, with varying results. This book is well written, and is full of life-thoughts which should prove of great value particularly to young people.

WIDENING CIRCLES. By Minnie E. Kenney. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—This is a story of Christian work, not in the large organized way, but work of one person in a small field, chiefly with one family. One young girl comes home from school with a purpose in her heart to make her life useful. She begins on about as hopeless a set of objects as one ordinarily finds. There is a family of neighbours who through drink and indolence have gotten down almost as low as possible. Our young friend takes hold first of a ragged boy belonging to the household and puts a little inspiration into him. Then through him she reaches his father and mother, both drunkards, and through her influence they were all lifted up. The story is full of practical suggestions on ways of individual helpfulness and missionary service.

ROMANISM AND THE REFORMATION. From the Standpoint of Prophecy. By H. Grattan Guinness, F. R.G.S. (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son; Toronto: Upper Canada Bible and Tract Depository.)—Mr. Guinness writes with great clearness and force on a subject of very important practical interest. The present volume is a presentation in permanent form of the series of lectures delivered by him under the auspices of the Protestant Educational Institute in Exeter Hall. The chapters of the work are devoted to the presentation of the following topics: The Daniel Foreview of Romanism, Paul's Foreview of Romanism, John's Foreview of Romanism, Interpretation and Use of these Prophecies in Pre-Reformation, Reformation and Post-Reformation Times, and Double Foreview of the Reformation. The work merits thoughtful reading.

THE HEIR OF ATHOL A Story. By Julia McNair Wright. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication.)—Really this is a story of a tramp. Barry is not an antic play of fancy. He represents the intense heathenism that marches side by side with the splendid enlightenment of the nineteenth century. Barry arrives at manhood so thoroughly let alone by both Church and State that his soul possesses as little as is possible besides its original innate ideas, while his native disposition is harmless. Here he comes in contact with the Bible and with religion, and we see the development of his soul-life. The book has a purpose—to call attention to the problem of the tramp-class. The story is well written. Philip's young life that runs alongside of Barry's has its own interest. It will be good for older people as well as the young to read this book.

IS THERE SALVATION AFTER DEATH? A Treatise on the Gospel of the Intermediate State. By E. D. Morris, D.D., LL.D. Second edition. (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son; Toronto: Upper Canada Bible and Tract Depository.)—The great interest attaching to the inquiries concerning future probation has turned much attention to the subject. The volume by Dr. Morris is a clear and able argument in behalf of the orthodox view on this subject. The argument is comprised within reasonable compass, and cannot fail to interest and instruct the reader. The first chapter is introductory, and is followed by others dealing with Testimony of Particular Scriptures, General Testimony of Scripture, The Witness of Christian Symbolism, The Witness of Christian Theology and The Witness of Christian Experience. An Index of Topics and References is given.

THE SOCIAL QUESTION. In the Light of History and the Word of Truth. By Rev. John H. Oester, D.D. (New York: E. Glaeser.)—The author of this thoughtful work has devoted earnest attention to the important subject on which he has written in a temperate spirit. He has mastered most of the important German works bearing on the labour question. The chapters of the book were delivered as a series of lectures under the provision of the Vedder Lectureship of the Reformed Church in America, at the special suggestion of the faculty of the Theological Seminary at New Brunswick, N. J. The subject is discussed in the following order: The social question in the Old and the New Testament and during the various times of servitude, the social question under the reign of free competition, socialism as to its development, its tenets and purposes, a critique of socialism, and a solution of the social question.