

*Marion's Mission; or, The Influence of Sunday Schools.* By EMMA LESLIE. 16mo., pp. 283.

*The Sunshine of Blackpool.* By EMMA LESLIE. 16mo., pp. 239.

IN these companion books the accomplished author of the Church History Series proves her ability to treat the social problems of our complex modern civilization with as graphic power as those religious aspects of the past, in the delineation of which she has won such a distinguished reputation. The first gives an account of the sufferings, sometimes rising into tragic pathos, of the Lancashire operatives during the cotton famine, caused by the American civil war. The gloom of those dark days was illumined by the special efforts made for the religious instruction and social elevation of the sufferers. And the sympathies of those toiling thousands never swerved from the cause of liberty, although the anti-slavery war was snatching the bread out of their very mouths.

The second story has its scene among the nail makers of the "Black Country." The material dreariness of the region is a symbol of the moral desolation too prevalent. Child-life in a nailer's village, sent to the forge at eight or nine years of age, must be a very sad experience. Drunkenness, ignorance, and coarseness are their environment. Yet their spiritual interests are not entirely neglected. The story records the success of a young lady in carrying sunshine and religious and secular instruction to those dark abodes of poverty and toil.

These books widen our horizon of human suffering, deepen our sympathies, and are a moral stimulus to effort for the welfare of our fellow-beings.

*The Canadian Question.* By WILLIAM NORRIS, late Captain of Canadian Volunteers. 8vo., pp. 90. Montreal: Lovell & Co.

IN his estimate of the future of

Canada, Mr. Norris very properly regards its religious character as an important element. He considers that the predominant Church of the future will be, as it already is in the United States, the Methodist Church. Its aggressive character, its firm discipline, its enterprise without recklessness, its piety without fanaticism, its weight without obstinacy, its adaptation to the necessities of the country conspire to produce this result.

Its increase during the last census decade was 27 per cent., that of the Presbyterian Church was 19 per cent., of the Roman Catholic 8'7, and the Church of England only 6'2. Its recent tendency to unification and independence of the mother Church in Great Britain help to cultivate a spirit of Canadian nationalism.

While there is much in Mr. Norris's pamphlet that we approve, we cannot accept his conclusions as to the desirability of Canadian Independence at an early day.

*The Devil's Chain.* By EDWARD JENKINS. Methodist Book Room, Toronto, Montreal, Halifax.

THIS story, like the prophet's scroll, is full of lamentation and weeping and woe—a tale of sin and sorrow and suffering. He who reads it "sups full of horrors"—horrors, alas! which are but too real around us on every side. It cannot fail to arouse an intenser detestation of the evils of intemperance.

*Nature's Power to Heal.* By WM. CANNIFF, M.D., M.R.C.S.E. Prepared for the Canadian Medical Association.

IN this interesting pamphlet, Dr. Canniff gives some striking illustrations of the wonderful *Vis mediatrix Naturæ*. He urges strongly trusting more fully to her kindly offices. The conservative surgery of the present is in pleasing contrast to the "heroic" treatment of the not very remote past. The doctor believes that the time will come when his profession will be most frequently