

Book Notices.

Glimpses of Fifty Years: The Autobiography of an American Woman. By FRANCES E. WILLARD. Written by order of the National Woman's Temperance Union, with Introduction by HANNAH WHITALL SMITH. 8vo., pp. xvi-704. Toronto: Rose Publishing Co.

Miss Willard has just celebrated her fiftieth birthday at her beautiful home at Evanston, Illinois, amid the congratulations and benedictions of thousands of admiring friends. She has in this volume given us her recollections of the last half century, the most marvellous in moral progress that the world has seen. In this progress Miss Willard has had no inconspicuous part. She has been identified intimately with one of the greatest moral movements of the age. She has probably addressed more audiences and won more friends than any woman living; for none can hear her speak without being charmed with her sweet womanliness, her moral earnestness, her intellectual ability. She is no stranger in Canada, and many Canadian admirers will be glad to possess this record of her useful and eventful life.

With rare modesty, yet with perfect frankness, Miss Willard tells her life-story—the story of her happy school and college days, with their diligent study and broad and liberal culture; and her wide experience as a “roving teacher,” beginning as a “lonesome school-ma'am” in a western district school, and proceeding from grade to grade to a distinguished position in one of the foremost universities of the Union.

Miss Willard has been a notable traveller, too, in her own and foreign lands. She has visited every European capital and large city and specially interesting haunt of history, learning and art, besides going north as far as Helsingfors in Finland; east as far as the Volga in Russia and Damascus and Baalbec in Syria;

and south as far as Nubia in Africa. A study of the most ancient civilizations of the world in its three oldest continents was her preparation for her life-work of endeavouring to advance the higher civilization of this western hemisphere. This delicate woman, besides performing her vast literary and administrative labours, has travelled not less than 250,000 miles, traversing this continent from Puget Sound to Maine, from Canada to Mexico. Her graphic sketches of travel evidence the keen insight and hearty appreciation of a broad and liberal mind.

Miss Willard found her true sphere as a temperance advocate and organizer, and as the promoter of those moral reforms which are designed especially to protect the sanctity of the home and promote the elevation of her own sex. In connection with her temperance work, with her advocacy of the political enfranchisement of woman, and in the promotion of social purity, Miss Willard had a very difficult part to play. In many places, especially the south, the antipathy to women speaking in public was very great. But she almost always converted opponents into admirers and friends. The work of the Christian Temperance Union is a very important factor in the great Temperance Reform. Every member of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union should have a copy of this book. It will make them more enthusiastic in their noble work, and more appreciative of the labours of its leading advocate.

It will be remembered that Miss Willard was elected, with three other women, delegates to the late General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at New York; but were ruled out simply because they were women—against, however, the advocacy and vote of many of the ablest men in the Conference. Miss Willard at the same Conference