

was held in honour and affectionate esteem. In him both goodness and greatness were united. Perfection in all that is human is a relative term, and to none here below can it be absolutely applied, but in the estimation of many who knew him well, he realized a lofty ideal, though he would have been the first to disclaim any such estimate. Dr. Cairns possessed a great and powerful mind: his devotion to the pursuit of truth was life-long. His acquirements were extensive, and the moral qualities with which he was endowed, while they evoked admiration, also endeared him to all who knew him. Over all there was the tender grace of genuine humility, enhancing a character beautiful as it was strong.

To some who heard much of John Cairns' greatness it was a matter of surprise that he did not give fuller evidences of the remarkable powers with which he was credited. Those who had never listened to his preaching could scarcely understand the enthusiasm with which he was generally regarded. Beyond the publication of an occasional discourse or a rare contribution to the pages of a review, Dr. Cairns did not address the reading public. It was his expressed desire and intention to devote some time to the preparation of an exhaustive work in the department of Christian Apologetics. For this task he was eminently qualified. The bent of his mind, prolonged study and deep interest in the subject alike fitted him to investigate, with firm and comprehensive grasp, the vital questions that interest the thoughtful minds of the age. Whether he has left behind him materials for the work he projected we cannot say, but one thing may be taken for granted: his purpose did not fail of accomplishment because of inability or indolence. He was too diligent a student, and too conscientious a man either to be hindered in his work by the trivialities that dissipate energy and waste precious time.

It is with feelings of deep gratitude we welcome the memorial volume that has just issued from the press. It is one that will be highly prized for the rare value of its contents, and as a souvenir of one of the ablest occupants of the pulpit in this generation. No reader will rise disappointed from the perusal of any one of the discourses here reproduced. The many who have never had the opportunity of hearing the glowing words from the living voice will not be disappointed, but they cannot gather from the printed page the marvellous charm of the distinct personality of the eloquent and persuasive speaker. He was not distinguished by what are generally considered the graces of mellifluous oratory. If in youth he had ever studied the art of popular expression the study had made but little impression upon him. His mode of address was due more to natural gifts than to careful training. In every sense of the word he was a massive man. He was tall of stature and had a countenance of leonine strength, that yet beamed with kindness. His voice was rich, melodious and strong. In the pulpit he began his address in calm and measured tones. His voice had in it the echo of a provincial dialect. As the theme on which he discoursed began to open out in its massive grandeur the somewhat monotonous sweep of the right arm, the sway of the body and the measured cadence of voice became swifter and more impassioned, and it was apparent that the whole man was absorbed by the message he had been called upon to deliver. From the initial stage the hearer became absorbed likewise. Dr. Cairns followed the usual tripartite division of his discourses. In his case it was an ascending scale. He carried his hearer steadily upward, till the second starting point was reached. Thence a new elevation was reached, only in the closing division a higher altitude still was attained. The volume before us contains a very clear idea of the method according to which his discourses were constructed. Good examples will be found in the opening sermon, whose theme gives the title to the volume "Christ the Morning Star," and in the one that follows, "Christ the Alpha and Omega"—the last one the present writer heard him deliver. Before death overtook him Dr. Cairns was engaged in the work of revision and careful preparation for publication of the sermons contained in this volume. This is apparent in those that finally passed under his own hand; for the last named discourse, though substantially the same as delivered, has had the benefit of his latest thought and reflection, and some slight alterations in form. It is noticeable that all the discourses here published have one subject. Christ and His glorious work form the basis of these diversified meditations. This volume is a strong proof that a man may be thoughtful and scholarly and yet eminently evangelical. There are twenty-

one sermons in the book, all of them of the same high quality. It cannot be doubted that all into whose possession this admirable volume may come will value it as they would a sacred treasure.

Not that it possesses exceptional merit as compared with many other striking passages in the volume, but simply as a specimen of its quality, the following introductory paragraphs from the sermon "Christ, the Alpha and Omega" are submitted:—

He who is the eternal Reason, the Word of God, is here pleased to ally Himself with the whole of Greek literature, by appropriating to Himself the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. He thus puts a stamp upon all the treasures of Greek wisdom and knowledge conveyed in those letters and all that lay between, and claims them for His Kingdom. All that lay of wisdom and knowledge bearing on the world's history in Homer and Æschylus, in Plato and Aristotle, in Thucydides and Demosthenes. He here includes, with the higher wisdom of the Old Testament that had for centuries been in Grecian speech preparing His way and fulfilling again the word "Out of Egypt have I called My son;" with the yet more wonderful utterances of the apostles and evangelists, which could only in the same vehicle have been given to men; followed as these were to be, though with unequal steps, by the generations of confessors and martyrs, who in the earliest struggles of His gospel were in the same world-wide tongue to impress it on all nations. Christ, I say, here puts the greatest honour on this language ever done to it in word, as He has thus honoured it in history; and we may say has indirectly honoured all human writing and literature, in making the alphabet of all nations suggestive to His own immortal name.

That it is Christ who here speaks, no one can doubt. The words that immediately precede separate the speaker from every created angel. "Behold, I come quickly; and My reward is with Me, to give every man according as his work shall be." Nay, in the very first chapter of this sublime book, as here in the last, as if to bind its extremities together, and to afford an example of the union of the beginning and end, we have these great words: "Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning, and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES.

THE urgency with which the Church of Rome insists on controlling popular education wherever possible, is in somewhat strange contrast with actual educational results in those countries where she possesses uncontrolled sway. Even in the Province of Quebec, her own sons are dissatisfied with the quality of the practical education supplied in the parochial schools. The complaint is general that parochial are inferior to the public schools. The controversy maintained for years in the United States between the upholders of public schools and the representatives of the Roman Catholic Church is now in a fair way for settlement. The Pope has sent an ablegate, Monsignor Satolli, to confer with the dignitaries of the American branch of the Church on the subject. This has no doubt been necessitated by the marked differences of opinion entertained by the upholders of ultramontane theories and the more liberal archbishops of St. Paul and Baltimore. From what has already transpired it would appear that Archbishops Ireland and Gibbons have virtually carried their point; or, at all events, they are likely to obtain a compromise. From Monsignor Satolli's address to the archbishops it appears that he urges the maintenance of strictly Roman Catholic schools, wherever practicable; the co-operation of Church and State, by which the religious education of Roman Catholic children may best be secured. He thinks that such children might be taught the Roman Catholic catechism in the school buildings, in other than school hours; an arrangement might be made for religious training in other than the school buildings; or, as a third possibility, the simple insistence upon religious training at home. This last, the ablegate thinks the least satisfactory, though if nothing more can be gained, he seems prepared to accept it.

It may be taken for granted that the section of the Church in the United States under the influence of the Jesuits will strenuously resist all compromise, it is nevertheless apparent that Archbishops Gibbons and Ireland understand the genius of the American people, and that nothing can be gained by pushing their demands to an extreme. More significant is the Papal attitude in the matter. Leo XIII. has in several things receded from the uncompromising position taken by his predecessor. He has urged on his clergy in France the cordial recognition of the Republic, and now in sending Monsignor Satolli with a conciliatory message to the ecclesiastical dignitaries in the United States, he is apparently desirous of reading aright the signs of the times. Rome the immovable is beginning to move with the age.

Books and Magazines.

THE CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY. (Toronto: The Canada Educational Monthly Publishing Co.)—The December number of this ably-conducted magazine opens with a brief but pithy presentation of "The Claims of English Grammar" by M. F. Libby, B.A., of Parkdale Collegiate Institute. Mr. William M. Davis discusses "The Teaching of Geography." Other papers are "Use and Abuse of Methods," "The State, the Church and the School," "Instruction in History." Then come the usual departments, containing much that is of value to the practical teacher and the advanced pupil.

THE HARVEST OF YESTERDAY. A Tale of the Sixteenth Century. By Emily Sarah Holt (Boston: Bradley & Woodruff.) This is a well-told story of the Reformation period in England. It deals with times and events that tried men's souls. In the preface it is stated that among the numerous and gorgeous figures which crowd upon the canvas of the early Reformation period one of the most brilliant and imposing is Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. He and his have been several times chosen for the principal figures of a historical tale. But there is one episode in his life which few know—one sad and alas! true story that has scarcely come to light. That story is told in these pages.

THE NEED OF MINISTRY. And other Sermons. Memorial volume of the late Rev. E. A. Stafford, D.D., LL.D. With introduction by Rev. D. G. Sutherland, D.D., LL.B. (Toronto: William Briggs.)—Recognition of faithful service in the Christian Church is both proper and becoming. When a good and earnest Christian pastor is suddenly called to his reward it is fitting that the people to whom he ministered should have some permanent memorial of him. For this reason we welcome the volume that contains a brief biographical sketch of the late Dr. Stafford, of the Methodist Church, and nineteen sermons by him. These discourses are characterized by vigour of thought, fine Christian feeling and strong, clear expression. Those into whose hands this volume may come will greatly relish its perusal and will profit by it.

SIMPLE BIBLE LESSONS FOR LITTLE CHILDREN. By Frederick A. Laing, F.E.I.S. With an introduction by the Rev. James Stalker, M.A., D.D. (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son.)—Those who look into this delightful work will find that the following commendation by Dr. Stalker is fully justified: The writer of this book seems to me to have the true gift for the task which he has undertaken. He writes with the utmost plainness and simplicity, and yet he has the art of making the lessons interesting and impressive. The book covers a very extensive range of subjects. It will form a guide to the portions of Scripture most suitable for children, and, if used along with the Word itself, will drive home the substance of many a precious passage. The author writes in an earnest spirit, and aims constantly at winning the souls of the little ones to the faith and love of Christ. Such a book will be welcomed by many parents as an aid to their own efforts, and I hope it may have a wide circulation.

GLORIA PATRI; or, Our Talks About the Trinity. By James Morris Whitton, Ph.D. (New York: Thomas Whittaker.)—This book is unique in form and treatment. It is a book for thoughtful laymen on a subject that few laymen have cared to read about—the Trinity; but it is very far from treating it in the usual way. An unusual freshness and interest is secured, in part, by the use of dialogue, in a conversation between two friends, in which, as the author tells us, more or less of many actual conversations is recorded. In this way a clear development of a confessedly intricate subject is facilitated. The course of thought taken is based upon the Nicene Creed, and such an extension of the lines of the Nicene Trinitarianism is sketched, as the progress of modern learning requires, in order to prevent that arrest of theological development which tends to scepticism. The author treats the subject in such a way as to justify his proposition, that the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, so far from being the arid metaphysical subtlety that many deem it—is "a very truth of truths, in touch with Christian thought, feeling and action, at every point of the whole circle of life." The title, "Gloria Patri," is suggested by the Trinitarian chant so called, of which a fresh and impressive interpretation sums up the whole discussion.

THE MIRACLES OF OUR LORD. By Rev. John Laidlaw, D.D., Professor of Theology, New College, Edinburgh. (New York: The Funk & Wagnalls Co.; Toronto: 11 Richmond Street West.)—In recent years much attention has been given to the study of the miracles recorded in the New Testament. The purpose and spirit of these miracles is more clearly realized and more fully appreciated. One of the best of the many excellent works by the late Archbishop Trench was that on the "Miracles of Our Lord." The inviting field so successfully opened by the accomplished and thoughtful prelate has been successfully cultivated by others, and by none more successfully than Professor Laidlaw. He has grouped his studies in the following order: The Nature-Miracles, The Healing-Miracles, The Three Raisings from the Dead and the Post-Resurrection Miracle. The purpose of the work is well expressed in the following extract from the preface: The aim is entirely expository and didactic. The apologetic questions are assumed to have been sufficiently dealt with by other writers. Even within the range chosen, the aim has been necessarily restricted. For full and exact exegesis of the narratives as part of the Gospel record it is always needful to refer to the increasingly rich body of New Testament comment. All that is sought here is to set each incident in the light of the best exposition. For the spiritual lessons, again, the plan followed is not to collect the entire uses which might be made of each narrative. This would have given a mere outline of homiletic hints, which does not seem a very profitable task, however carefully done. The attempt made is to indicate, under most of the miracles, some one line of spiritual application, and so give an actual instance of their pulpit use. But the method followed is not invariable; a certain liberty of treatment is claimed. Remarks and references intended for the professional student are mostly thrown to the foot of the page, so that the ordinary reader may have a clear course in the text. The work is scholarly, careful and accurate. The professional student will find much that is helpful and suggestive, and the ordinary reader will be edified by a careful reading of the book.