

Book Notices.

"European Constitutional History: Or, The Origin and Development of the Governments of Modern Europe, from the Fall of the Western Roman Empire to the Close of the Nineteenth Century."

By Nelson Case. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xii-421. Price, \$1.50.

This is one of the most important books issued from the press of the Methodist Book Concern. It is a study in the philosophy of history, or as our author says, "historical physiology." The changes in national constitution are sometimes brought about through war. More frequently they are to be sought in the gradual uplift of the toiling millions, in the steady expansion of commerce, manufactures, of civilization, and science. In a very lucid and luminous manner our author describes this development, not merely in the great nations—Britain, France, Germany, Austria, Italy, Spain—but in the now shrunk but once mighty Denmark, Norway, and the Scandinavian countries, in Turkey and the struggling south-eastern principalities—Montenegro, Roumania, Servia, Bulgaria, and Greece, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Belgium, Portugal.

In speaking of the rights and liberties achieved by Britain through the struggles for civil freedom from the days of King John through the Tudors and the Stuarts, our author says, "Most of these principles had been claimed by the people for centuries as a part of their birth-right." The supremacy of the British Parliament, which guards the rights and liberties of the British people, the freest democracy on earth, is strikingly set forth.

"No one," says our author, "with any appreciation of liberty will question that these privileges are worth the centuries of conflict which led up to their establishment. If those patriots, whose struggles and sufferings were instrumental in securing these rights, can now realize the happiness and prosperity that have come to their descendants through their

efforts, they will surely say they are amply repaid for all the sacrifices they were called on to endure."

The book is one of profound interest and importance.

"Morang's Annual Register of Canadian Affairs." 1901. Edited and Compiled by J. Castell Hopkins, F.S.S. Author of the "Story of the Dominion," etc. Toronto: George N. Morang & Company. Pp. xix-540. Price, \$3. Half morocco, \$4.

This volume marks a very ambitious Canadian enterprise—no less than the writing up year by year of the history of the several Provinces of the Dominion. It is a striking evidence of the development of our country, of its entrance on a higher status and a broader outlook. It discusses the various sources of the wealth and prosperity of Canada, its agricultural products, mineral development, the wealth of forests and fisheries, the growing manufacturing industries, its trade and commerce and finance. The relations of Canada to the Crown and Empire are succinctly treated, the royal tour and the stirring story of Canada, and the Boer war, are all well told. Then follows a comprehensive chapter on education in Canada, another on its transportation interests, and one on government and politics. A carefully compiled necrology for the year 1901, indexes of names, events and affairs, and other valuable apparatus for the study of our current history are given. Mr. Castell Hopkins, whose "Encyclopaedia of Canada" is a monument of his painstaking research, has condensed into this volume a vast amount of information inaccessible elsewhere. The book, we judge, will be simply indispensable to all who wish to keep "en rapport" with the rapid development of our country. Mr. Hopkins has endeavoured to be perfectly fair and impartial in his presentation of controverted topics. We congratulate both author and publishers on the success of this first volume of what promises to be an invaluable series.