

that sphere. The information conveyed is by no means exhaustive, but it is terse, simple, and forcible. The citation of examples is somewhat scanty in view of the difficulty of the subject and their value to the youthful mind; but there is no redundancy and no useless rhetoric. Mr. Danson's scope is a most comprehensive one, and his treatment naturally varies in excellence with the degree of his familiarity with his subject. Among the chapters which may be distinguished as chiefly practical that upon "profit" has a ring of experimental truth about its close-packed paragraphs; and that dealing with "Foreign Commerce" is somewhat disappointing in its slight and unimportant discussion of the principles of Free Trade. As to the principles underlying the acquisition of wealth, Mr. Danson's views, if not especially new, are sound and convincing. He is entirely uninfected by any taint of socialism, and sturdily believes in the potency of the "individualism" of the race to lift its labourers to better circumstances. The birth of all men free and unequal in our society being its unalterable basis, Mr. Danson thinks that it is the privilege of the individual and the positive duty of the State to accept this condition of affairs with equanimity. Interference, in his opinion, is invariably, in the long run, calamitous. We cannot agree with the author in the length to which he carries this principle, but its occasional absurdity is so manifest as to be comparatively harmless. He objects, for instance, to free schools on the ground that they make clerking a cheap occupation, and have a tendency to overcrowd the professions! It is rather queer that the author of "The Wealth of Households" should require to be told that the primary object of free education is the benefit of the State through the enlightenment of her lower orders, and not the providing of occupation for those who use this means to obtain them. Doubtless more ways of working than clerking have been cheapened by the experiment of free education, but few who have observed its benefit will feel disposed to throw this disadvantage into the opposite scale. Perhaps, moreover, the law of demand and supply may be trusted to work as efficaciously here as elsewhere in discouraging surplus applicants, and if not, it is hard to see why the effect of their presence should not be felt here as justly as in the foundry or the field. The mechanical part of Mr. Danson's book has been executed with an excellence that is refreshing in these days of shoddy American bindings, and its arrangement is quite beyond praise.

JEANNETTE DUNCAN.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

WHOM GOD HATH JOINED. A novel. By Elizabeth Gilbert Martin. New York: Henry Holt and Company. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

In many respects a remarkable book is this latest addition to the Holt Company's Leisure Hour Series—a book that presents a most unusual combination of strength and weakness, art and artifice, gold and tinsel. It is a book written with a distinct aim by a devotee to her purpose. The aim is the propagation of the Roman Catholic faith. A clever novel may be regarded either as the incidental result or the well-considered means of attaining the author's extraordinary end. The skill with which it is wrought out may be imagined from the fact that until the crisis of the double conversion of the two leading characters one has not a suspicion of it, so cunningly is the motive of the work subordinated apparently to the development, on powerful lines, of its character studies. In reality, as a retrospect of the story shows, every detail is carefully chosen with studied reference to the triumph of the Church which crowns the close. This is good art, and Mrs. Martin is to be congratulated upon it, as well doubtless as upon the ardour which prompted its exercise; but her effort has another phase by no means so laudable. The story begins and ends with the religious struggles of the heroine. She is presented successively with the theological difficulties of every other creed, and permitted to be vanquished by them. She is a young woman of original and pronounced views. She has a beautiful and serene intelligence, before the incandescent rays of which Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Methodist bigotries shrivel into nothingness. To assist the shrivelling process Mrs. Martin has confronted her with nothing but the bigotries, however, and allowed her to meet no members of the various communions who are not in some way injured by them. This is artifice of an exceedingly cheap kind; and its use is the more astonishing at the hands of one so apparently well qualified to fight the battle upon squarer issues.

Apart from this, the chief fault of the book lies in its construction. It is ill-balanced, a trifle obscure, and arrives inartistically at an inartistic conclusion. But it displays an intense dramatic instinct in the author, a wide and deep knowledge of human nature, and a power of dealing with men, women, and situations which is rare in women novelists. Mrs. Martin has made rather a metaphysical mess of it, but in the making she

has given the world indications of ability to do admirable work in more feasible fiction. She has used so strong a process to attain so feeble a result, that most people will be apt to overlook the latter in the contemplation of the former.

AN AMERICAN FOUR-IN-HAND IN BRITAIN. By Andrew Carnegie. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons.

The author of "Triumphant Democracy" has evidently found the demand of his adopted countrymen for his adopted ideas so flatteringly great as to more than warrant him in the reissue of this earlier book, written and printed originally for the entertainment of friends. Mr. Carnegie may be reasonably sure of a wide American popularity for all his overwhelming attachment to republican institutions may induce him to print. His vigorous diction, his anti-British sentiment, his wholesale adulation of the democracy, combine to present a literary *entrée* which few American palates find distasteful. There is probably a saving minority who are of the opinion that acquired spread-eagleism is even more objectionable than the native variety, but the mass of the American people will welcome this sketch of an outing in England with the absolute certainty that it will lay a flattering unction to their souls of no common variety. Nor will they be disappointed. If the flavour of rampant Americanism in all Mr. Carnegie's opinions of England, and all that is English, were not a little nauseating it would be amusing. We have had criticism of a very sharp variety before this from our Yankee cousins, and rather enjoyed it. It remained, however, for an expatriated British subject to deal us the pitying patronage of one who was formerly under the same tyranny, and would bid us not to despair of freeing ourselves of our unprogressive shackles. We ought to be grateful for this, doubtless we are; but it has its humorous side.

The book has an extremely personal cast, which discriminative people will find objectionable, though the author apologises for it in his preface by the statement that it was originally written for friends only. It contains such a record of small witticisms and unimportant events as bear only a personal or reminiscent value, and on the pages devoted to it one's interest lags perceptibly. Yet Mr. Carnegie, as well as a certain individual more prominent in history, is entitled to his due, and it must be acknowledged that his book has virtues that more than counterbalance its defects—when we leave our national *amour propre* out of the question. His narrative is brisk, buoyant, and breezy; one is impelled through the book by the force of the writer's enthusiasm. His descriptions are vivid, and he usually sees what is eminently worth seeing. He has a quick sensitiveness to landscape effects, and his chapters are often enriched with consistently beautiful quotations. Add to this a trenchant way of talking, and a notable audacity, and our list of the merits and demerits of Mr. Carnegie's last contribution to American literature is complete.

We have received also the following publications:

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. July. New York: Harper and Brothers.  
LITTLE'S LIVING AGE. June 19. Boston: Little and Co.  
ATLANTIC MONTHLY. July. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.  
SANITARIAN. June. New York: 113 Fulton Street.

OF General von Manteuffel, late German military governor of conquered Alsace, who hated all that was French, it is said that he once at a public dinner engaged in a dispute with a French diplomat who maintained the superiority of the French workmen over the artisans of all other nations. "A thing so ugly does not exist that the skill and genius of a Frenchman cannot make of it a thing of beauty," he said. Angered by the contradiction, the old soldier pulled a hair from his bristly moustache, and handing it to the Frenchman, said curtly: "Let him make a thing of beauty out of that, then, and prove your claim." The Frenchman took the hair and sent it in a letter to a well-known Parisian jeweller, with a statement of the case and appeal to his patriotic pride, giving him no limit of expense in executing the order. A week later the mail from Paris brought a neat little box for the General. In it was a handsome scarf-pin made like a Prussian eagle, that held in its talons a stiff gray bristle, from either end of which dangled a tiny golden ball. One was inscribed Alsace, the other Lorraine, and on the eagle's perch were the words: "You hold them but by a hair."

THE report of the Quebec Bank, published elsewhere, is an extremely favourable one. Notwithstanding the depression of trade, especially the lumber trade, it will be seen that the Past Due Account has been reduced by two-thirds during the year; while the net profits of the year have been not merely maintained but slightly increased.

THE most notable features in the Annual Statement of the Imperial Bank, published elsewhere, is the relatively large Reserve and the rate of dividend, which has been kept up to a high level, in spite of the difficulty of employing money. The Bank, however, keeps its funds well in hand, while making fair profits, a combination which may be taken as a sure proof of skilful and careful management.