

A LITERARY TREASURE-HOUSE.



AMERICAN Catholic literature can boast that in those days of many fine periodicals it possesses some of the finest. The *American Catholic Quarterly Review* is worthy to rank with the great English quarterlies; while the *Catholic World* is fully as excellent a magazine as the *Century* or *Harper's*, and seems to improve with every month of its existence. These two, the *Quarterly* and the *World*, have each their separate function; the one to deal with those questions of science and religion, which require more space than can be granted in a monthly; the other to present short papers on religious, scientific and literary topics in a simpler and more popular style. But there is another class of periodical which commends itself not so much to the thoughtful student as to the family; one which is often read aloud while all are gathered round the fireside, and which can be appreciated by all. In England there are many representatives of this class, such as *Good Words* and the *Leisure Hour*, both conducted in the Anglican interest, while in the United States a splendid specimen is found in the *Ave Maria*. The name of Father Hudson, the founder and editor of the *Ave Maria*, will be associated with those of Mgr. Corcoran and Father Hecker as one who has done a great deal for the propagation of good and attractive Catholic literature. For the *Ave Maria* is certainly attractive. The September monthly part lies before us, and as we glance over the table of contents on the second page of the cover, we have a foretaste of the pleasure to be experienced in reading its charming pages. The names of the authors are sufficient guarantee for the excellence of the contents. Poetry from Charles Warren Stoddard, William D. Kelly, Maurice F.

Egan, Eliza Allen Starr and Mary M. Meline; fiction by Christian Reid, E. L. Dorsey and L. W. Reilly; biographical and descriptive sketches from William Francis Dennehy, Dr. Reuben Parsons, A. M. Pope and George Prospero. And these are but the contributions of one month! What a splendid collection of the writings of our best Catholic authors would not a year of the *Ave Maria* furnish! Several of the articles are on Canadian subjects as "The Mission of the Cape," which tells the story of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary of Cap de la Magdeleinè; "A Sick Call in Quebec," a touching account of the veneration which is shown to the Blessed Sacrament by the good French Canadians; and "Favors of La Bonne St. Anne," referring to miracles performed at Canada's great shrine. The author of "Desmond Copinger's Inheritance," is fast becoming a great favorite, and the story which is herein concluded will certainly add to the reputation of E. L. Dorsey. Christian Reid begins a new serial "Cecil's Fortune" in which the serious purpose underlying the tale does not in the least prevent its being a charming piece of fiction. The Youth's Department is one of the best features of the *Ave Maria*. There is no boy who will not read with interest "Her Only Son" and "The Newsboys' Novena" and who will not be the better for reading them. The poetry in the number, as might be judged from the names of the writers, is of a very high order, the verses of Charles Warren Stoddard, in particular, being full of music and feeling. "The First of the Gregories" and "The Pontificates of Nicholas V," describe interesting events in the history of the Church, and show that the *Ave Maria* neglects the tastes of none of its readers. The magazine should find an entrance into every Catholic family.

