

THE BOOK PAGE

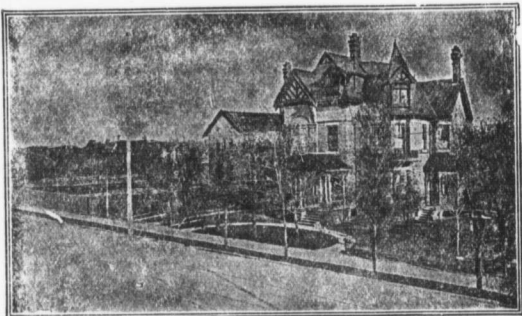
Books for review sent to the EDITORS OF THE TEACHERS MONTHLY, Room 123, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

The meeting of East and West has often resulted in conflict. Where there has been friendly intercourse, the one has never failed to modify the other. It is only the religion of Jesus Christ that fuses them into a unity, thus proving itself to be a world-wide religion. The epistles of the New Testament abound in evidences of the power residing in Christianity to blend opposing national characteristics and ideals. In his latest book, *The Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia* (Hodder & Stoughton, London, U.C. Tract Society, 446 pages, \$3.50), Professor W.

M. Ramsay shows that this is true of the epistles contained in the Revelation. In chapters which never allow the reader's interest to flag for a moment, the author describes the union of Greek and Asiatic in the seven cities and their churches, and points out how the history and circumstances of each church are reflected in the letter addressed to it. For example, the position and history of Philadelphia made it from the beginning "the missionary city" for spreading the Greek language and manners in eastern Lydia and Phrygia. How natural in writing to the church in this city to speak of "the open door" set before it for carrying the gospel to the Phrygian cities. In like manner, we are made to see in each of the letters its adaptation to its readers. Rarely indeed do we find a book that throws such a flood of light

on the sacred page. Its value is greatly enhanced by an excellent map of the Province of Asia, sixteen full-page plates, and thirty-six illustrations in the text, all in the best style of the engraver's art.

That a man is in the first rank as a preacher is no guarantee that he will be in the count at all as a novelist. Indeed, the very characteristics which make the preacher apt to prove his handicap as a story writer. It is the more delightful, therefore, to find that Newell Dwight Hillis, has produced in *The Quest of John Chapman* (The Macmillan Company, New York, George N. Morang & Co., Toronto, 349 pages, \$1.50), a story which stands among the two or three foremost of the season. The period is a sufficiently romantic one,—from 1787 on, the time of the first influx of settlers into the valley of the Ohio. The hero is a strange character, "Johnny Applesseed," drawn, it is said, from life. He goes up and down the broad river in advance of settlements, planting orchards, and setting out vines, that these may be ready against the arrival of the incormers. The love of his youth snatched from him by death, he is true to her memory, and lives only to provide for the happiness of other homes. The descriptions of localities and people are declared by those who know, to have the very atmosphere of the region, and Johnny Applesseed, as a missionary to construction gangs and river men, is every inch a true soldier. Those who are familiar with Dr. Hillis' other books will expect in this also to find gems scattered on every page; and they will not be disappointed.



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