

Luke in this narrative. While Pedobaptists will not be prepared to accept the conclusions of this commentary as to the subjects or mode of baptism, yet it will be found to throw very important light on the studies of the current year in all our Sunday-schools.

The Cure of Souls. Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale University, 1896. By JOHN WATSON, M.A., D.D. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Price, \$1.25.

Dr. Watson has won his way to all hearts by his recent visit to Canada and the United States. Such international reciprocity will do much to knit together the mother and daughter lands. It is somewhat significant that this prince of preachers should cross the ocean to give the Lyman Beecher lectures at Yale University. He discusses in his luminous way, the Genesis and Technique of a Sermon, Problems of Preaching, the New Dogma, the Machinery of a Congregation, the Work of a Pastor, the Public Worship of God, and the Minister's Care of Himself. The same breadth of view and brilliance of thought and diction characterize this that mark his other matchless books.

The City of Refuge. By WALTER BESANT. London: Chatto & Windus; Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co.

Mr. Besant's latest story is an international episode. It describes a brilliant young statesman who seemed destined to become prime minister of the Empire. A subtle passion for gambling mars his character, and, after wasting his own and his wife's fortune, he commits forgery and has to fly from justice. He takes refuge in a community of cranks in New York State, whose eccentricities and absurdities afford fine scope for humorous treatment. But they are not one whit more eccentric and absurd than those of the Harris community, near Chautauqua, New York, of which Laurence Oliphant, his wife and mother became dupes and victims. The psychological study of this strange community and the social complications involved, furnish Mr. Besant an opportunity for very clever treatment. An illustration of the advantage afforded Canada by the colonial edition of this book is seen in the fact that the price of the English edition is fifteen shillings net—nearly \$4.00—while the Copp, Clark Company's Canadian edition is only \$1.25; in paper, 75 cents.

Modern French Literature. By BENJAMIN W. WELLS, PH.D. Boston: Roberts Bros. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

Few of even those familiar with the French language can hope to become acquainted with a very wide range of its literature. Hence, the value of Dr. Wells' admirable book of wise and thoughtful criticism and discrimination. It is written in a lucid style, akin to that of the French classics themselves. It takes first, a review of the Middle Age and Renaissance and seventeenth century literature, but devotes itself specially to the great writers of the eighteenth and present centuries, as Madame de Staël and Chateaubriand, the romantic school, Victor Hugo, the French poets and dramatists, and, finally, the evolution and waning of the naturalistic school. Dr. Wells knows his texts at first hand. Like his similar book on German literature, it is, we judge, simply indispensable for one who would form an adequate conception of the subject.

Elizabethan Songs. Collected and Illustrated by EDMUND D. GARRETT. With an Introduction by ANDREW LANG. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

Mr. Andrew Lang asks, in his interesting introduction to this volume, why the Elizabethan age is so rich in song while later ages have been so poor. It is not for lack of great poets, as Tennyson, Shelley, and Swinburne give evidence. He attributes it to the growing pessimism of the times. Whether this be true or not, we have in this dainty volume a fine anthology of early English song. The choicest specimens are culled from Beaumont and Fletcher, Browne, Carew, Cowley, Herrick, Lovelace, Lyly, Suckling, Waller, and Wither. Certainly they were a light-hearted set of singers, under often adverse conditions. There was an exuberant life in Merry England in those days which our more introspective age fails to express. They made the best even of adversity, as in Lovelace's fine quatrain:

“Stone walls do not a prison make
Nor iron bars a cage;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for an hermitage!”

The etchings, printing, and binding of this book make it a veritable *édition de luxe*.