

THE *Catholic Book News* for January has a short, but spirited sketch of Bishop England, the founder of the pioneer Catholic paper of the United States. We hope that the publishers of the *Book News* will be encouraged to undertake the work of republishing the writings now out of print of this learned, eloquent and Apostolic prelate. They are not only of the highest interest to Catholics, but, in their time, they were eagerly read by Protestants, who soon learned to love this fearless but kind and courteous defender of Catholic truth.

CANADIAN literature and art is, at last, finding a popular representative in a new illustrated magazine, published in Toronto. It is called *Massey's Magazine*. The first number, which appeared last month, gives an indication of its high literary and artistic merits. But above all, every friend of Canada will be delighted to know, that the standard arrived at is far higher than that adopted by any of the dollar magazines in the United States. There is no questionable morality either in its articles or in its illustrations. It is a clean, high-toned, impartial periodical. The few words in its current comments, which allude to the religious question in politics so unfortunately prominent in Canada, are a strong condemnation of the unfair and illogical position chosen by some narrow-minded Protestants. We predict a prosperous future for this bright Canadian new-comer in the literary field all the more, as it has no competition in the secular press of Canada.

THE Little Office of the Immaculate Conception has found a worthy exponent of all its beauties in a small but precious book published by Benziger Bros., of New York. It is called *Short Conferences on the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception*, and contains the spiritual conferences delivered in the chapel of the Provincial Seminary of Milwaukee before the members of the sodality of the Blessed Virgin, by the Very Rev. Joseph Rainer, rector of the seminary. They explain fully and clearly the meaning of every hour of the Office, and all the beautiful allusions to the types and figures of the Old Law, which found their glorious fulfilment in the Immaculate Virgin. The

book also contains the formula of reception into the sodality and prayers suitable for its members. Every priest, who has a sodality in his parish, and every member of such a sodality, will be grateful for this precious little volume. Its price has been reduced to 50 cents.

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Church Progress, of St. Louis, publishes a pastoral letter of Bishop Fink, of Kansas City, Kansas. It is a departure from the stereotyped forms of pastorals. It treats of farming, and the importance of agricultural pursuits. There was a period in the history of the Catholic Church when bishops and priests civilized the barbarian nations by teaching them how to cultivate the land. The Church instituted rogation days and special blessings to call down Divine protection on land and laborer. Is not the growing distaste for agriculture among our young people an indication of a return to barbarism? We think so. It may seem strange to superficial thinkers to call a liking for city life a return to savagery, but our modern savages are not bred on farms. And they are on the increase. Examine our jails, penitentiaries and workhouses. Look at the army of tramps, infesting our highways and byways. It is thus the duty of our Christian prelates to sound a note of warning, to lay bare some of the causes of this unwholesome sign of the times, and to speak words of Apostolic wisdom to our Catholic farmers. It would be a blessing for the whole country if every Catholic farmer throughout the land could be induced to read and study this admirable pastoral.

KIND WORDS.

ONE of our subscribers writes:

Rev. and Dear Editor,—

Please find enclosed \$— in payment of my subscription to the CARMELITE REVIEW. I pay the small amount cheerfully, because the REVIEW is the best and most interesting publication I ever got for the little money it costs.

Yours truly in Christ,

REV. A. J. W.,
Wea, Kas.