

Europe lies far behind, the weight of its problems seems lifted from the mind." "I doubt if any European can realize, till he has been in America, how much difference it makes to the happiness of anyone not wholly devoid of sympathy with his fellow-beings, to feel that all around him, in all classes of society, and in all parts of the country, there exist in such ample measure so many of the external conditions of happiness—abundance of the necessaries of life, easy command of education and books, amusement and leisure to enjoy them, and comparatively few temptations to intemperance and vice."

The second charm of American life is its social equality. "To many Europeans the word has an odious sound. It suggests a dirty fellow in a blouse elbowing his betters in a crowd; or an ill-conditioned villager shaking his fist at the parson or the squire; or at any rate it suggests obtrusiveness and bad manners. The exact contrary is the truth. Equality improves manners, for it strengthens the basis of all good manners—respect for other men and women simply as men and women, irrespective of their station in life." This he illustrates by facts.

"This naturalness of intercourse," he says, "is a distinct addition to the pleasure of social life. It raises the humbler classes without lowering the upper; indeed, it improves the upper no less than the lower, by expunging that latent insolence which deforms the manners of many of the European rich or great. It especially relieves from the narrowing and dwarfing study of social distinctions. Moreover, there are no quarrels of Churches and sects; Judah does not vex Ephraim, nor Ephraim envy Judah. No Established Church looks down scornfully upon Dissenters from the height of its titles and endowments. No Dissenters pursue an Established Church in a spirit of watchful jealousy, or agitate for its overthrow. "The Americans are a kindly people. Good-nature, heartiness, readiness to render small services, and an assumption that men are meant to be friendly rather

than hostile to one another, seems to be everywhere in the air and in those who breathe it."

There is another side to this charming picture. In the great cities is much drunkenness and vice, but not so much, he asserts, as in Liverpool, London and Glasgow; and in America this is chiefly among the foreign population whose material condition is generally far better than it was in the old world.

Mr. Bryce says to the pleasantness of American life there is one, and only one, serious drawback—its uniformity. The very size of the country makes it monotonous. In Italy every city has its character. American cities are intolerably monotonous. Wide streets, ill-paved, the same Chinese laundries and ice-cream stores, and street-cars with passengers clinging to the platform, and locomotives ringing their bells as they clank slowly through the main thoroughfares. But a uniformity of general comfort may make one pardon a monotony of aspect.

We have not space to refer more fully to other features of this book, nor to the philosophical outlook of its political, social and economic future. It will well repay careful study, either in its abridged or larger form.

*The Life of Charles Haddon Spurgeon.*

By G. HOLDEN PIKE. Illustrated, price 20c. Methodist Book Rooms: Toronto, Halifax, and Montreal.

The fame of Mr. Spurgeon was world-wide. No minister of any denomination could command such crowds as regularly flocked to his Tabernacle. His death excited universal lamentation.

The biographies that have been published are almost legion. The one mentioned above is neatly got up, and is full of the principal facts of the extraordinary man's life. The little brochure is amply illustrated with pictures of Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon, the Tabernacle, College, and Orphanage, etc.

While Mr. Spurgeon was an extraordinary preacher, he was also a prolific writer. His weekly sermon