

"If the scenery failed to charm," says the writer, "the names of places did not fail to astonish us. Acadie, Tracadie, Shubenacadie, rang in my ears for days, and so did the less harmonious refrain of Tignish, Antigonish and Merigonish. When I heard of Pugwash the climax seemed attained. It did not seem possible that any swain could go a-courting a girl from Pugwash." The writer is an expert ornithologist and has a series of charmingly sympathetic chapters on the Ways of the Owl, Bird Traits, Individuality in Birds, and the like. Canadians may learn from this book much concerning their easternmost provinces.

The School of Life. By THEODORE F. SEWARD. New York: James Pott & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

This book is a treatment of some of the deepest problems of human existence. It discusses the august theme of the relation of man to God and of man to man. It shows the immanence of God—the great Soul of the world—in nature, and affirms that the time is rapidly approaching when the presence of an unseen God in the universe will be accepted on the same ground as the presence of an unseen soul in man. We see sure evidence in the universe, as in the human body, of a will working in and through it—a conscious Being who feels, loves, plans and executes. This volume is an admirable antidote to the materialistic tendencies of the age, and is in an important sense an "aid to faith" for earnest souls groping after God if haply they may find Him.

Canadian Independence, Annexation, and British Imperial Federation. By JAMES DOUGLAS. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo, price, 75c.

We regret that a notice of this book has been unduly delayed on account of pressure of work. It is one of the most sensible discussions of an important subject that we have yet met. It sets forth the

difficulties and perils of annexation on account of the racial and religious divergencies of the people concerned. It urges the freest possible commercial intercourse and utmost political and social harmony between Canada and the United States. But the author looks with favour rather towards the creation of a group of separate English-speaking states in both hemispheres, controlling without interference their own domestic affairs, but bound together by common constitutional ties and common interests, each working out its own individual destiny while contributing to the strength, the influence and the prosperity of the whole.

A Sketch of the History of the Apostolic Church. By OLIVER J. THATCHER, of the University of Chicago. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

The study of the early years of Christianity is of ever fresh interest. The beginning of that moral kingdom which was to fill the world is full of lessons of profoundest importance to this *fin de siècle* age. A moral Hercules even in its babehood, around its cradle lay the strangled snakes—paganism and pagan vices. In a series of its important chapters Professor Thatcher discusses the condition of the world at the advent of the Messiah, the Expansion of Judaism, the Spirit of Christianity, the Breaking of Jewish Bonds, and the burning questions between the Judaizers and St. Paul. A noble study of the great apostle and cognate themes make a book of unusual importance.

Master and Men, or the Sermon on the Mountain Practised on the Plain. By WILLIAM BURNETT WRIGHT. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.25.

The sub-title of this book most happily explains its method. It expresses also the great need of the age—not abstract ethical sentiments