

THE BOOK PAGE

The Beginnings of the Church, by Ernest F. Scott, D.D., Professor of New Testament Criticism in Queen's Theological College, Kingston, Ont. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, U.C. Tract Society, Toronto, 283 pages, \$1.25), deals with the period between the death of Jesus and the earliest letters of Paul. The aims of the disciples in organizing themselves into a church, their attitude and feeling toward Jesus, their purpose in observing the sacraments, the debt of Paul to the thinking and experience of those who preceded him,—these are some of the topics discussed with scholarly, thorough, and yet with untechnical, simplicity. The chapters of the book are lectures delivered last winter at Union Theological Seminary, New York, on the Ely Foundation. The scope of **The Parabolic Gospel**, by Rev. R. M. Lithgow, (T. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, U.C. Tract Society, Toronto, 196 pages, \$1.20), is indicated by its sub-title, Christ's Parables, A Sequence and a Synthesis. For the writer's thesis is, that there is a clearly traceable progress of thought in our Lord's parables, those of the Third Gospel corresponding with remarkable closeness with those of the First and Second, and that a definite system of teaching may be derived from the parables which seem to the less observing reader so independent of one another. Students of our Lord's teaching will find many interesting veins for investigation opened up to them in this valuable book.

A trio of books from Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto, each of them by a well known favorite,—all the better for that. The "old wine" is often the best.

Norman Duncan's story, **The Bird Store Man** (136 pages, 5 full page illustrations, 75c.) is one of the daintiest bits of work that this versatile and vivid writer has done. Mr. Tom Twitter, the bird dealer, and his little shop on a shabby side street, with its animal hospital and "Twitter Academy for the Higher Education of Canines," are by no means promising material. But, taken along with a naive little girl, who has charge of a runaway grandfather, and who brings a starving mongrel puppy to the "hospital" for treatment, they are handled so as to evolve a most charming tale. Tom Twitter is the equal of some of Dickens' best characters; and his joy in "educating" the wee lassie's hopeless puppy into a clever trick dog, and finally adopting the wee lassie as a daughter, because he has fallen in love with the wee lassie's courage and faithfulness and naivete, warms the reader's heart.

The Gaunt Gray Wolf (314 pages, 8 full page illustrations, \$1.25 net) is a tale of adventure with "Ungava Bob," the hero of a prior story of the Labrador by the same author, Dillon Wallace. Shad Trowbridge, the rather fresh Boston freshman, and Ungava Bob, who knew the bleak Northern wilderness like a book, and Maui Kawin, the Indian maiden, sacrificing herself to hunger, that the injured white man should not die of it,—these, with savage Indians, and wolves, and all the perils and hardships of the waste and Arctic wilds, provide a story which boys especially will read with avidity. Dillon Wallace, as every one knows, has abundant and first hand knowledge of the Labrador.

Wee MacGregor, though published years ago, remains so pleasant a memory, that a fresh story from its author, J. J. Bell, is always welcome. The newest is **The Misadventures of Joseph** (192 pages, \$1.00 net). "Here is a delightful Scott!" one has truly declared of the hero. "A rare old bachelor he is, with his stiff ways, his tender heart, his loquacity, and the pearls of wisdom which so frequently fall from his lips." A book this, with rich Scottish dialect and character delineation—a hundred laughs, and the touch, too, that often tightens the heart strings.

The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, send two capital books. **Big Tremaine**, by Marie Van Vleet (373 pages, \$1.35 net), is a sweet, strong story of Old Virginia. It is not often one finds the easy-going, happy ways of the "Old Dominion" so well delineated. The interest of the story turns upon the Old Virginian sense of honor and abiding family pride and affection. The son of one of the "old families," as a mere boy, "runs away," it is supposed, with \$10,000 of stolen Bank funds in his possession, and returns fifteen years later from South Africa, prosperous, and in every way manly and forceful, to be coldly received by his widowed mother and the three or four friends with whom the theft has remained a profound secret, but who have felt the disgrace of it bitterly. How he lives down the suspicion, and how, on the other hand, he sacrifices himself and his one great love in order that a brother may not be dishonored, who is the real culprit, and how in the end all comes well, make up a rarely charming tale. One does not willingly lay down **Big Tremaine** after once taking it up. **The Sergeant of Fort Toronto**, by George F. Millner (370 pages, \$1.25), touches the brave days of old, when British and French struggled for the supremacy in the scattered forts and settlements which formed the Canada of that time. The clash of races, British, French and Indian, gives edge to the tale, which is full of romance, peril, and the triumph of true love. It is altogether a vivid picture of persons and characteristics of that rough early time which represents the background of the Canada of to-day, and with which all Canadians should be more familiar than they are. The Sergeant of Fort Toronto is sure of a wide welcome amongst Canadians.

Mrs. Humphrey Ward's latest story, **Delia Blanchflower** (McClelland, Goodchild and Stewart, Toronto, 382 pages, \$1.35 net), carries with it the charm and strength of that well known writer, but is principally notable for its exhibition and discussions of the Suffragist and Suffragette movements in England. Mrs. Humphrey Ward is not a suffragette, and her delineation of the "wild women" is sufficiently lurid; but she is evidently a wholehearted suffragist, who believes that the women, as well as the men, should have a vote, and that government would be a good deal saner and more effective, especially in the lines of social reform, if the women had the franchise. The love story of the book helps to carry off the discussions of the suffrage question. Delia Blanchflower, a young and charming heiress, is swept into the suffragette movement by a strong-minded governess and companion. Winnington, her guardian, who inevitably becomes her lover, wins her steadily to saner views, with the inevitable denouement. **The Poet**, by Meredith Nicholson (same