

ever held amongst Indians in British America was held to-day. Their hearts seemed fired at the thought of carrying the news of salvation to their benighted brethren. At their own suggestion \$12 was soon taken up to help pay expenses."

And so the story goes on describing his work among the Indians, his ministry among the whites, his initiation into controversial writings, his active part in Conference work, his frequent visits as a delegate to the English and American Conferences, and later his educational tours in Europe and educational work in Canada. It was a full and overflowing life. The words of the Scripture were fulfilled, "Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." His early industry was a preparation for his after life. No Canadian ever had the *entree* to such good society, in the best sense of the phrase, both in England and on the Continent. No chapters are more interesting than those recording his notes of travel in the classic lands of Europe; his interviews with some of their leading statesmen, scholars, and divines. One chapter gives in detail the story which we have heard from his own lips, of his interview with Pope Pius IX., in which the Canadian Methodist preacher took precedence of titled dignitaries of high rank in the Church of Rome.

Dr. Hodgins' task was one of great delicacy and difficulty. There were serious gaps in the continuity of the narrative, and these he had to fill up from the copious material, including many hundreds of letters and memoranda, in his possession. He has accomplished his work with great ability and success. No man living could have done it so well. An intimate friendship of forty years, and close official relationship of nearly as long, specially qualified him for the task.

Mechanically, the book is worthy of the subject. It is very closely printed, and contains more matter than many books of much larger size. A handsome steel engraving presents the noble head of Dr. Ryerson in

his prime. A *facsimile* of his bold, vigorous writing is given; and numerous other engravings—several of them full-page size,—illustrate the scenes of his life and labours.

Studies in Church History—The Rise of the Temporal Power—Benefit of Clergy—Excommunication—The Early Church and Slavery. By HENRY C. LEA. 8vo., pp. 603. Philadelphia: Henry C. Lea's Sons & Co. Toronto: Methodist Publishing House.

Mr. Lea, by his previous volumes on Superstition and Force, and on Sacerdotal Celibacy, has proved himself an accomplished scholar in ecclesiastical topics. The present volume is one of the amplest and ablest discussions of the important subjects which it treats, that we know. It gives evidence of such a perfect familiarity with the copious patristic, scholastic, and ecclesiastical literature of primitive and mediæval times, as we judge few men living possess.

The learned author first traces with historical accuracy the gradual assumption of power by the Church, under the Byzantine Emperors and Carolingian Kings, till it culminates in the papal omnipotence of the middle ages.

The extraordinary immunity from civil law claimed by the Church, under the privilege known as Benefit of Clergy, is then fully discussed, with much curious learning, and the successful efforts by which it was obtained, described. This strange assumption was only abolished in England during the present century; and, till comparatively recent times, sentence of capital punishment was pronounced "without benefit of clergy."

The greater part of the book—nearly three hundred closely printed pages—is devoted to the history of the doctrine and practice of excommunication. The dark dogma, that any human power had authority to cut off any human soul from the Sacraments of the Church on earth, and from eternal life hereafter, has been, through the ages, an engine of tre-