

Literary Notices.

The January and Holiday number of VICK'S FLORAL GUIDE is before us, with its truly artistic cover and profusely illustrated list of flowers and vegetables. This firm (James Vick, Rochester, N. Y.) has long been before the public approved as enterprising and reliable. Each spring amateur florists confidently look for their fresh varieties and well assorted seeds.

WORDS AND WEAPONS FOR CHRISTIAN WORKERS. edited by Dr. G. F. Pentecost, Brooklyn, N. Y., continues its monthly visits, freighted with pithy sayings, apt illustrations and thoroughly evangelical teaching. Here is the first sentence of the December number: "If you, reader, are one of the Lord's torch bearers, to lighten this world's darkness, how are you bearing it? Is it burning brightly, and are you carrying it fairly and loyally? If not, alas, some poor wayfarer may stumble and fall for the want of thy light."

THE PULPIT TREASURY for December, (E. B. Treat, Broadway, New York,) freighted with timely articles, is on our table. This number gives a portrait of Dr. E. P. Goodwin, with a sermon full of suggestive thought, on The Holy Spirit and Missions. His life is sketched by Prof. S. I. Curtiss, and his Church illustrated. Bishop Lightfoot, on Christ's Own teacher; Dr. Deems, on No Room for Jesus; Dr. Rossiter, on Annual Consecration; Dr. J. Hall, on The World's Best: Vanity; Dr. W. M. Taylor, on Spiritual Despondency; Dr. Maclaren, on Debtors to All Men; Dr. W. C. Crane, on the American African as a Preacher and Religionist; Dr. Twitchell, on Heart Preparation for Revival Work; Dr. D. S. Gregory, on Key to Bible Unity; Dr. Talmage, on The Advantages of Persecution; Canon Wilberforce, on The Twelfth an Amethyst; Bishop How, on Personal Holiness Paramount; Dr. Cuyler, on Cheap Religion; Bishop W. P. Walsh, on The Will of Sennacherib; together with the editor's own department, will furnish some idea of the contents of this number of a magazine which easily stands at the front of all its competitors.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW, (Funk & Wagnalls, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York,) for December closes a very prosperous year of this progressive magazine. The article by Dr. Herrick Johnson, in reply to Dr. Crosby, on Prohibition, is a masterly paper, a counter-blast of tremendous force. Whether the reader accept the conclusions of Dr. Johnson or not, he cannot but admire and feel the force of his clear and logical reasoning. Prof. John De Witt gives the second of his Studies in the Psalms, and Dr. Pentecost closes his rousing articles on the Evangelization of our Cities. The Editorial section is, as usual, brim full of spicy and instructive thoughts on a great variety of topics of current interest. The number closes with a full and carefully-prepared index to the Volume (X.) The announcements for 1886 are on a scale commensurate with the growth of the Review, and promise to make the year an advance on any former one, and place the Homiletic Review in the front rank of our periodicals. The usual inducements are also offered for 1886 for procuring standard works at very reduced prices. Godet on John and the concluding volumes of Meyer's Commentary are among the number.

We have received from D. Lothrop & Co., Boston, Mass., the December numbers and prospectus of their juvenile publications *The Pansy* and *Wide Awake*.

The first is for both week-day and Sunday reading, edited by "Pansy" herself, and holds a first place in the hearts of the children, and in the approval of earnest-minded parents. Among the more interesting features for 1886 will be Pansy's serial story, "Reaching out." The Golden Text Stories, under the title, "Six O'clock in the Evening," will be told by a dear old Grandma, who knows many interesting things about what happened to herself when she was a little girl. Rev. C. M. Livingston will tell stories of discoveries, inventions, books, people, places. Faye Huntington will be a regular contributor during the year, and Pansy will take the readers with her wherever she goes, in papers under the title of "Where I went and what I saw." *Wide Awake* is a magazine of first-class matter. The two full page copies from Art files of the lass and the lad of '76 are really works of art, and its "Fire place" stories are elevating both in word and illustration. The magazine is the very opposite of "cheap and nasty," it is good, very good, and therefore not to be estimated by market value. Well written stories, historical sketches, fairy tales and models of magazine engravings are among the promises for the New Year, and with the record of the past we may safely trust the future. Pansy is \$1 per annum, *Wide Awake* \$3.

ALONG THE OLD ROAD. By the author of "Through the Winter." American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia, 352 p.p., \$1.50. For years the Pilgrim's Progress had been a very precious book to our author, but she had noticed that a majority of people seemed to know little about it, save its name and some of its characters and scenes. Especially did this seem to be true of young persons in the Sunday school. She conceived the idea of writing a popular story that would remind the young of the exceeding beauty of this wonderful allegory and of its fascinating power. "Along the Old Road" is the result of this idea. The story has a definite purpose. The characters are moving in every sphere of modern society and of activity, not "on a pilgrimage," yet they find a slough of despond, a hill difficulty to climb, and lions in the way; a valley of humiliation, a vanity fair, the hill Lucre, a plain called Ease, and get glimpses of Delectable mountains. The book is neatly printed and beautifully bound; its external appearance being of itself not merely pleasing to the eye, but educating and refining to the taste. We have frequently had to draw attention to the publications of this excellent house. We have not refrained from some adverse criticism in minor matters: nevertheless, knowing the imperfection of all human endeavour we are prepared to say that the external appearance of these books, the quality of the stamping and binding, and also the press-work merit high praise, nor will the reader be disappointed in the matter. The contents and theasket are alike worthy of one another. We should like to draw attention again to two works already noticed in our columns from this house. *Tent and Saddle Life in the Holy Land* is a graphic narrative of travel, by the Rev. Dr. Van Horne, describing the scenes of Scripture history, the mode of life still prevalent, the ruins of ancient splendor, and the present state of decay. *The Lord's Day: Its Universal and Perpetual Obligation*, is the prize-book under the John C. Green Fund, and is written by Prof. A. E. Waffle, of Lewisburg. We can cordially recommend them all.