

*Essays in London and Elsewhere.*

By HENRY JAMES. New York : Harper Brothers. Toronto : William Briggs. Pp. 305.

This genial essayist is one of the finest masters of style in the English language. He possesses the grace and elegance of an Addison, with that touch of modernity which Addison lacked. The essay on London is quite in the vein of that gentle humourist, Charles Lamb, and his subject is one after Lamb's own heart. The other essays are a series of discriminating and critical papers on James Russell Lowell, Frances Anne Kembell, Gustave Flaubert, Pierre Loti, Henrik Ibsen, Mrs. Ward, a fine tribute to Browning, and a dramatic sketch of light and airy touch on books and critics.

*On the Road Home.* Poems. By MARGARET E. SANGSTER. New York : Harper Brothers. Toronto : William Briggs.

The name of Mrs. Sangster, the accomplished editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, has become familiar to the readers of all higher class religious periodicals. Few writers are more widely quoted, and few better deserve to be. There is a sweet domesticity about her secular verses, (and some of these are "for six days out of seven,") and a tender grace in her

religious poems which touches every heart. This little book is not like the great cathedral to which Longfellow compared Dante, but is rather like the little wayside oratory. The Christmas and Easter poems are of special beauty.

*Life in a Country Manse, and other sketches.* By J. M. BARRIE. New York : Lovell & Co. Toronto : William Briggs.

Mr. Barrie is writing too much. These sketches exhibit a decided falling off from the admirable "Window in Thrums" and "The Little Minister" by which he won fame. The humour is laboured and heavy, and the whole thing is a weariness to the flesh. It is a great misfortune to a writer to strike such a high note in his first books that he is unable to maintain the strain in his succeeding ones.

*Minutes of the Spring Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church for 1893.* New York : Hunt & Eaton. Toronto : William Briggs. Price, \$1.00.

This closely-printed octavo of 273 pages gives condensed Minutes of 52 Conferences in the United States, Asia and Africa. It is a striking index of the remarkable growth of that branch of Methodism.

## O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM.

BY PHILLIPS BROOKS.

O LITTLE town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie !  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent hours go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light ;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary,  
And gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth !  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
The wondrous gift is given !  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven.  
No ear may hear His coming ;  
But in this world of sin, [still,  
Where meek souls will receive Him  
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us we pray !  
Cast out our sin and enter in ;  
Be born in us to-day.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell :  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Emmanuel !