

Books and Periodicals Dept.

Bonaventure. A prose Pastoral of Acadian Louisiana, by George W. Cable: New York, Charles Scribner's Sons.

This is not a book of thrilling adventure, nor yet one of a closely wrought out plot, but, as the name indicates a "prose pastoral," dealing with people in lowly life and showing many of their trials, likes and dislikes, loves and disappointments. All who have read Longfellow's "Evangeline" know of the "deportation" of the Acadians from Nova Scotia in the year 1755. These unfortunate people were at that time uprooted from their homes and scattered abroad over the wide expanse of the earth outside of Nova Scotia. Many settled in Louisiana, and the scene of Mr. Cable's "Bonaventure" is among the descendants of these people as they are to be found to-day, or but a few years ago. The peculiar pronunciation of the English and French languages among these people is shown by phonetic spelling, sometimes most original and amusing, and yet there are not many people, in whatever rank of life, who would like their ordinary conversation put down by the inexorable caricature of phonetic spelling. We have heard Americans, for instance, who, as a rule, avoid the letter r (except when initial) altogether, say for "George, come here" "Jaw-udge come hee-ah;" nearly always change monosyllables into dis-syllables, as "straw ung" for strong, "hay-at" for hat, "ee-ən" for in, etc. Mr. Cable represents his characters very quaintly in their conversations, especially his darkie with his perpetual "Yes, seh."

"Let us Anchor our Churches and Make Them Free." By Rev. Dr. Rainsford. New York, Thomas Whitaker, 2 Bible House.

When Dr. Rainsford was invited to become Rector of St. George's Church, New York, he replied "Yes, if you will give me a surpliced choir and make the church free." The request was acceded to and Dr. Rainsford settled down to a thoroughly missionary and evangelistic work. Seeing no doubt the advantage that his free church has been to him, he has continued ever since to plead the cause of the free and open church. The pamphlet before us is full of common sense and a wise and generous spirit. Is it right, as is too much the case in large cities, that the churches should follow only in the wake of the rich? As the wealthy move "up town" the churches go there too. Against this Dr. Rainsford pleads. Build new churches as the well to do people may desire, but first "anchor" the old church, leave it where it is, and supply it with a moderate endowment, sufficient only to secure the maintenance of its services; let it be free, and the people will bless the church and rejoice in the reality of Christian principles. The free seat movement is making rapid strides in Canada, and no doubt it

will soon become more general in the United States. We congratulate Dr. Rainsford upon raising his powerful voice in aid of so good a cause.

Welshy Hottel Magazine. Griffith, Farran, Okeden & Welsh, London, England.

Varied and useful articles as usual are found in this magazine. While it deals largely in ecclesiastical matter, it is not confined to them. Papers on Flemish Painters, Popular Astronomy, Sketches in Ceylon, etc., and some interesting stories, give varied form to the number. We understand that the American Church Review Co. have become the publishers or agents of this magazine for this continent.

The Churchman: New York, M. M. Mallory & Co., 37 Lafayette Place, New York. A weekly Church paper, now in its 45th year of publication and well known as one of the best Church periodicals in existence. Subscription, \$3.50 a year, for clergymen, \$3.

Santa Claus 1,113 Market st., Philadelphia, continues to improve each month. The editors evidently know how to please children, and not only that, but to instruct them. A bound volume of *Santa Claus* will form a grand book for young people.

The Missionary Review of the World. We find this periodical always most useful in giving missionary information, and suggesting thought for missionary subjects. It is now favourably recognized in England, and is becoming an acknowledged authority on missionary subjects. Published by Funk & Wagnalls, 18 and 20 Astor Place, New York, \$2.50 per year; 25 cents per single number.

The Magazine of Christian Literature: The Christian Literature Co., New York. A useful periodical, especially for clergymen, who from its pages may cull information upon the great questions of the day, both within and without the Church of England. It also contains each month an instalment of a "Concise Dictionary of Religious Knowledge." The articles are eclectic,—gathered from leading Magazines, Reviews and religious periodicals.

The Youth's Companion: Boston, Mass.; \$1.75 a year. Full of stories of adventure and interest for young people, and well worth the price of subscription.

Germania: A. W. Spanhood, of Manchester, New Hampshire, publishes an interesting periodical for the study of the German language. Each number contains valuable assistance in that direction.

Biblia. New York and Meriden, Conn., contains every month much useful Biblical information