

porary records. The book is specially valuable for the side-lights thrown upon the condition of England, physical and moral—travelling and travellers, the bad roads and worse inns, phases of town and village life, the isolation of the latter from the busy life of London, and the outer world. The studies of the people, both gentle and simple, are full of instruction. Puritanism had gone out of fashion with the revolution of 1688, and England was fast sinking into a slough of formalism, indifference and immorality. The condition of the prisons and prisoners is a revelation of horrors that astounds our souls. The moral heroism of Silas Told, the prisoners' friend, the Wesleys and their helpers in this prison world is an inspiring chapter.

The belief in the supernatural is illustrated with many stories which "even a credulous reader of the twentieth century," says our author, "may be excused for accepting 'cum grano salis.'" In Scotland Wesley met with slight success. In England he had to battle with ignorance, in Scotland with prejudice. The people were creed-ridden. In Ireland he met at first with much opposition and persecution, but he won some of his grandest triumphs among the warm-hearted Irish people. The memorials of Wesley's Chapel have many features of curious and striking interest. The whole book is an important contribution to the literary and social history of England in the eighteenth century.

"The Castle of Twilight." By Margaret Horton Potter. With six illustrations by Charles Weber. Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 429.

We have had enough and more than enough of the strenuous fighting novels of battle and bloodshed, recalling Shakespeare's description of life as "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." Life even in the Middle Ages was not all fighting. As the author says in her charming foreword, "Even in the days of never-ending wars, there dwelt still a few who took no part in the moid of life, but lived with gentle pleasures and unvoiced sorrows somewhat as you and I." It is such a study that Miss Potter presents in this prose poem. While the men rode afield with piercing lance and glittering shield, the women often

watched bitterly day after day for the unreturning brave, and told their rosary with their tears. Yet there were human interests, high as heaven, deep as a woman's heart, to be cherished; and affection that hopes and endures and is patient to be nourished; high honour and fidelity unto the uttermost to be maintained. This story of the Chateau de Crepuscule, or the Castle of Twilight, brings vividly before us one side often forgotten of that old life of chivalry and romance. The very phrasing of the book has an old-world air, and across the gap of six long centuries we feel the throb of human passion and devotion.

"The Peril and Preservation of the Home." Being the William L. Bull Lecture for the Year 1903. By Jacob A. Riis. Author of "The Battle with the Slum," etc. Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 190. Price, \$1.00 net.

Jacob Riis, the sturdy Dane who fought such a battle with the slum in New York, has about him much of the old Hebrew prophet. He denounces wrong in high places and in low, shows up the crime against the poor and the peril to the rich in tolerating city slums, and points out the more excellent way of achieving civic righteousness. This book, with its striking pictures, should be a textbook for mission workers, and all who desire the betterment of the people. It discusses our Sins in the Past, our Fight for the Home, our Plight in the Present, our Grip on the To-morrow. Riis is a born fighter against the world, the flesh and the devil, a good soldier of Jesus Christ, a man of valour and fidelity. He writes as strongly as he fights, and his book is as fascinating as it is inspiring.

"The Russian Advance." By Albert J. Beveridge. With Maps. New York: Harper & Bros. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. v-486. Price, \$2.50 net.

Nothing could be more opportune than this book. It treats with illuminating information the great subject which is prominent before the mind of the world. It gives the personal experiences of an intelligent observer, Senator Beveridge, who, by the way, is a leading Methodist, on his journey in the Far East in 1901. Senator