

"By the Fireside." By Charles Wagner. Translated from the French by Mary Louise Hendee. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. x-300.

The charming books by the author of "The Simple Life" and "The Better Way" have won him a wide constituency of fascinated readers. French writers have a perfection of form, a gracefulness of thought and expression that makes a well translated French book of earnest moral purpose a model of higher literature. The author regards the family as the unit of civilization and the hearth as the Golden Milestone from which all distances are measured. The reflex influence of parents and children, brothers and sisters, of golden hair and grey, are beautifully set forth, as well as our relations to servants and even to our animal friends. The position of woman and her work, the duty of hospitality and our obligation to "our friends, the poor," the need of cheerfulness, of sympathy, are all admirably inculcated. The duty of preparing in fair weather for evil days, the specially French practice of thrift and economy, is urged. The pathos of the hearth bereft when the birds leave the nest, the religion of the home and its heirlooms and family traditions, are treated with the spirit of poetry and power that touch the imagination and the heart.

"The Genius of Methodism; A Sociological Interpretation." By William Pitt MacVey. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.00.

This book is one of the signs of promise in the Methodist world. The time has fully come for the Methodist Church to understand her high calling as pre-eminent leader in the advance of the human race. Not simply as an engine-room to generate the dynamics of revivals or to show the way in evangelistic methods, but as entrusted with an undeveloped "depositum," wrapped up in a napkin, to be sure, but only waiting for development in order to enrich the thought and impulses of men for an intellectual, spiritual and ethical forward movement, so that Christianity shall lead the world to the higher civilization now in its dawn.

The author points out clearly wherein Methodism has evolved with the years—on its ecclesiastical side; wherein it is an arrested develop-

ment—in the intellectual statement of its spiritual inheritance and ethical meaning. Then he points out some of the lines along which Methodism should develop and lead the world up to its ultimate civilization, the kingdom of God upon earth as in heaven, or "universal holiness of life in conformity to the divine will." But of all this, alas, Methodism is shown to be on the whole utterly unconscious! The author deals especially with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the study is fascinating to any one who wishes to read the lessons of history. His references to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, are peculiarly illuminating.

But the general philosophy of this study is just as much needed and just as appropriate for Canada as anywhere in the Methodist world; in fact, it is the very lesson now most needed in our present stage of evolution. The book states the problem but does not lead to the solution. It is, however, a needed preparation for the coming of men who, as desiderated by Dr. Dale twenty years ago, shall have "the genius and the courage" to state the immense practical suggestions involved in the Wesleyan doctrine of perfect love, the effective statement of which, according to Dr. Dale, would result in an ethical revival in Christendom before which the Reformation of the sixteenth century would pale. Every thoughtful Methodist preacher should read this book. C. S. E.

"A United Empire Loyalist in Great Britain." Here and There in the Homeland. By Canniff Haight. Author of "Country Life in Canada Fifty Years Ago." Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 616. Price, \$2.25.

This is a new edition of a work which has already had a very large sale in Canada. It is one of the most handsomely printed and illustrated books ever issued from our Book Room. There are two hundred and sixty illustrations, all from original photos. The author is a patriotic Canadian, and saw everything in the Old Land through honest Canadian eyes. His book shows broad sympathy with British institutions and history, and especially with our wonderful English literature which has cast over so many storied scenes of the Old Land