

Metropolitan, told of a lady who suffered such physical agony as to be unable to sleep, who yet said, "I am the happiest woman in Montreal," so rich were the revealings of God's love and grace.

The concluding lectures are on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, an examination of the evidence of this crowning miracle of Christianity, and a refutation of the theories invented to set it aside. The book closes in a triumphant strain of Christian confidence :

"We have not followed cunningly devised fables, and we have no fear that any weapons formed against the city of God shall ever prosper, having no fears for the Church of Christ, which can be overthrown no more than can the throne of the Eternal God, but believing that every fresh attack on the truth of the Gospel will, in the long run, conduce only to the strengthening of our faith."

"Before the Dawn." A story of Russian life. By Pimenoff-Noble. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 401. Price, \$1.50.

We have had the pleasure of reviewing in these pages Mr. Noble's books on "Russia and the Russians," and "The Russian Revolt," which give the best concise treatment that we know of the history, condition, and prospects of that great empire. In this book Mr. Noble, who has lived for many years in Russia, assisted by his accomplished Russian wife, presents in the form of a story a graphic picture of the condition of society in that country. He describes the political unrest, the plotting and counter-plotting of the bureaucratic and oppressive Government and the Nihilist revolutionary forces; the enthusiasm, devotion, almost fanaticism, of the social reformers; and their relentless and cruel oppression by the iron hand of tyranny. The accomplished heroine, a brilliant student, is arrested while on a visit of charity to a poor family, thrust into prison, banished to Astrakhan, meets a fervid propagandist of political liberty, and becomes involved in a conspiracy against the Government. The stirring adventures of this propagandist, his imprisonment in a dismal dungeon, where, in an irony of fate, he hears the chimes, "How glorious is our Lord in Zion": his exile to Siberia, his rescue and

flight through China and the United States to England, where, with his wife, he devotes himself to social reform, make a thrilling story. Some aspects of Russian life are painful to contemplate. That country has a great deal of religion, but far too little ethical living. While it has a veneer of civilization, its government is barbaric as that of Ivan the Terrible. It would be a sad day for Christendom if it became a dominant power in the world.

"The Medici and the Italian Renaissance." By Oliphant Smeaton, M.A. Author of "English Satires and Satirists," "Allan Ramsay," etc. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. x-286.

One of the most striking phenomena in history is the revival in letters, art, and architecture under the Medici. "During the Dark and Middle Ages true Hellenic culture, like the Seven Sleepers, was in its cave slumbering unremembered." From Sicily to Scotland, from Spain to the banks of the Tiber, the mighty inspiration spread.

It reached its rarest flower in the city of Florence, under the rule of Cosimo de Medici and Lorenzo the Magnificent. In Rome, under Leo X. and Clement VII., the process continued. In the sack of the Eternal City the smoke of Rome's agony went up to heaven, and the vandals of Spain and Germany plundered her treasures and committed crimes that would have shamed the followers of Attila and Genseric. The tragic story is told with historic insight and dramatic power. The author describes the utter eclipse of faith under the pagan influence of the Renaissance, which set art above morals, and literature above righteousness.

"Audrey." By Mary Johnston. Author of "To Have and to Hold," and "Prisoners of Hope." Toronto: George N. Morang & Company. Pp. 418. Price, \$1.50.

In this book Mary Johnston has far surpassed in refinement of treatment, in development of character, in exquisite portrayal of nature, anything that she has previously done. There is a marked absence of the sensational incidents of her previous stories. The orphan girl, Audrey, whose pioneer