

come very popular have just been issued. The first of these is the second series of articles on Canon Farrar's notable book—*Eternal Hope*—and the question of future life is discussed from various religious standpoints, and with marked ability. Six of the most eminent divines in England enter the lists with the reverend gentlemen who have preceded them in the former pamphlet on the same subject, and combat or accept Canon Farrar's views as the spirit moves them, and the humour takes them. Professor Plumptre leads the debate and the Rev. Prof. Gracey closes it, while Dr. Allon, Dr. Rigg, Rev. S. Cox and Canon Birks uphold the argument in its intermediate stages. Each writer advances his special views with fine catholic spirit and a total absence of intolerance or bigotry. It is refreshing in this day to find disputants so wide-minded, and while differing on many side issues, continue to preserve an even temper and a positive gentleness of manner towards each other. It cannot be denied that the question opened up by Canon Farrar, and believed in by Canon Kingsley before his death, has awakened much enquiry throughout the civilized world, and led many earnest men to a new line of thought. Of course the whole question is shrouded in mystery, and the argument at its best is but speculation. On the whole, however, if the material hell of the unopened future can be disposed of by the clerical brethren in a satisfactory way, one's belief in that 'something after death' will be somewhat more comfortable than formerly. A new pamphlet closing the discussion would be in order.

The other *brochure* before us is likely to interest the more general reader, for it contains a well-written account of that marvel of the nineteenth cen-

tury, the Phonograph, by the inventor, Thos. A. Edison; an attractive description of the Auriphone; and Professor Huxley's able disquisition on the hypothesis that Animals are Automata. The first two of these topics exhibit the wonderful scope which Mr. Edison's inventions will ultimately reach, and the stage to which they have already come. The author believes that they will together, when perfected, revolutionize the whole social, moral, and political economy of the universe. His argument is ingenious, and even now much that he predicted a few weeks ago have become verified. The Phonograph *does* give back the human voice at will, no matter how long after words have been spoken into it, and it will do this as often as required. The Auriphone is amusingly described by an anonymous writer, and if only one-third of what is said about it is ever realized, it will eventually prove sufficiently startling to satisfy the most sanguine temperament. The paper by Professor Huxley which follows, is a masterly article on the scientist's favourite subject. It is enlivened with anecdote and experiment, is exhaustive in its treatment, and cannot fail to create a stir in the scientific world. The publishers are acting wisely in issuing this capital series of pamphlets. They are ably edited, and the reader gets at a small cost the masterly utterances of the foremost thinkers and philosophers of the age.

Mr. J. M. LeMoine, of Quebec, promises in time to become fully as voluminous an author as Balzac. His books appear with startling rapidity, and we no sooner digest one portly volume than a new one comes quickly on the scene. It is only the other day since we turned the pages of his valuable and interesting "*Quebec: Past and Present*," and now we are called on to read a fresh contribution* to the

Belford Publishing Co.—*The Phonograph and its Future*. By THOS. A. EDISON.—*The Auriphone and its Future*. Anon.—*On the Hypothesis that Animals are Automata*. By PROFESSOR HUXLEY. Toronto: Rose-Belford Publishing Co.

* *Chronicles of the St. Lawrence*. By J. M. LE