

most powerful, most finished, and most interesting novel he has written. And, above all, it is a thoroughly Catholic novel. Egan's Catholicity is not an ever diminishing quantity as is the case with other so-called Catholic novelists.

The Chaplain's Sermons, by Rev. John Talbot Smith, L.L.D. Wm. H. Young & Co., New York. Cloth \$1.50.

The author of *Our Seminaries* says some very good things on the subjects of preaching and sermons. In speaking of the training to be given ecclesiastical students in the art of preaching, he says: "It is important that he should avoid the beaten path from the start. He must even be taught a horror of it. It is the bane of our preachers, who seem for the most part to be treading in one another's footsteps, as Indians are said to do on the war-path." It was with some curiosity, therefore, that we opened this book of sermons by the same author. He practices what he teaches. He has certainly avoided the beaten path, and given our young preachers models of sermons original and quite modern. Not every one, however, can make use of his methods, without running the risk of losing the unction and piety so necessary in preaching the word of God. To give an instance. It is not given to every preacher to bring in Napoleon, Dante, Washington, Evangeline, Joan of Arc and lines from a poem of Holmes, in a sermon on the Holy Name, and yet preserve a flavor of tender piety and devotion, as our author does.

The Weekly Bouquet is the new name of our old friend, *The Orphan's Bouquet*. Brighter than ever under the management of its two gifted editors, it is winning new admirers and readers every day.

The Ave Maria, the most satisfactory of all religious magazines of the age, is stretching forward with success to still greater excellence in the future. We are promised some of the best things in Catholic literature for this year. Rosa Mulholland and Christian Reid are going to give us stories, and Maurice F. Egan some more of the delightful chats which were some time ago such a welcome feature

of the *Ave Maria*. And then, we are going to have the "Notes and Remarks" every week, as heretofore. This feature is not announced in the prospectus, although, to our mind, it is the one that is most appreciated by all the readers of the *Ave Maria*.

The "*Volksfreund*" of Buffalo, a German Catholic daily paper, publishes an annual which is very popular among the German Catholics. The "*Hausfreund*" for 1897 is beautifully illustrated and contains some excellent stories and a variety of useful and entertaining articles. It has 144 double-column pages, and sells at the low figure of 25 cents.

Maria yel Protestantismo, the work of our friend, Father Regis Peaches of the Seminary of Mexico, has now reached its third edition. As long as Mexico venerates Mary, Protestantism can get no foothold there.

Almanac and Calendar of the Apostleship of Prayer, is published by the central direction of the Apostleship—27 W. 16th St., New York, at the low figure of 10 cents. It contains a complete account of the League of the Sacred Heart, names and addresses of all the directors in the world, and a summary of the work done in the United States during the past year. There are a number of articles all dealing more or less with the wonderful work of the League, which has become as Catholic as the church herself.

The Catholic Almanac of Ontario for 1897, in its well-known red and gold dress, published by the Sisters of the Precious Blood, Toronto, Ont., is a welcome visitor. Taught by the experience of previous years, we were led to anticipate the usual excellent features of this pretty annual. We were not disappointed. If anything, it has gained, both in originality and excellence of the articles and stories contributed. Most of the illustrations, including the frontispiece, is a reproduction of the first distinctively Catholic picture painted by a Canadian—it represents the Crucifixion. The chronicle of events is more extensive and complete than it was last year. We hope