

Palestine and Syria, they have tents and camp equipments sufficient for 1,000 persons at one time, and often have from 700 to 1,000 animals engaged at once.

Mr. Gladstone, among the characteristics of the Victorian era, specifically mentions the facilities for travel secured by this great tourist agency. If, as Bacon says, travel is a part of education, this firm has been one of the greatest educators of the century. They have, as it were, caused a notable shrinkage in the dimensions of the globe, brought far-off places near, and made it possible to visit with safety and comfort almost every part of the world.

The Life and Times of Cotton Mather, D.D., F.R.S.; or, a Boston Minister of Two Centuries Ago. 1663-1728.
By REV. ABRAHAM P. MARVIN.
Boston and Chicago: Congregational Publishing House. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 382. Price \$4.20.

This book is a graphic portraiture of an old-time Puritan preacher. His biographer has faithfully depicted him in his strength and in his weakness. Cotton Mather was unquestionably the foremost man of his time in America; a preacher of remarkable eloquence, a man of profound and varied learning, a writer of marked ability and of indefatigable industry. He made most copious use of the press when printing was, in America, a costly and difficult process. For nearly half a century he sent forth sermons, tracts, addresses of cyclopedic comprehensiveness and variety at the rate of from five hundred to a thousand pages a year. His "Magnalia Christi," or Church history of New England, was a huge tome of over 1,600 pages the size of this magazine, and his "Biblia Americana," or Commentary on the Scriptures, was nearly five times as large. For about twoscore years he preached to the same congregation. One cannot but be struck, when reading his journal, with the deep and earnest piety of the man, his living ever in the great Task-master's eye, his fre-

quent exercises of self-examination and thanksgiving and prayer and intercessions, all tabulated under a score or more of heads. He reminds one of much of the methodical character and deep and earnest piety of John Wesley.

The book gives a vivid conception of that old Puritan life with its fast days and sober festivals, its long prayers and longer sermons, an heir of the former and two of the latter, its deep domestic affections, its sombre shadows in the background of war, Indian raids and pestilence and the darker shadows of witchcraft and superstition. Our author successfully defends the memory of Dr. Mather from the severer aspects of witchcraft persecution, but does not entirely exculpate him from a superstition which he shared with such men as Judge Hale, Richard Baxter, and John Wesley. We purpose making this old-time Puritan the subject of a character sketch, either from our own or that of some more competent pen.

Alaskana, or Alaska in Descriptive and Legendary Poems. By PROF. BUSHROD W. JAMES, A.M., M.D.
Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.
Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 368.

This dainty, full-gilt volume is a sumptuously printed poem on the legends, traditions, folk-lore, customs and scenery of that marvellous country, Alaska. The author has adopted the weird, rhymeless style of the Finnish epic, "Kalevala," and of the Indian Edda, "Hiawatha," as appropriate to his poem. Many of the legends and traditions are of remarkable beauty and pathos. The poem on "The Silent City," with its crystal walls and splintered pinnacles of ice, is very impressive. The effects of mirage, aurora, sunset and moonrise are reproduced with admirable skill. A number of exquisite reproductions of photographs of the sombre fjords, the glaciers, and gigantic forests of that wild Northland, and others of its people, their habitations, their totems, and the like, add interest to the book.