

"A Parson's Ponderings." By G. J. Low, D.D. Author of "The Old Faith and the New Philosophy." Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 184.

It is a foregleam of the closer union of the churches that we have here a book by a distinguished Anglican clergyman dedicated to the Chancellor of a Presbyterian University and published at the Methodist Book Room. This fact is typical of the breadth of view expressed in these thoughtful chapters which appeared as contributions to that high-class periodical, the Toronto Week. A sprightly vein of humor runs through the book which makes even the theological papers sprightly and spicy.

"Two in Italy." By Maud Howe. Author of "Roma Beata," etc. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 274. Price, \$2.00 net.

Maud Howe has an hereditary right to literary brilliance. The daughter of Dr. Howe, the famed philanthropist, and of Julia Ward Howe, his accomplished wife, she lived in a literary atmosphere from her youth, had the entree to literary and social circles abroad, and travelled in the very footprints of her father where he had suffered imprisonment and proscription and persecution for his sympathy with Polish patriotism. The book is very handsomely printed, and gives clever pictures with pen and pencil of romantic scenery and people of Capri, of Rome, of Poland, with sympathetic interpretation of the spirit, the humors, the quaint superstitions, and the noble patriotism of their people.

"Spiritually Fit." A Young Man's Equipment. By Albert G. Mackinnon, M.A. Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 189. Price, 2s. 6d.

This book comes to us saturated with the smoke from the Toronto Post Office fire, but there is nothing smoky about its teaching. It is a clear, strong, cogent discussion of the young man problem. It shows what is meant by the phrase "in fighting form" in spiritual fitness for Christian service. The very titles of the chapters show the vigor and vivacity of the treatment—What Counts, Advice to Investors, Salvation a Sequence, The Advantage of Personality, and The Fascination of the Future. We heartily commend this book especially to

young men as marvellously helpful in the avoidance of moral perils and the building of manly character.

"The Great Promises of the Bible." By Louis Albert Banks, D.D. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

Dr. Banks has given the readers of homiletic literature this fourth volume in a series, the other three of which are, "The Great Sinners of the Bible," "The Great Saints of the Bible," and "The Great Portraits of the Bible." The author is not an expository preacher, but is an adept as a preacher of sermons that abound in lucid, practical illustrations that feather the arrows of truth with marked results. These sermons proved to be "wells of salvation" to the worshipping multitudes in Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, New York City, and, apart from their messages of grace, should teach the reader the value of the quickened imagination and the observant mind.

"James Smetham, Painter, Poet, Essayist." By the Rev. W. G. Beardmore. London: C. H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 128.

James Smetham is one of the most striking products of modern Methodism. Himself the child of the parsonage, he developed amid religious surroundings. Poet, painter, diarist and essayist, he was in all a man of genius. His famous picture of the Last Supper was sold for three hundred and fifteen pounds. His religious life was sweet and tender and pure. A striking vein of humor runs through his career. As class-leader and teacher and preacher he was a splendid example of consecrated genius.

"On Common Ground." By Sydney H. Preston. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co. Pp. 316. Price, \$1.50.

A marked trend of the times is that back to the land. The trolley-car, the automobile, the commuter's train, enable busy city men to drop the strenuous city life, and, Anteus-like, gain strength by contact with mother earth. His former book, "The Abandoned Farmer," abounds in a spontaneous, hearty, genuine humor. The same vein runs through the present story. The adventures of the gentleman farmer, his experiences with his fowls, his pigs, and his rural haps and mishaps are enlivened by a gentle vein of romance which runs through the tale.