

causes. We hope that these eminently practical discourses—which aim at the welfare of the body as well as the soul—will more fully arouse attention to the evils he denounces, and lead to their removal.

*The Decay of Modern Preaching*, an Essay. By J. P. MAHAFFY. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price 90 cents.

We differ from Mr. Mahaffy at the very outset. We do not believe that there is, on the whole, a decay of modern preaching. We believe that there never was so much good preaching in the world as there is to-day. Notwithstanding this dissent from his premises, there is much in the book that is suggestive and instructive. Assuming the decay in preaching, the author describes its causes, historical, social, and personal, as the loss of novelty, increase of education, quietness of modern life; and in the clergy, the want of ability, of piety, of general culture, and special training. He refers also to defective types, and suggests the avoidance of certain extremes noted, the need of higher culture, elasticity of services, an itinerant ministry, somewhat like the preaching friars, and the celibacy of the clergy. With most of these, except the last, we would be disposed to agree, and for them we find provision made in our Methodist system.

*The Need of the World*. By the Rev. S. G. PHILLIPS, M.A., author of "Sacred Names," etc., pp. 307. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$1.

No theme could be more important than that treated in this book, and the author has treated it in many varied aspects, and with much clearness of insight, and soundness of judgment. He brings to his task the skill of a practiced writer, and the mature thought of a well-stored mind. He considers man in his social, public, and religious relations; the age in which we live as an age of progress, of conflict, of mental activity; the commerce, art, science, and literature of the age, its religi-

ous character; the Sabbath and its obligations, working for God, and similar practical themes. We anticipate for this book an even wider circulation than that of the former successful works of its author. Dr. Nelles contributes an admirable introduction, treating in his own exquisite style—weighted with thought and rich in beauty—the great need of the world.

*John Inglesant*. By J. N. SHORTHOUSE. 445 pages. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$1.

This is the fourth edition of a book which has attracted much attention on both sides of the sea. The leading literary journals have given it very high praise, and it has won the warm commendation of so distinguished a critic as Mr. Gladstone. The author describes it as "a philosophical romance." The scene is laid in the times of Charles I. It illustrates the teachings and practical influence of the Roman Catholic Church, especially of the Jesuits. The collision of the Church with the pietistic sects within its borders, and the social and civil life of the times, are all graphically described in the progress of a very entertaining story. The hero, John Inglesant, is brought up under the influence of the Jesuits; but as the result of a visit to Rome, he becomes disenchanted with the papal system, and is brought into sympathy with Protestantism. The author is master of a style of pure and vigorous English, which gives a Defoe-like verisimilitude to his descriptions. It is remarkable that a Birmingham manufacturing chemist, previously unknown to fame, should be the author of one of the most remarkable books of its class of modern times.

*The Temperance Battle-Field and How to Gain the Day*. By the Rev. JAMES COOKE SEYMOUR, author of "Voices from the Throne," etc., pp. 188, illustrated. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price 65 cents.

The accomplished author of "Voices from the Throne," appears