

NEW BOOKS

THE RELATIONS OF CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES. The Commercial Empire of the St. Lawrence, 1760-1850. By D. G. Creighton, Toronto. The Ryerson Press, Yale University Press, Oxford University Press, 1937. Pp. vi, 441, 3 maps.

This is a brilliant book, written in a rather turgid and defiant style that is at times both diffuse and tumultuous; but, though it might be more effective if it were shorter, and more convincing if less dogmatic, it is one of the most stimulating essays that has yet appeared on any phase of Canadian history. Apart from its style and length, one of the obstacles in the way of a just appreciation of this work is the threefold character of its theme. It attempts to narrate and interpret the history of a commercial system, to give a dramatic presentation of a river personified, and through both, by implication, to discover and reveal Canadian-American relations. Consequently the reviewer is sometimes in doubt whether he should apply the canons of historical and dramatic criticism or the principles of international law.

The author begins with a discussion of "the economy of the North", in which he attempts heroically to integrate geography and history, to show that nature had predetermined the struggle of two geographical areas in North America for control of the continent, and that these two areas, ultimately known broadly as Canada and the United States, but moved to their appointed ends. "Their economies grew naturally, organically, out of the very earth of the New World. It was not the sage wisdom of European statesmen which determined their development, but the brute facts of North American life. And the character and development of these two economies were to affect decisively not only their separate relations with the Old World, but their mutual relations in the New."

This is strong statement and, when all due allowance is made for the necessity of strong statement in order to obtain recognition for the influence of geography upon history, one is inclined to fear that it is just possible to swing the pendulum too far in the other direction, by ignoring entirely the experience and civilization of Western Europe. When one reflects that North American geography had operated a long time upon its own aboriginal population without producing such rival economies, it seems natural to conclude that geography was not *the determining* but a *conditioning* factor, and that the history of North America is rather the history of an enlightened people with certain predilections, operating in a new but inanimate area, gradually grouping themselves, rationalizing their pursuits, and assimilating their aims in accordance with the physical features, commercial opportunities and potential transportation facilities of the respective areas first occupied by them. In other words, this conception of geographic determinism is quite as unacceptable as the traditional political and racial interpretation from which it so violently recoils.

Likewise, one feels that the personification of the River St. Lawrence has led the author to violate the rules of dramatic presentation. If we apply the conventional standard of tragedy, the River, a towering dynamic personality which had risen to great heights, from certain inherent defects of character should have fallen only after an heroic struggle and then should have passed off the page stage of history: But Dr. Creighton sets out with his River as "a great actuality", "the central truth of a religion", alluring and commanding all about it, dictating to French and British alike, and bestriding the northern and western parts of the continent like a colossus, albeit with a hernia on both sides; and alas! the River proves to be only a stuffed giant, who cannot control the systems he is alleged to have set up. Nay, rather, he becomes quite indifferent as to what happens his works so long as he shall save his own life. When the Canadianized Europeans, the real persons who made Canadian history, made a bonfire of literature, art and architecture in Montreal, the St. Lawrence was nothing but a "literary" background like the "clear, cool, starry night." "All around rose the clamour of the aroused and turbulent city. And beyond that was the darkness and movement of the St. Lawrence." Or, again, when the Canadian merchants who had built up their system under the aegis of Imperial Preference had to re-adapt themselves to new economic and political conditions, this robot offers no assistance whatever. "Above all, the River remained, the River which cared not whether it was valued or neglected, the River which would outlast the ships that sailed upon it and survive all the schemes which it could possibly inspire."

But, if the author has not been convincing in his personification of the River, he has been emphatic in calling attention to the importance of geography and to the single-tracked mentality of the merchants of Canada between 1760 and 1849. His account of the contrasting economies of the Atlantic and the St. Lawrence is masterly. His story of the Canadian, French and British attempts to control the staples, first fur, then lumber and wheat, of the subordination of politics to commerce, of racial and agrarian interests to the interests of the merchants, and of imperial loyalty to profit is clearly and convincingly told. Likewise the impelling attractions and repulsions of the two great northern economies in the 19th century.

If the reader should have any misgivings as to whether the story is too clear and logical for any phase of imperial history, this misgiving is removed by the author, who admits in the text that the merchants did not see quite so clearly what they were seeking till the struggle was all over, and states, in his preface, that this study "is not meant to provide a final and self-sufficient interpretation of Canadian history." The synthetic historian of the future, therefore, will be free to integrate geographic, racial, ecclesiastical, political, constitutional and social factors in Canadian history without restraint; but, when and if he does, he must take *The Commercial Empire of the St. Lawrence* into account; for Dr. Creighton has written a noteworthy "introduction to a theme of enduring significance in Canadian development."

D. C. H.

PLATO'S CONCEPTION OF PHILOSOPHY. By H. Gauss, Ph.D.
Macmillan & Co. London, 1937. Price \$1.75.

Plato is apparently more powerful and revered among the thinkers of the world to-day than he ever was before. His perennial influence is amazing, and perhaps the secret may be partly at least explained by a perusal of this work of Herr Gauss. (He is a Swiss University Lecturer writing in English). This is the first of a number of Platonic studies planned by him. As befits an introductory essay, he treats of that very fundamental thing, Plato's whole attitude to philosophy and its study. That this was unique, he makes clear by a comparison of Plato's philosophy with that of other thinkers both before and since his time. He finds that Plato was seeking not so much a body of well-substantiated results, or an examination of the validity of human knowledge, as a way of life; a search after truth, not only for the sake of the knowledge gained, but mostly for its value in deepening and strengthening the individual's moral life by a fresh grasp of the abiding realities of the universe.

Who has not felt a thrill as he read some of the immortal lines of the *Republic* or the *Apology* or *Phaedo*, or some other of the dialogues? This is caused by that serene yet passionate call to the devout and serious study of philosophy as the thing most worth while in the world. It carries the conviction of religion and awakens an answering fire in the breast of every reader, such as was found blazing down the ages through Aristotle's *Protrepticus*, Cicero's *Hortensius*, St. Augustine's *Confessions* and so on. But can that ancient fire be kindled once more in these prosaic times, when philosophy is scorned for its feeble contradictory results, and abandoned even by its disgusted devotees as hopelessly bankrupt? Herr Gauss believes that philosophy has failed to-day simply because it has been seeking the wrong goal. Those who would learn what was the source of Plato's inspiration, and all who would recapture a lost faith in the powers of human thought, should read these closely reasoned pages of Herr Gauss.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL HISTORY OF
CANADA, 1819-1828. Selected and edited by A. G.
Doughty and Norah Story.

This collection of documents will at once become indispensable to students of Canadian constitutional history. Useful material will be found on such subjects as the disallowance of colonial statutes, Dr. Bidwell's case and the subsequent controversy over the status of aliens; the control of the Treasury and Customs Departments over the colonies, and numerous addresses, petitions, and other documents illustrating the growth of public opinion on constitutional matters. One interesting item is a letter from W. L. MacKenzie to John Neilson indicating that the reformers of Upper Canada are already discussing

the principle of responsible government. Miss Story's unique knowledge of the documentary material of the period is assurance that the selecting has been competently done.

R. A. MACKAY.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, A MANUAL FOR LIBRARIANS. By Marion Villiers Higgins, American Library Association, Chicago. \$2.25.

Miss Higgins will deserve the thanks of all librarians and students who have to handle Canadian government publications. While there are gaps, the arrangement, classification and description of material will be highly useful. This is the only manual on Canadian Government documents.

R. A. MACKAY.

THE GREAT MIGRATION: Edwin C. Guillet; New York, Nelson, pp. 284. \$4.00.

This is the story of the eleven million people who, during the period from 1770 to 1890, left the British Isles and travelled to North America to seek a new home. The reasons for this migration—evictions, famine and the widespread unemployment following the introduction of machinery—are dealt with briefly. The major portion of the book is, however, concerned with the various plans for assisting emigrants, and the hardships encountered by those who travelled by sailing ship.

The description of conditions in the steerage, the only accommodation which the majority of emigrants could afford, is not a pleasant one. There were laws governing the number of passengers to be carried, accommodation, etc., but, since stricter regulation would have meant higher fares and therefore greater hardship for the poorer emigrant, little was done to check the evasion of these laws by unscrupulous owners and agents. It is not surprising that the death rate from fever and other diseases was high, particularly among the Irish emigrants who were already weakened by famine and so unable to withstand the hardships of a long voyage under such circumstances.

The author describes the passing of the sailing ship, which had carried approximately half the emigrants crossing during that period, and expresses the view that few will regret the coming of its swift and comfortable, though less picturesque, successor, the steamship.

The book is well illustrated with reproductions from contemporary sources, books and magazines, and there are many interesting footnotes. The text is not encumbered with references to sources for each page, but these are collected at the end, together with a bibliography. The book as a whole is a mine of information, and will be welcomed by the many Canadians whose ancestors came to this country during that period.

G. S. COWAN.

SOME GREAT POLITICAL IDEALISTS OF THE CHRISTIAN ERA. By F.J.C. Hearnshaw, Harrap, London (Oxford University Press, Toronto). Pp. 273. \$3.00.

This collection of essays, or rather lectures, consists of Professor Hearnshaw's own contributions to the yearly series of public lectures on various political and social thinkers, which were given from 1923 to 1933 by the Department of Medieval and Modern History at the University of London. They include lectures on St. Augustine, Wycliffe, Machiavelli, Grotius, Bolingbroke, Rousseau, Burke, Austin and Spencer. As Professor Hearnshaw says, they are a "scratch team", but they none the less cover a wide range of political thought. All are presented in Professor Hearnshaw's clear and epigrammatic style, and with the sureness of touch of an eminent historical scholar and teacher. The bibliographies at the end of each chapter will prove most useful to teachers and students. One would have liked a concluding essay setting forth Professor Hearnshaw's own political and social ideas.

R. A. MACKEY.

CITIZEN OF GENEVA. Selections from the Letters of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. By Charles William Hendel. Oxford University Press. Toronto, 1937. Price \$3.50.

This is a selection from the letters of Rousseau given in translation by the Macdonald Professor of Moral Philosophy, McGill University, Montreal. It was only recently (in 1934) that a full edition of Rousseau's letters was published. This monumental work consisted of more than two thousand items in addition to what was contained in the standard edition of Musset-Pathay (1824). Through it a great deal of light has been thrown on the private life and character of the man who is universally admitted to have had so much influence alike for good and for evil. In fact the letters rather improve the impression that he has left of himself in that exceedingly candid work, his *Confessions*. He is not in them so consciously re-editing himself for the world.

The author of this selection has chosen enough typical letters to illustrate the middle and later periods of Rousseau's life, as well as the variety of his subject-matter and of his correspondents. He has also added an introductory biography which gives some new facts gleaned from the letters, and which forms an excellent background against which to link the various letters into the general course of his life. The "Englishing" of the letters has been very well done.

Rousseau's correspondence appears curiously lively even after the lapse of almost two hundred years. It displays well his nice sense of language, and his powers of fine and fluent expression. Those who could not to-day wade through his formal treatises and novels will still find his letters interesting and even fascinating reading. In them they will find that subtle knowledge of the human heart which, next

to his gifts of writing, were the author's chief asset. He lives here as much as in his other works in the realm of theory where he is so much at home; only here it is mostly the theory of ideal and blissful friendship, for which he so often declares his yearning. Apparently he was much better to correspond with than to live with, and at least in this selection his insane jealousy and quarrelsomeness are less in evidence than they were in actual life. Although there is a little too much sickly sentimentality in the letters for the average taste, we must remember that he struck exactly the right note for popularity in his own age. There is no better way perhaps to keep the middle of the 18th century alive than to read these extremely diverting letters.

A. K. GRIFFIN.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN IN VICTORIAN FICTION. By E. M. Delafield. Longmans, Green & Co. (Canada). Pp. 294. \$3.00.

Often minor writers are more documentary of what an age was, or liked to think it was, than are the great writers, who by their very genius stand apart from the general run of an age. It was probably with this thought in mind that Miss Delafield compiled this book of selections from the minor Victorian novelists, arranged under such headings as "Papa and Mamma", "Only the Governess", and "Declarations of Feeling". The result is a book that everyone should enjoy: the young can mock, the middle-aged can feel wistful, and the old can be frankly sentimental about the heroes and heroines of their youth. It is difficult to say which are the more delightful: the extracts, or Miss Delafield's quietly ironic comments on them. Here is a specimen of the former:

I think, my dear, that woman has been mercifully endowed with an instinct which discerns unconsciously what is becoming or not, and whatever at the first moment jars on that sense is unbecoming in her own individual case. The fitness of the perception may be destroyed by education, or wilful dulling, and often on one point it may thus be silent, though alive and active on others.

And now for Miss Delafield's comment:

Perhaps the last word has been said.

Later heroines of Miss Yonge's, and of her contemporary fellow novelists, danced both waltzes and polkas without giving rise to condemnation. The "instinct with which woman has been mercifully endowed" evidently moved with the times, and all was well.

The reviewer has only two minor criticisms of the volume: surely Miss Delafield could have found room for one quotation from Mrs. Amanda Ros's *Irene Iddesleigh*; and she might have broken her rule of taking from only the minor novelists to include just one picture of the perfect "invalid", Signora Vicinironi of *Barchester Towers*.

B. M.

POEMS. By Christopher Lee. Longmans, Green & Co. (Canada). Pp. 62. \$1.25.

This volume made the reviewer realize that he was middle-aged and old-fashioned. The time was when poetry was reticent of subject and generous of words; there were some subjects and actions that poets just did not write about. Mr. Lee is very modern in imagery and diction; his omission of useless words like articles, and of unnecessary details, is a joy to the trained reader. This quality is best shown by quotation:

Tram grinds to docks, swings bends
flickered street-names snatch
catch flushed and aimless eagerness:
quick hands twist and tear ticket, mind twists images.

That could hardly be bettered in its own particular style. Mr. Lee has fresh imagery, as

"Swing the swift lathe of hatred", and equipped to build a future firm against weather, clean-curved like bridge or bicycle, unbowed as elms, full running as those streams that meet.

If reticence is characteristic of Mr. Lee's imagery, it is not of his subjects. After all, the consummation of love—either with or without the marriage ceremony—is neither so new nor so rare that a poet need broadcast to the world the experience, which he would probably not describe to his own intimate male friend. Of course, one dare not disapprove completely: Jeffrey's solid work in criticism can never make amends for "Mr. Wordsworth, this will never do!"

B. M.

TO-DAY'S LITERATURE: An Omnibus. Edited by Gordon, King, and Lyman. American Book Company. Pp. 998. Price \$2.75.

This work, which seems to be designed for use in Junior Colleges, has a wide range of short stories, novelettes, poetry, plays and essays, by contemporary English and American writers. The editors evidently belong to the group of educationists who believe in giving youth not what time has shown as best, but what they think youth may conceivably read with the minimum resistance to the processes of education. If we grant this premise, the present volume is among the best of its kind. One might object to the statement that whatever is good in contemporary English poetry has been better done by American poets; to uphold this curious argument there are no selections from Messrs. Auden, Cecil Day Lewis, Stephen Spender and Siegfried Sassoon. Junior students will not complain, however, and they are, of course, the final authorities on all matters educational.

B. M.

A CANADIAN SHEAF.

BREATH OF THE SPIRIT. By Sister Maura. Macmillans in Canada. Pp. 35. \$1.00.

HYMN TO THE SPIRIT ETERNAL. By George Herbert Clarke. Macmillans, 50c.

RHYMES OF THE FRENCH REGIME. By Arthur Bourinot. Thomas Nelson and Sons. Pp. 44. \$1.00.

CANADIAN POETRY MAGAZINE. Quarterly. P.O. Box 491, Station F. Toronto.

A SECOND HELPING OF NEWSPAPER PIECES. By Thomas B. Robertson ("T.B.R.") Pp. 157. \$1.00.

THE BIRTH OF LANGUAGE. R. A. Wilson. Dent. Pp. 202. \$2.50.

Breath of the Spirit is a collection of poems that have been published in various journals in recent years. Sister Maura needs no introduction to readers of this quarterly. The poems have a simplicity, a music and a spirituality that catch the reader at once. Space prevents quotation of more than one short poem.

"Comfort and Hope"

I see
My mother's eyes
Shining
In the stars,
But her dear lips
Will never smile
Till the roses redden
In paradise.

Breath of the Spirit has to be read to be fully appreciated; a reviewer can only hope it will have a very wide circle of readers.

Mr. Bourinot has written unforgettable jingles. If a reader has a child who objects to studying history, the wise father could do no better than buy this slim volume. The reviewer tried a poem on a small girl of eight years, and was not permitted to stop until he had finished the book.

All those who are interested in Canadian poetry should be subscribers to *Canadian Poetry Magazine*, which costs only \$2.00 per year. It is doing a fine work in a field that lacks encouragement from the average Canadian.

Professor Clarke's "Hymn" won the Seranus Memorial Prize for 1937. It is a very dignified poem. It appeared originally in *Canadian Poetry Magazine*.

REVIEW readers will perhaps remember an earlier selection from the column conducted in the *Winnipeg Free Press* by the late Mr. Thomas Roberton. This second volume well maintains the standard set by the first. Readers of that volume will not need to be urged to read the present one; the new reader might well start with "Mission Night" and "A Cake of Soap" to appreciate the range and humanity of the late "T.B.R."

Professor Wilson has attempted to find the reason for the appearance of language on this globe. He bases his study on emergent evolution and the theory that there is no duality in Nature from matter to man. The author shows a very wide knowledge of his subject, and is forced to break lances with such authorities as Darwin. If one can accept the fundamental theses, one will find the subject convincingly presented. The book is open, however, to one criticism: it takes Professor Wilson too long to get to his subject—of 18 chapters, 14 are really introductory and exploratory. Granted that the subject is difficult and very complex, the reviewer doubts very much whether the main thesis would have suffered from the omission of the first 6 chapters, and a condensation of the following four. Nevertheless the volume is a real contribution to the subject, and the reader can look forward to the following volume promised by the author.

B. M.

ERASMUS, EEN LEVENSBEELD MET EEN KEUZE UIT ZIJN BRIEVEN.
By Antoon Vloemans. Published by H. P. Leopold,
The Hague, 1937. viiiM172 pp.

Dr. Vloemans's essay on Erasmus is an attempt to clear the great humanist's reputation of the traditional charges of weakness and timidity. He presents Erasmus not as the weakling who was afraid to ally himself openly with either Reformers or Traditionalists, but as the detached observer, whose mighty intellectual support was eagerly and vainly sought by both sets of partisans. It was not any real timidity that caused him to hold aloof, nor was it a fundamental spiritual shallowness, but his intense conviction that tomorrow's truth must be safeguarded from the dogmatists of to-day. Erasmus's way of thinking, says Dr. Vloemans, was "too human in an inhuman time".

The essay is, as its title suggests, a portrait: much of its effectiveness is due to the skilful way in which Erasmus is kept the central figure, sharply silhouetted against a lurid background of contending bigotries. There is very little said in favour of Martin Luther, who appears as a sinister demoniacal personage, replacing one set of repressive dogmas with another set no less tyrannous, or in a less titanic rôle as the imperfectly educated fanatic who, in Dr. Vloemans's expressive phrase, sought to hang as upon a hat-rack a whole new body of belief on a single text from St. Paul. Metaphysically he is the wild Will-Man, furious because he cannot win to his cause Erasmus, the man of reason.

We are shown several aspects of Erasmus's activity that in some biographies have not received proper emphasis: he appears as one of the first European thinkers to present a philosophical case for pacifism; as the humanist whose scholarly efforts to purify the debased but living Latin of the Schoolmen killed that language with too much kindness; as the religious teacher who wished to turn life as the servant of Christianity into Christianity as the servant of life. "As a man of the Renaissance, but also as a Christian humanist, Erasmus thought too highly of human personality and its works to trample it in the mire." Completely alien to this calm thinker was Luther's evangelical hysteria, that denounced human reason with "something reminiscent of the joy with which a fat sow wallows in the mud", Dr. Vloemans pungently observes.

There is no bibliography—perhaps no great loss, as the foundation of the book is P. S. Allen's edition of the letters of Erasmus himself, but it is to be desired that an English translation will be equipped with some sort of index.

Apart from a general vagueness of documentary reference, the essay is to be commended for its vivid and stimulating presentation of a great personality.

GEOFFREY B. RIDDLEBOUGH.

MANITOBA ESSAYS. Written in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of the University of Manitoba, by Members of the Teaching Staff of the University and its Affiliated Colleges. R. C. Lodge, Editor. Macmillans, 1937, pp. xiiiM432.

The sub-title of this volume explains its purpose and indicates its probable content. Its first essay is in verse, by W. Kirkconnell; this furnishes a not uninteresting approach to the remaining contributions, and perhaps merits its title, "Manitoba Symphony." Then follow a group of three essays dealing in various ways with the University of Manitoba: "History of the University of Manitoba" by A. B. Baird; "The Architectural Heritage of Manitoba" by M. S. Osborne; "The Red River Parish: Its Place in the Development of Manitoba", by W. L. Morton. These contributions will naturally be read by everybody who is interested in the development of education in the Canadian West.

The next group of essays deal with history: "The Loyalist Migrations: A Social and Economic Movement", by R. O. MacFarlane; "The King and The Crown" by A. R. M. Lower; "Bolingbroke and the Irish College in Paris", by H. N. Fieldhouse. These essays are well worth reading, and owing to their subjects will be read by a great many people. The remaining are more specialized in character.

There are three dealing with Classical Antiquity: "L'Humanisme Classique" by A. Bernier, the only essay written in French; "The

Last Appeal of Aristophanes", by W. M. Hugill; "Vergil's Georgics and Labour on the Land", by S. Johnson. There are two dealing with more modern Literature: "The Religious Conventions in French Epic Poetry of the Middle Ages", by C. M. Jones; "John Trevisa: A Fourteenth Century Translator", by A. J. Perry. There are five dealing with some aspect of experimental or laboratory science: "The New Physics in the Light of the Old", by F. Allen; "Growth, Normal and Abnormal", by W. Boyd; "Biochemistry: What it is; What it does", by A. T. Cameron; "The Physiology of Tapeworms", by R. A. Wardle; "Some Psychological Aspects of Medicine", by A. T. Mathers. Only a specialist could properly evaluate these essays; but they are so written that they may be read by the layman with profit I hope, and with pleasure I know. There remain two philosophical in tone, one of them definitely and professionally so: "Mechanism and Mind in Present Day Social Life" by H. W. Wright, and "The Comparative Method in Philosophy" by R. C. Lodge. These two essays will appeal to a wider audience than those that look more technical, but there is thinking disguised under their easy English.

The first impression one receives from the book is of a catholic variety in unity. President Smith says in his Foreword: "The composition of this volume testifies to the University's attempt to reconcile the classical liberal education and professional and scientific courses." The evidence is satisfactory. One reviewer got more fun out of the article on Vergil than any other, and was able to disguise his enthusiasm for the Physiology of Tapeworms. That, however, is a matter of taste and training. The University needs both. Manitoba and its scholars are to be congratulated on a distinctly creditable performance.

E. W. N.

TO LIVE IS CHRIST. By Trevor H. Davics, D.D. Toronto. Oxford University Press. 1937.

The preface to this volume tells us that it is made up of lectures delivered at Sunday Evening Services to the congregation of Eaton Memorial Church, Toronto. They deal with selected historical figures—writers, scientists, social leaders, saints. One evening it is the *Confessions of St. Augustine*, on another it is *Oliver Cromwell's Letters and Speeches*, on a third it is Harvey Cushing's *Life of Sir William Osler* that provides text for analysis. Dante, St. Francis, John Bunyan, John Wesley, Leo Tolstoy, Charles Kingsley, Albert Schweitzer are among those to whom the audience was successively introduced.

The plea in the preface that such subjects are suited to religious reflection is abundantly made good by the handling of them. In a single address, within limits tolerable for a sermon (at least in our time), it was possible to set forth only in briefest outline the significance of any one of these leaders of thought and action. But Dr. Davics has done this with rare skill, showing once more how an outline is



"Give me a big build-up, George—"
"I'll say you're as popular as Sweet Caps!"

SWEET CAPORAL CIGARETTES

"The purest form in which tobacco can be smoked."



not necessarily, in a disparaging sense, superficial. As what one may call an intellectual and spiritual "appetizer", these addresses are admirably conceived and executed. They must have left their audience, as in printed form they leave the reader, keenly anxious to discover more about the topics and persons that they treat. And what else is an essayist's supreme purpose?

Tastes differ about titles, and—apart from the traditional prejudice some of us have against a complete sentence as title of a book—one may doubt whether the words of St. Paul here chosen do indicate in the most suitable manner what was common to Dante and Charles Kingsley, to Leo Tolstoy and Oliver Cromwell. But there is no room for doubt about the value of this searching exploration into the fundamental unity of purpose, greater far than any difference of the form in which it expressed itself, by which these leaders of very various ages were animated. It is a high service thus to recall to a sense of the real enthusiasms, which have changed the world, those readers who by this time surely are sick of the manifold explanation which explains nothing. Having heard little of late about the causes of social evolution, except in terms of economic law, of national revenge, or of personal manias for despotism, we had need to be reminded how often a power far deeper than any of these has been at work. And is not such weekly reminder a purpose of all preaching?

An opportune book, then, in the best sense. Dr. Davies is a vivid narrator: he makes his characters live. His felicity of phrase, so well known to those who have heard him preach, is no less at his service as he writes. This book may be warmly commended alike as an educational stimulant in literature and as an example of the preacher's art at its best.

H. L. S.