

made by half a dozen or more people involved in the mystery—a not very probable thing in itself, but one productive of some queer contrasts. The plot is frankly farcical. (Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York. \$1.)

The Egyptian Sudan This is one of the books enlarging knowledge for which the world is debtor to Christian missionaries. The account given of the Southern Sudan by the war correspondent Steevens, in his book "With Kitchener to Khartum," describes it as a worthless land, "a God-accursed wilderness." We have our own "bad lands" in the far West, but an account of these is no fair description of our country as a whole. The same may be said of Steevens's account of what he saw of the Sudan. Dr. J. K. Giffen, a missionary of the American United Presbyterian Church, tells another story of it. It was, indeed, almost depopulated by the Mahdist wars during the last two decades of the nineteenth century, but it is a land of splendid possibilities, the remnant of whose inhabitants is beginning to feel under British protection the healing and uplifting hand of Christian civilization. Dr. Giffen's book has much to say of this, in his interesting account of the people and their traits and customs. It is practically the only reliable and complete account in print of an interesting and promising country, of which the earliest mention is attributed to the eighteenth chapter of Isaiah. (The Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. \$1, net.)

The Empire and the Century A scrap-book of expert opinion concerning the more important problems now confronting the British Empire and its several parts, this remarkable symposium of nearly nine hundred pages brings together a mass of information of substantial value to many classes of readers. Its predominating note is Chamberlainite, but the editor has included papers written by authorities who roundly differ from Mr. Chamberlain. Thus, a lengthy argument for protection by Mr. J. L. Garvin is followed by a defense of free trade from the pen of Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey. In all, the book contains over fifty essays and an imperialistic poem by Mr. Kipling. It is impossible even to mention the names of the various contributors, but an idea of the sound usefulness of this compilation may be gained from the statement that, in addition to papers dealing with the problems of empire in a general way, detailed studies—historical, political, economic, and military—are made of each of the colonies and dependencies. There are six articles on Canada, three on Australia and New Zealand, six on

India, six on South Africa, four on Egypt and the Sudan, and one each on the West Indies, Ceylon, Burma, the Straits Settlements, the British possessions in West Africa, and the East African protectorate. In every instance the writers are competent to treat of the themes allotted to them, and if their views are frequently colored by political preferences, they are nevertheless informative and deserving of close attention. Among the more general essays perhaps the most noteworthy are the contributions of Messrs. W. F. Monypenny, Bernard Holland, Richard Jebb, and John Buchan, who write respectively of "The Imperial Ideal," "The Crown and the Empire," "Imperial Organization," and "The Law and the Constitution." The last two deal with the different expedients whereby a closer union of the mother country and the colonies may be effected, and it is interesting to find that both Mr. Jebb and Mr. Buchan favor the colonial conferences plan as affording the starting-point for a permanent Imperial Cabinet. (E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$6, net.)

Lord George Bentinck Mr. Charles Whibley has provided this new edition of Disraeli's biography of Lord George Bentinck with a vigorous, indeed a forcible, introduction. It smacks of the campaign orator rather than of the essayist, passing from an adroit assault on Cobden and Peel and the principles they represented in the fiscal struggle of sixty years ago to a parallel between the protectionist leader of 1846 and the protectionist leader of to-day. The most thoroughgoing "tariff reformer" of modern England can find nothing to complain of in Mr. Whibley's eloquent flights, although the recent elections must convince him that the optimistic prediction with which the work closes is a trifle rash. From the historical standpoint, too, there is ample room for criticism. The sweeping statements common to campaign documents abound. We are told, for instance, that Cobden and Villiers "had little interest in the masses. They were the champions of the employers, and their end and aim was to reduce the wages of the workmen," and that Cobden "hated factory acts as bitterly as he hated trades unions." Comment on the book which has given occasion to this plea in behalf of the Chamberlain cause is unnecessary at this day. (E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$2, net.)

Napoleon's Love Story The Count de Soissons, who has translated this romance from the Polish of Wacław Gąsiorowski, points to its author as a "worthy champion of that art of novel-writing

which secured a world-wide renown to Sienkiewicz," and assures us that "he is a very able master of the historic romance, originated by Sir Walter Scott." Without being willing to indorse fully his high opinion of the youthful novelist—Gasiorowski is little more than thirty years old—we must say that "Napoleon's Love Story" has left a decidedly favorable impression on our mind. It is too long and treats of an unpleasant theme—the *liaison* between Napoleon and the beautiful Countess Walewska—but it is a strong piece of work, with passages of rare dramatic power and some fine characterizations. Gasiorowski, we are told, is an enthusiastic admirer of Napoleon, but the Napoleon of these pages is the reverse of admirable, and the presentation should go far to disenchant undiscriminating hero-worshippers. A word of praise is due the translator, whose version is flexible and agreeable, preserving the unique individuality of the original. (E. P. Dutton & Co., New York. \$1.50.)

*The Open Church
for the Unchurched*

The Rev. James E. McCulloch, of Nashville, Tennessee, here throws upon the problem of city evangelization the light of a great example. Under the leadership of the late Hugh Price Hughes the British Wesleyans have shown in London what can be done in American cities, whose churches are said to be twenty years behind the forward movement now well under way there. Where we have city mission chapels the great central halls of the British Wesleyans are their largest and most costly edifices, and thither the crowds throng. In these strategic points the "open" or "institutional" church has its home, its arsenal, its altruistic supply for needs which other parts of the social organism—the home, the school, the government—fail to supply. What is most to the point, the ablest church leaders are put in command. These methods are worthy, not of entire adoption, but of wise adaptation to American needs. This is an inspiring book. As Bishop Hendrix says in its Introduction, "it is a picture of the firing line." (The Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. \$1, net.)

*The Ranch on the
Ox-Hide*

The author of this young people's story of frontier life is Captain Henry Inman, whose volume on "The Old Santa Fé Trail" in a more systematic way but with immensely entertaining qualities revived the old days of pack trains, trappers, teamsters, adventurers, and Indian fighters. The same kind of material is here used in describing the hardships, perils, and sport of a group

of four boys and girls thirty years ago, and before the Indian, the buffalo, and the antelope had disappeared. (The Macmillan Company, New York. \$1.50.)

*The Reconstruction
of Religious Belief*

In this book Mr. W. H. Mallock deals only with three fundamental articles of religious faith—God, freedom of the will, and immortality. Concerning what is distinctive in Christianity he has nothing to say. The foes he attacks are materialism and determinism. His attempt is to show, first, that faith in all three of the fundamental articles named above is essential to the social organism, and, second, that faith in at least the first two is really implicit in the agnosticism which ignores and the materialism which denies them. This is not an original argument, but it is put by Mr. Mallock in an original way. His book would be a third better if it were a third shorter. It appears to us quite conclusive to any one who is patient to read it and open-minded to give it attention. Simple as they appear to be to the superficial thinker, materialism and determinism are both self-contradictory, and their self-contradictions are by Mr. Mallock effectively exposed, though the process of argumentation is sometimes needlessly elaborated and complex. (Harper & Brothers, New York. \$1.75, net.)

Teachers' Guide

Dr. Martha Tarbell has produced a work for teachers of the International Sunday-School Lessons for 1906 which ranks with the best of its class. It would be difficult to excel it in the line which passes over all critical problems to illustrate and apply to pupils of all ages the teaching of the text as it stands. Aside from its immediate value for the current year, whose lessons are all upon the life of Christ, it has a permanent value for preachers in quest of "sermon-stuff." To these its copious selections from helpful writers and numerous apt anecdotes present a large quarry of illustrative material. (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis.)

*The United States
in the
Twentieth Century*

When M. Pierre Leroy-Beaulieu's work first appeared, *The Outlook* (October 29, 1904) devoted considerable space to an account of the scope and conclusions of the book, recognizing it as one of the most important volumes about the United States ever written by a foreign student and observer. The book has now been carefully and admirably translated into English by Mr. H. Addington Bruce, and will undoubtedly take its place as an informative and instructive survey of the industries, resources, and development of the