

tice, and humanity. It cannot be denied that the nations which did not accept this change, but remained part of the Roman Catholic Church, or the Greek Orthodox Church with its dead Byzantine forms, have lagged behind in this respect. The upper classes in Finland, like the relatively cosmopolitan Swedes, were also greatly influenced by the period of free-thought and the zeal for national reform and development which marked the close of the eighteenth century.

"Notwithstanding the frequent frosts, the climate of Finland cannot be called unfavorable to agriculture. This is due to the Gulf Stream, which mitigates the rigor of the climate, though not to the same extent as on the Norwegian coast. Finland is also surrounded by the Gulf of Bothnia, the Gulf of Finland, and the Lake of Ladoga, three great reservoirs which retain the warmth of the summer far on into the autumn. The whole country slopes to the south-west, which leaves it exposed mainly to the warmer winds.

"Finland cannot be compared with America. It is still a poor country and backward in many respects. Also its progress is not quite on American lines. Still it reminds us in many ways of the great country which is progressing more rapidly than any other of modern times. Scandinavian emigrants of the peasant class very seldom return to their country with the intention of remaining there; or if they do, they nearly always change their mind and go back to the United States. With the Finlanders it is different, perhaps partly on account of the difference in their language, which makes it less easy for them to amalgamate with the Americans. In the case of the Scandinavians it must be remembered that half the language of America is nearly the same as their own. We are told, however, that the case is the same with the Swedes from Finland; and the reason for the more frequent return of the latter to their native country may very well be that in Finland there are the same opportunities for improvement, cheap land, etc., as in the United States. Even the poverty of Finland reminds us of what has been said about Western America: 'It is not poverty but incipient wealth.' At all events we find in Finland an admirable capacity for improvement. The question still remains whether this will be hampered by unnecessary difficulties coming from political sources."

BOOK NOTICES.

Mr. Robert Rexdale has published under the title *Rhymes* (Fleming H. Revell Company. Chicago, New York, etc. Price, \$1.00.) a little volume of poetry which shows him to be a thoughtful man with deep poetical sentiments, Lillian Whiting calls him "one of the spontaneous singers," and says, "his work is marked by brilliant and sympathetic power." He inscribes the volume to his child Phyllis, to whom the first poem is dedicated under the title "Where the Green Cicada Sings."

"In your fond eyes, Phyllis dear,
Shines the June light of the year.

Life's today a garden-close,
Where the tree of pleasure grows,

And its branches cool and sweet,
Drop the rich fruit at your feet."

Another poem inscribed "Lines to a Little Boy" reads as follows :

"I wish for thee, my little, prattling boy,
Life's bravest battle and its fewest scars ;
Such love as shineth in thy mother's joy,
Lit by the gleam that glorifies the stars !
E'en all that Heaven can send to make thee great,
Youth's aspirations and man's grand estate."

Among our Japanese exchanges we have a semi-monthly magazine called *The Student*, which is devoted to the English language and literature. The magazine, as its name indicates, is primarily for the interest of Japanese students who are struggling to master the intricacies of the English tongue. Each number has as a frontispiece the portrait of an English or American man of letters or of some one who has distinguished himself in the promotion of friendly intercourse between the East and the West. Most of the current numbers contain some notes or short articles on the war, which is naturally of the most absorbing interest at present to readers of the paper. Considering all the difficulties under which its Japanese editors are working, *The Student* must be said to be a very creditable magazine. The chief editor is Mr. Inazo Nitobe, author of the *Bushido*, a book published a few years ago in this country, and well known to those who take interest in things Japanese. It depicts the Japanese religio-ethical life which is closely akin to that of knighthood in the Middle Ages of Europe, and explains the inner motive of Japanese soldiers and sailors, whose intense patriotism and reckless bravery in the present war have astonished the world.

The magazine is published by The Student Company, Gobancho, Tokyo, Japan.

T. S.

Hinds, Noble & Eldredge, 31-35 West 15th St., New York City, have published a collection of patriotic songs under the title *Songs of the Flag and Nation*. Like the *Standard Hymnal* of Mr. Converse this collection contains the old classical hymns as well as many modern productions, and the editor, Mr. Walter Howe Jones, says: "We call special attention to this book's large percentage of new and sterling material,—effective solos, inspiring unison songs, stirring odes, massive choruses, selections for special holidays, with its sprinkling of male-voice selections of not too ambitious character. The nucleus of the new material consists of the prize-winners in a competition which we inaugurated in 1903."—It may be interesting to the readers of *The Open Court* to know that two of the songs of the editor, viz., "Unfurl the Flag," composed by Oliver H. P. Smith, and the "American War Song," composed by Robert Goldbeck, have been included in this collection.

Dr. Edward Anthony Spitzka made a special study of Major Powell's brain, and, having enumerated the different points in which it may claim special pre-eminence, says: "Major Powell, geologist, ethnologist, explorer,

philosopher and soldier, was endowed with a superior brain and, what is more, he used it well." Those interested in the details of the investigation will find it published in the *American Anthropologist*, New Series, vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 585-642.

My Little Book of Prayer by Muriel Strode (published by The Open Court Publishing Co.) is original in its directness and simplicity. It is religious, though neither dogmatic nor orthodox, and its most characteristic feature is the strength which pervades its sentiment. Rarely has there been written a book more wholesome and invigorating than this unpretentious little volume.

THE TEMPTATION OF BUDDHA.

According to the ancient Buddhist traditions Siddhartha Gautama was tempted three times before he attained to Buddhahood. When he left his house, Mara, the Evil One, to whom power is given over the whole material creation, stayed him at the gate, counseling not to resign the world and extending a promise to make him *Chakravarti*, a wheel king, i. e., a monarch to whom dominion is given over the whole earth. But Bodhisattva, the Seeker of Enlightenment, refused the tempter's offer. He went into homelessness to lead a religious life, bent on finding the cause of suffering and a solution of the problem of life.

Following the custom of the day Bodhisattva sought salvation in severe self-mortifications and fasts. His body became emaciated like a withered branch, and when he was on the verge of starvation, the wicked Mara again approached him, saying: "What good is thy exertion? Deign to live, and thou wilt be able to do good works." Bodhisattva answered: "Death in battle is better than to live defeated."

Having attained an insight into the nature of being, and having grasped the concatenation of cause and effect, Bodhisattva was attacked by the Evil One, who sent out against him his army of demons in order to overawe the Blessed One, seated in contemplation under the bodhi-tree, but their arrows were changed into fragrant flowers. Thereupon the three daughters of Mara. Lust, Folly, and Envy, came to entice him back to a wordly life by attempts at flattering his vanity and appealing to egotistic satisfaction. But the Buddha remained firm, and his heart could not be moved either by terror or passion. Thus the Bodhisattva, the Seeker for Enlightenment, remained victor, and while Mara with his wicked spirits fled, the earth quaked and the gods shouted for joy.

THE BUDDHA'S HYMN OF VICTORY.

When Buddha had attained enlightenment he uttered the following stanza:

"How many births in transmigration
Have passed I through but did not find