

less all over New Zealand, and what is more, the book is still constantly asked for. Mr Arey's firm had just received a new stock to meet the demand. In what, then, does its charm principally consist? In the force and power of its sympathies which appeal straight to the heart of the reader; in the intensely realistic and vivid manner in which the author has recorded his great dream of a universal brotherhood; in the selection of a subject which cannot fail to have an ever-increasing interest to everyone who sees around him so much misery and suffering; in the choice of the "Eternal City" as the scene of Rossi's action; in the masterful manner he has brought together the most seemingly impossible elements by making Rossi and Roma fall in love with each other, and Rossi and the Pope prove to be father and son. These are some few of the points which have made the "Eternal City" one of the most talked-of books of the day. In his great conception of a Socialist reformer, Hall Caine has introduced an element which, I believe, no other novelist has ever associated with the character. Rossi's infinite love for his fellow-men included oppressed and oppressors alike. Therein lay his great power.

Another book of an entirely different kind, which has had, and is still having, a great sale at Messrs Wildman, Lyell and Arey's is one which I reviewed in our July number, Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles." The reason of its popularity appears to be that it is almost universally acknowledged to be the best of this author's exceptionally clever detective stories, and that Sherlock Holmes appears in it as fit and fresh as when he made his first bow to the public.

"The Lesson of Evolution" is the title of Frederick Wollaston Hutton's last literary production.

It consists of two essays, the first, from which the title of the book is taken, formed the inaugural address at the meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Hobart on January 8th, 1902. Part I., of the second essay, which deals with "Early Life on the Earth," was also given as an address at a Sydney meeting of the same Association. To these the author has added Part II., entitled "Later Life on the Earth," which appears for the first time. The whole system of evolution from its commencement, with its purposes, is given in a remarkably clear, concise and readable manner. The book will be invaluable to those who wish to get a good grasp of the subject, but have not time to study the more voluminous works devoted to it. Many of our preachers would also find it of great service as proving how science assists religion instead of opposing it, as in many of their sermons they strive to make us believe. The book is to be obtained from Messrs Simpson and Williams, Christchurch, and is sure to obtain a ready sale.

"Heather and Fern" is the taking title of a volume of verse which Mr J. Liddell Kelly, of Wellington, has in the press, and purposes publishing at Christmastide. It suggests a happy blend. The subtitle, "Songs of Scotland and Maoriland," is scarcely necessary. With a patriotic spirit the author declined an English publisher's tempting offer, and decided to publish in New Zealand. Those who are familiar with Mr Kelly's Maori songs, many of which have appeared in this Magazine, and who are aware that his Scottish songs were mentioned and quoted in "A Hundred Scottish Poets," will look forward with pleasurable anticipation to "Heather and Fern." The book can be ordered in advance, which is an excellent way of securing an early copy.