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The most difficult and laborious part of Canon Girdlestone's work, and which runs through it all, is the tracing the differences between the older and more recent books, as shown in the same passages—in spelling, especially as regards the insertion or omission of servile letters, in the use of prepositions, having nearly the same meaning, in the employment of words, short phrases or idioms, and in the use of the names Elobim and Jehovah. These variations are not uniform, but frequent enough to show a distinction in the ordinary *usus loquendi*, all of which put together form a proof that the language, like other languages, suffered changes in the course of years between Samuel's time and Nehemiah's.

The remarkable collection of facts which Canon Girdlestone has brought together will be found to have a great bearing on some questions of first-rate importance, especially in relation to what is called the "Higher Criticism," and also, less obviously, with respect to Inspiration. I cannot but regard this book as one in itself of very deep interest to all serious students, and as an earnest that destructive criticism is not in the future to have, as has been too much the case hitherto, a monopoly of painstaking investigation, and patient study of the minute details of style, and idiom, and words, and letters of the Old Testament Scriptures.

SAMUEL GARRATT.

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## Short Notices.

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*The Great Reconciliation and the Reign of Grace.* By EDWARD SEELEY, Vicar of the Martyrs, Leicester. Cheaper edition. Pp. 306. Elliot Stock.

This volume is a re-issue of a weighty book which has already attracted some notice. The importance of the subject is evidently very adequately realized by Mr. Seeley, who has brought to the exposition of the great doctrine of the Atonement a fund of learning and shrewd wisdom whose very magnitude is appalling to the lay mind. Many modern difficulties are courageously tackled, and the candid-minded agnostic, who was sufficiently fair to attempt a perusal of the arguments set forth by the author, would not be sent away empty. But this is not the invariable rule. Occasionally Mr. Seeley states a difficulty without supplying a reply. It is doubtless true to say that "it must be presumptuous unbelief for us to question the suitability of an instrument specially made by an all-wise Creator"; but, alas! presumptuous or no, men do raise questions which it is the duty of the Christian apologist to answer or to let alone. In many respects Mr. Seeley's work is luminous and helpful, though he does not aim at literary grace. Men nowadays do not want to be tickled by closely reasoned discussions, but require doctrine that, while it is clear and unmistakable in its foundations, shall be soaked with a knowledge of the language and of the weariness of a world of tired men and women.

*The Revelation and the Record.* By Rev. JAMES MACGREGOR, D.D. Pp. 261. Price 7s. 6d. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark.

This volume of "essays on matters of previous question in the proof of Christianity," as the author somewhat curiously designates them, really forms the second part of an Apologetic series (to be completed in three parts), the object of which is to set forth the view that "the proof of Christianity is constituted by the whole historical appearance of this religion among mankind." The present instalment (the first appeared some two or three years back) is occupied with two points of main

importance—(1) under the head of *Revelation*, with supernaturalism; (2) under the head of *Record*, with the proof of the New Testament canon.

The work is rigidly conservative, but written with such considerable power and concentration, and with such clear knowledge of the facts of the case, that a reader, whatever doubts he may have had before, will with difficulty resist giving in to the writer's conclusions. Dr. Macgregor has the rare gift of making "the other side" look absurd, and this not by cheap jibes, but by solid reasoning. And this leads one to say that the fascination of the book—and fascinating it is, in its own way—consists in its sterling qualities of common-sense and reasonableness, not in its style or its method.

There are many of Dr. Macgregor's criticisms I quite dissent from. He tilts very hard against Hegel at all times, and would like to break down "the system" if he could. I shall quote in this place the following excellent decision on the whole subject by the greatest master of Hegelianism in these islands—Dr. James Hutchison Stirling. He says:

"We are bound to accept Hegel's own professions. Again and again, and in the most emphatic manner, he has asserted himself not only to be politically conservative, but religiously orthodox—a Lutheran Christian. If we accept, as we do, his first assertion without difficulty, we have no right to deny his second. Indeed, however pantheistic the construction, so to speak, in space may appear, the tables, as intimated, are wholly turned in the construction in time, and *Hegel ends not only by profession, but by philosophy, a theist and a Christian.*"<sup>1</sup>

It would be unfair to close this brief notice of a really excellent work without a word of thanks to Dr. Macgregor for the labour and thought he has expended upon it. Out of the six essays which it contains, there is not one which does not deserve careful study.

E. H. BLAKENEY.

*Chronicles of Uganda.* By the Rev. R. P. ASHE. Pp. 464. Price 7s. 6d. Hodder and Stoughton.

There is no spot in the missionary field which more justly excites interest at the present moment than Uganda, where the Gospel has made such rapid progress, and where its results seem to have been thorough and permanent. Mr. Ashe, as an intelligent eye-witness, has given in this charming volume a continuous story of the chief events which led to Uganda becoming an English protectorate. It is a thrilling narrative of adventure, danger, and protection, and seems to carry us into the very heart of that romantic region. There are twenty-six admirable illustrations from photographs taken on the spot.

*History of the Church of England.* (Public School Text-Books of Religious Instruction.) By the Rev. E. L. CUTTS, D.D. Pp. 222. Price 2s. 6d. Longmans.

This manual will be useful in supplying a want. It is a very clear and succinct history of the original planting of the British Church, the subsequent Saxon Church, the gradual encroachment of the Church of Rome, and the various institutions of the Church of England. Dr. Cutts wisely avoids all doctrinal difficulties, and confines himself to matters of fact.

*Chapters on Church Music.* By the Rev. B. DANIEL. Pp. 211. Elliot Stock.

It is quite refreshing to read such a book as this by an accomplished organist and musician on such a subject. Mr. Daniel inculcates very strongly the principle of common-sense in congregational worship. His remarks on hymn-tunes and chants are extremely judicious. In the chapter on choral and congregational services his position is indicated by

<sup>1</sup> "Lectures on the Philosophy of Law," p. 13.

the following sentence : " The choral service is no longer found only in its native home, the cathedral. It has been planted in places where it will never live ; even in villages, music, not content to be handmaid, has forgotten her place, and has presumed to push public prayer and praise out of the sanctuary. This must often be due to the efforts of over-enthusiastic musicians. A clergyman once said, ' Give musicians too much of their own way, they will ruin the services.' " Mr. Daniel argues very wisely for retaining the organ and choir in the west gallery, and for employing the voices of women instead of the tuneless shrieks of half-taught village boys. The book will be a tower of strength to clergymen in dealing with any ill-considered enthusiasms and inappropriate ambitions on the part of organists and choir-masters.

*The Kingdom of God.* (2 vols.) By TOLSTOI. Pp. 261 and pp. 266. Heinemann.

There is a great deal that is beautiful in Count Tolstoi's two volumes, and they deserve careful attention as a protest against a merely ecclesiastical setting of religion ; but he makes several fundamental mistakes. He forgets, in the first place, how constantly our Lord uses the form of paradox in sentences when you have to break a nut in order to get at the kernel. He forgets also that Christian morality, life, and spirit cannot subsist without the foundations of doctrine, of which, in the New Testament, they are the outcome. And he confounds the lifeless, mechanical religion, only too common in the Greek Church, with all religious systems of doctrine, however well-founded, Scriptural, and fruitful. But the book as a study of the spirit of Christianity, if not divorced from the doctrinal truths, must end in good.

*Tolstoi's Boyhood.* By Himself. Pp. 480. Price 1s. (cheaper edition). Elliot Stock.

This well-known book will be welcomed in a cheaper form, as it illustrates a very noble mind, and gives assistance in understanding Russian society.

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#### THE MONTH.\*

THE anniversary meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society was held in the library at Lambeth Palace on April 30, under the presidency of the Bishop of London, in the absence abroad of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The annual report, an abstract of which was presented, showed that the income of the central council had been £4,070 (an increase of £251), and the expenditure £4,172—the latter sum, however, including special and non-recurring outgoings of £673. The sales of publications amounted to £5,425. The deficit had been reduced by £838 during the year, to meet which Mr. A. F. Hills had offered £500 under certain conditions. There had been considerable demand for publications dealing with the Gothenburg system. A scheme had been instituted for the training of Band of Hope teachers. It was hoped that the second reading debate on the society's Licensing Bill in the House of Lords would not be without effect as an educational movement, and would in all probability bear repetition in the near future. The Police-court and Prison-gate Mission had made steady progress. The number of courts visited was 189 ; cases visited at their homes, 44,934 ; prisoners met on discharge, 15,809 ; persons (chiefly young women and girls) placed in homes or restored to their friends, 1,784 ; employment provided, including

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\* We are indebted to the *Times* for its useful summaries of many of the May Meetings.