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the working classes prefer worshipping in mission halls to the somewhat ceremonious worship of the Prayer-Book. In all populous parishes such mission halls should be provided, where earnest laymen can exercise their gifts without restriction. These will gradually be feeders to the parish church, and certainly will not interfere with the numbers of those who can appreciate the consummate beauty of the services provided for us by the Reformers.

18. It need hardly be added that there is no means by which the clergy can more extend their influence or more properly commend themselves to the laity than by exhibiting throughout their daily life a true, primitive earnestness, zeal, faith, and self-devotion. Never was it more necessary than in the present day to lay aside all worldliness and mere worldly enjoyments. What is probably the natural life for the squire and his family, would often be very unfitting indeed in the preacher of the Gospel, whose whole life is consecrated to promoting the kingdom of Christ on earth, and who finds that life too short for the discharge of his tremendous responsibilities.

I have offered these suggestions in response to a most kind invitation, not from any superior experience of my own, but frankly and freely as an impartial observer, and in accordance with the unrivalled opportunities of survey afforded me by the central position of my office.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

Short Notices.

The Ancient and Modern Library. Published at 1s., grey boards ; 1s. 6d., scarlet cloth. Griffith, Farran and Co.

No. 1, "Confessions of St. Augustine." Pp. 227. Messrs. Griffith and Farran are much to be congratulated on their enterprise in publishing, in excellent type and in a very readable form, some of the most classical theological works in Christendom, and it is to be hoped they will be encouraged by a large sale. The first of the series is, of course, one of the most touching and inspiring results of human piety and genius.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 have not been received.

No. 5 is William Wilberforce's celebrated and thoughtful work, "The Five Empires," written from the point of view of Divine providence in evolving the Church of Christ. It contains 214 pages.

No. 6 has not been received.

No. 7 it is needless to praise. It is Jeremy Taylor's immortal work "Holy Living." Pp. 295.

Nos. 8 and 9 have not been received.

The revival of religious life in England owes much to No. 10. It is Law's celebrated "Serious Call." Pp. 287. It would be well, indeed, if this were widely studied in these days of frivolity and uncertainty.

No. 11 is the first vol. of "The Lives of the Popes," translated from the Latin of Platina, by Canon Benham. It takes them down to the death of Alexander II., A.D. 1073. Pp. 288.

No. 12 has not been received.

No. 13 contains the splendid orations of St. Athanasius against the Arians. Pp. 299.

No. 14 has not been received.

No. 15 is the grave and thoughtful "Whole Duty of Man," generally ascribed to Dorothy, Lady Pakington. Pp. 290. A capital work to give to Confirmation candidates.

No. 16 is extremely interesting, being an exact reprint of the second Prayer-Book of King Edward VI., which, with the slight changes made in Queen Elizabeth's reign, is practically the Prayer-Book now in use. Pp. 239.

No. 17 is the second volume of Platina's "Lives of the Popes," taking them down to the death of Paul II. in 1471. Pp. 296.

No. 18 has not been received.

No. 19 is the famous work of William Wilberforce which revolutionized fashionable society at the beginning of this century: "The Practical View of Christianity." This is a work which should again have renewed life in the widest possible circulation, especially amongst young men.

No. 20 is the first volume of "The Apostolic Fathers," preceded by Burton's "History of the Church in the First Century," and comprises the Epistles of St. Clement of Rome, and St. Barnabas, and the Shepherd of Hermas. Pp. 299.

No. 21 has not been received.

No. 22 is the second volume of "The Apostolic Fathers," with Professor Burton's "History of the Church in the Second Century," comprising the Epistles of St. Ignatius, the Epistles of St. Polycarp, the Epistle of the Church of Smyrna, the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, the Epistle to Diognetus, and Reeves' essay on "The Right Use of the Fathers." Pp. 277.

Nos. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 have not been received.

No. 29 contains the celebrated "Cur Deus Homo" of St. Anselm, together with an exceedingly interesting collection of eighty-nine letters of his correspondence.

All these volumes are at the same small price of 1s. It is a wonderful advantage to young people in the present day, at merely nominal cost, to have a whole library of the best theology in English at their command.

The Teachers' Classified Lesson Material. The Four Gospels combined Narrative. By the Rev. W. J. DEANE, the Rev. MARCUS JOHNSON, and the Rev. CHARLES NEIL. Pp. 431. Price 7s. 6d. Nisbet and Co.

This is part of a great scheme under the editorship of the Rev. Charles Neil for supplying Board-School Teachers, as well as those in Sunday-schools and second grade schools, both public and private, with a comprehensive supply of materials specially arranged for lessons. The first department is the Teacher's Synoptical Syllabus; the second, the Teacher's Catechizing Bible, in three volumes; and the third the Teacher's Classified Lesson Material, of which the present volume contains Parts 12, 13 and 14.

The work contains the usually accepted harmony of our Lord's life, and is admirably worked out, each separate sentence or idea being in a single line. It ought greatly to improve the system of teaching Scripture to all young people. Admirable in simplicity, it is rich in suggestiveness. It will be a very material assistance to teachers in private schools, in making their lessons distinct and interesting.

The Lifting of the Shadow. By K. M. EADY. Pp. 202. Price 2s. Sunday-School Union.

"The Lifting of the Shadow" is an explanation of undeserved suspicion. The book is interesting and wholesome.

Keith's Trial and Victory. EDITH EVERETT GREEN. Pp. 288. Sunday-School Union.

Miss Everett Green is too well known and popular a writer to need commendation. This is a story of modern life. Keith is the daughter of an English peer, and was brought up to suppose herself his sole heir. Her trial consists in having an unexpected stepmother brought home. The contrasts of Christian principle and worldly life are worked out with skill and power.

The Annotated Paragraph Bible. Pp. 438. Price 28s. R.T.S.

This is the well-known work issued between 1850 and 1860, reprinted with improvements. The prefaces and introductions have all been carefully revised, and there are textual notes at the bottom of every page. The volume contains also Indexes to the Notes on the Old and New Testament. Probably no work in the same space does so much to increase the interest of the Bible, and to render it intelligible. In every Christian family and schoolroom it would be a welcome treasure.

The Master's Guide for His Disciples. Pp. 268. Elliot Stock.

The idea of this careful and thoughtful work is to arrange our Lord's teachings under various heads. The main divisions are the Devout Life, the Practical Life, and the Intellectual Life. Under the first head come Christian Worship, Spirit and Virtues; under the second, Christian Conduct and Relations; under the third, Christian Truth. To have the whole doctrine of our Lord arranged in a manual of this kind, so carefully and reverently, is a great help to devotion and to meditation, as well as to the preacher and teacher in his study.

A Glossary of Words and Phrases in Use in South-East Worcestershire. By JESSE SALISBURY. Pp. 104. Price 4s. 6d. J. Salisbury.

Many parts of the country now have their own handbooks of dialect and folk-lore. This has been done for South-East Worcestershire, part of the ancient kingdom of Mercia, with intelligent care by Mr. Salisbury. The advance of railways and the spread of a uniform system of elementary education are doing much to abolish local colouring in England. Mr. Salisbury's zeal in making this collection, and the skill with which he illustrates the use of words by local phrases, are worthy of all praise.

The Heroic in Missions. By the Rev. A. R. BUCKLAND. Pp. 112. Price 1s. 6d. Isbister and Co.

To produce interest in missionary work it is an excellent plan to connect the name of some special hero with different mission fields. Mr. Buckland has given us seven short sympathetic sketches of this character, admirably suited for reading aloud to working parties or to pupils. The first deals with William Welton and his friends in China. The second gives an account of George Ensor as the pioneer in Japan.

The next section, "The Graves by the Victoria Nyanza," implies a thrilling and pathetic romance which needs no comment. "The Pioneer in the Far West" is the excellent Bishop Horden. "The Pilgrim Missionary of the Punjab," again, will be recognised as George Maxwell Gordon. The last chapter, "The Men who Died at Lokoga," records the death of our most recent martyrs on the fatal banks of the Niger. Mr. Buckland is a charming writer, clear and perspicuous in style, and sympathetic in treatment. His heart is wholly with his subject. It seems somewhat strange that these Church Missionary Bishops, really heroes of our age, who have spent their lives in the service of Christ with a truly primitive zeal, such as French of Lahore, Hannington of East Africa, Parker of East Africa, Hill of the Niger, Horden of Moosonee, and other famous missionary saints, should not be commemorated by some simple inexpensive tablet in the great national Cathedral of St. Paul, where so many of them were consecrated. Such a commemoration would stimulate vivid interest in missions amongst the thousands who daily visit that central church of the empire.

The Expositor's Bible: The Second Book of Kings. By F. W. FARRAR, D.D. Pp. 496. Price 7s. 6d. Hodder and Stoughton.

Archdeacon Farrar illustrates this interesting portion of Jewish history in his own graphic and picturesque way, from the wide stores of his reading, and with his own historical gift. Candidates for Holy Orders, as well as others, frequently display great ignorance of the narratives of the Old Testament. Such a brilliant *résumé* as this would greatly help them to keep the outlines of these ancient records in their minds. Into the question of Old Testament miracles the Archdeacon declines to be led, leaving it to the judgment and faith of each individual reader. With regard, for instance, to the mysterious account of the death of Elijah, he says: "Respecting the manner in which Elijah ended his earthly career, we know nothing beyond what is conveyed by this splendid narrative. His death, like that of Moses, was surrounded by mystery and miracles, and we can say nothing further about it. The question must still remain unanswered for many minds, whether it was intended by the prophetic analysts for literal history, for spiritual allegory, or for actual events, bathed in the colourings of an imagination to which the providential assumed the aspect of the supernatural."

"The Higher Criticism" and the Verdict of the Monuments. By the Rev. A. H. SAYCE. Pp. 575. S.P.C.K.

In this very interesting volume, the result of many years of patient and impartial study, Professor Sayce deals many very heavy blows at the impatient and uncritical imaginations of the promoters of the higher criticism. A preface is added by the Tract Committee to the effect that in publishing this work, which throws so valuable a light on the Old Testament, they do "not commit the society to an agreement with all the opinions expressed in it." The book ought to have had full treatment in a separate article, but it is desirable that no time should be lost in recommending it as an important and valuable addition to every theological library.

Poems and Idylls. By the Rev. JOHN CULLEN, D.D. Pp. 280. Price 6s. 6d. Partridge and Co.

Everyone who has the gift of poetic thought and rhythmical expression should cultivate it as a Divine blessing. Dr. Cullen has done this to some purpose. The matter is interesting, the metres varied, the

expression and rhythm melodious; and the writer shows deep sympathy with nature and insight into human character and life. Many of the lyrics have a genuine tone of pure devotion. Dr. Cullen is clearly a close student of Tennyson; but hardly any contemporary poet can be free from the influence of that great master. The book will be very pleasant reading in many a Christian home, class, or meeting.

Andrew A. Bonar, D.D. By MARJORY BONAR. Pp. 400. Price 6s. Hodder and Stoughton.

Dr. Andrew Bonar belonged to a family of eminent Scotch clergymen, of whom his brother, Dr. Horatius Bonar, the poet, was the best known. The biography is from his diary and letters, and is interesting as the personal record of an able and effective Evangelical ministry, and a transcript of a strong, thoughtful, devout and comprehensive mind.

Episcopacy. By JOHN FRASER. Pp. 403. Clarke and Co.

This is not exactly a historical disquisition on the institution of Episcopacy, but a medley on things, in the author's view, connected with Episcopal institutions. The opening sentence gives an idea of the scope of the work: "In the course of an inquiry, principally concerning Episcopal matters, many interesting particulars have been elicited with regard to various out-of-the-way things, and curious points by no means generally known . . . and a venture now made upon an exposition of some of them has proved somewhat arduous, it having been by no means easy to determine even upon a starting-place from whence to launch a few of the curious details which one is tempted to import."

The writer dislikes Episcopacy, and writes with a strong animus against it.

Lux Diurna. By JANET SINCLAIR BERGER. With an Introduction by the BISHOP OF WINCHESTER. Pp. 384. Price 4s. 6d. Hodder and Stoughton.

Mrs. Berger belongs to a literary family. Her father was John Colquhoun, author of "The Moor and the Loch"; her sister is the well-known novelist, Mrs. L. B. Walford; and her great-aunt was Catherine Sinclair, authoress of "Holiday House." The present dainty volume has a page for every day in the year, with a text from Scripture, a prose quotation, a verse or two of poetry, and a Collect. It will be a welcome addition to the contents of the devotional table or shelf in the private chamber. The selections are made from wide reading, and with conspicuous taste and judgment.

The Brahmin's Plot. By the Rev. W. J. WILKINS. Pp. 255. R. T. S.

A capital story of English life in India, which will do more than books of geography or statistics to throw light on that most romantic part of our vast empire.

The S.P.C.K. has been bringing out some admirable penny editions of classical English works of fiction. We have before us Scott's "Talisman"; Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe"; Maryatt's "Masterman Ready"; Cooper's "Last of the Mohicans"; Southey's "Life of Nelson," and Kingston's "Ned Garth," and "Owen Hartley." These little books are bound in scarlet, with white lettering, and should be scattered by thousands amongst the young men of our villages and towns. It is almost astounding that they should have these, the highest efforts of genius in fiction, in their hands for the price of a top or an orange.

MAGAZINES.

We have received the following (April) magazines :

The Thinker, The Expository Times, The Religious Review of Reviews, The Review of the Churches, The Newbery House Magazine, The Anglican Church Magazine, The Church Missionary Intelligencer, The Weekly Churchman, The Evangelical Churchman, The Church Family Newspaper, The Church Sunday-School Magazine, Blackwood, The Cornhill, Sunday Magazine, The Fireside, The Quiver, Cassell's Family Magazine, Good Words, The Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Young Man, The Girl's Own Paper, The Boy's Own Paper, Light and Truth, The Church Worker, The Church Monthly, The Church Missionary Gleaner, Light in the Home, Awake, India's Women, The Parish Helper, Parish Magazine, New and Old, The Bible Society's Gleanings for the Young, The Bible Society's Monthly Reporter, The Zenana, The Cottager and Artisan, Friendly Greetings, Little Folks, Our Little Dots, The Child's Companion, Boy's and Girl's Companion, The Children's World, Daybreak, Day of Days, Home Words, Hand and Heart, The Home Visitor, and The Jewish Herald.



THE MONTH.

THE Bishop of Rochester, from his sick-bed in Kennington Park Road, has written some very wise and needful words to his diocese (London south of the Thames, together with the northern part of Kent) on the coming London School Board election. "It is said that the election will turn largely on the religious questions raised in the recent controversy within the Board, and that those arguments on one side or the other should serve as a criterion of the qualifications of the candidates who seek our suffrages. I earnestly trust that this view will not prevail. The recent controversy, unfortunate, as I think, both in its inception and in its character, was, so to speak, accidental, and it has comparatively little bearing upon the general work of the School Board and the qualifications of its members. It has unhappily been exaggerated out of all proportion to its real importance, and it has, I think, distorted and confused the considerations which ought at all times to govern us in selecting candidates for a School Board.

"First, there is the need of securing and maintaining in our Board Schools the highest educational efficiency. Elementary schools under the London School Board should be as efficient as elementary schools can anywhere be made. Let the Church of England be foremost in maintaining that no economy is defensible which stints the elementary education of the children for whom the State has made itself responsible. Whatever the cost to our pockets as ratepayers, whatever the increase of difficulty in maintaining our voluntary schools, owing to the attractiveness of their rivals, our first duty as School Board voters is surely to the 475,000 children (he is speaking of the whole metropolitan area) now attending our Board Schools. No candidate who does not place this in the forefront of his responsibilities has, in my opinion, any right to sit upon the Board."

The Bishop goes on to speak in the next place of the compromise of 1871 on the religious question, and understands it to mean the elements of the Christian Faith as set forth in Holy Scripture. . . . "For the insignificant fraction of parents who object to religious education, the conscience clause affords ample protection; and it is difficult to believe