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## Short Notices.

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*Consecrated Work and the Preparation for it.* By Rev. J. ELDER CUMMING, D.D. Nisbet and Co. 1897. Price 2s. 6d. ("Deeper Life" Series.)

AN attempt to treat the question of holiness from its practical rather than its sentimental side is worthy of our earnest consideration. Here we have a book eminently adapted for its purpose, namely, to deal with holiness in its aspect of *preparation for work*. Into it are crowded the lessons of a forty years' ministry—a ministry of unique importance and wide-reaching result. The book will be valued wherever it is read.

*Perpetua.* By S. BARING-GOULD. Isbister and Co. Pp. 316. Price 6s.

An able and interesting story of pagan and Christian provincial life at Nîmes in the year 213 A.D. The origin of a local persecution, the complexities of relation between pagan and Christian, the humble character of the social condition of the Christians, and the local colour, are all woven with skill into a whole, which will be full of information to those who have not made a study of the early days of Christianity.

*London Riverside Churches.* By A. E. DANIELL. Archibald Constable and Co., Westminster. Pp. 318. Price 6s.

The author of "London City Churches" has produced another charming volume, with eighty-four beautiful illustrations by Alexander Ansted. There is one slight error: "Ham House" on p. 15 ought to be "Kew Palace," and "Kew Palace" on p. 50 ought to be "Ham House." The old-fashioned and delightful churches described extend from Kingston on the west to Greenwich on the east, on both banks of the great river, those in the city itself being omitted as belonging to the other volume. The historical accounts are pleasant reading, and it was a happy thought to bring this distinct class of churches into one collection. The printing and binding are in fitting taste.

*Te Deum Laudamus: Christian Life in Song.* By the late Mrs. RUNDLE CHARLES. 5th edition. Revised and enlarged. S.P.C.K. 1897.

This work is so generally known that we need only chronicle with satisfaction the appearance of a fifth edition. An editorial note observes that Mrs. Rundle Charles was engaged upon the book at the time of her death, and was not spared to complete the final revision of the sheets; but we have not observed any of the potential blemishes caused thereby for which the editor craves forgiveness in advance. To those who do not yet know this sketch of hymnology, we commend it warmly. Much of it is beautifully written; and independently of its higher design to

illustrate the unity of faith, which binds one age to another through the Communion of Saints, it is an alluring guide to a fascinating region of literature.

*The English Church, the Priest, and the Altar.* By FRANCIS PEEK. Lawrence and Bullen. 1897.

This admirable little work, not the less likely to be efficacious because written by a layman, is an expansion of an article which appeared not long since in the *Contemporary Review* as a criticism on Canon Knox-Little's "Sacerdotalism." The object of Mr. Peek's reply is best given in his own words (Preface, p. v): "My aim is, first to make more widely known the doctrines held and the teaching sanctioned by the sacerdotal party in the Church of England; secondly, to show how destructive such teaching is to the spiritual religion taught by Christ; and, thirdly, to point out that, in reality, it embodies many of the chief errors of the Church of Rome." The book is one which, in these days, cannot be too widely known, read, and considered.

*Shakespeare and the Bible.* By C. E. London: Samuel Bagster and Sons, Limited. 1896.

C. E. selects fifty of Shakespeare's sonnets, and opposite each prints such quotations from the Bible as will establish his contention that the mind of Shakespeare was permeated with the Word of God. We thoroughly agree with Major Walter that the home education of William Shakespeare was grounded upon the Bible, and that had it not been so he could not have been the poet he was of "the most profound, as well as the most tolerant, philosophy"; but had our view been different, we do not think C. E. would have converted us. It would, we are thankful to say, be an easy matter to find in the Bible the *locus classicus* for almost every pure thought and beautiful expression in the entire range of secular literature; and although C. E. has upon the whole chosen apt passages from the Scriptures to allocate to each sonnet, we are rather struck by his ingenuity than persuaded by his pleading.

*Modern Problems and Christian Ethics.* By W. J. HOCKING. Wells, Gardner, and Co.

This volume consists of twelve pointed and vigorous sermons on questions of the day. They are: Amusements, The Theatre, Politics, Society's Wastes, War, Gambling, London Problems, Labour Problems, The Sunday Question, Parental Duties, The Animal World, and Modern Follies.

The sermons are published at the earnest request of the congregation of All Saints', Tufnell Park, where the writer is very popular, and has overflowing congregations. He attacks the various problems with courage and decision, and in forcible and picturesque language. The treatment of the Sunday Question would probably please the Sunday League more than the Lord's Day Rest Association; but the writer is sanguine and

full of generous ideals, which must submit to the test of experience. This volume shows how wide may be the influence of the pulpit when used with sympathy and vigour.

We have also received the following magazines: *Good Words*, *Sunday Magazine*, *The Leisure Hour*, *The Critical Review*, *The Anglican Church Magazine*, *The Church Missionary Intelligencer*, *The Evangelical Churchman*, *The Church Sunday-School Magazine*, *The Fireside*, *Sunday at Home*, *The Girl's Own Paper*, *The Boy's Own Paper*, *Sunday Hours*, *The Church Worker*, *The Church Monthly*, *The Church Missionary Gleaner*, *Light in the Home*, *Awake*, *India's Women*, *The Cottager and Artisan*, *Friendly Greetings*, *Golden Sunbeams*, *Little Folks*, *Our Little Dots*, *The Child's Companion*, *Boy's and Girl's Companion*, *The Children's World*, *Daybreak*, *Day of Days*, *Dawn of Day*, *Home Words*, *Hand and Heart*, and *Church and People*.



## The Month.

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THE event that has most closely touched the heart of the English Nation this month is, of course, the death of Mr. Gladstone. Differences of political thought and every touch of old rancour have long since been laid aside; and, now that he is gone, we see how truly great he was, and how tenderly he was cherished by the entire English people.

The See of Victoria (Hong Kong), vacant by the resignation of Bishop Burdon, has been offered to and accepted by the Rev. Joseph Charles Hoare. The Bishop-designate, who is a son of the late Canon Hoare, has been a member of the Mid-China Mission of the C.M.S. since 1876. Mr. Hoare was one of the speakers at the C.M.S. anniversary celebrations early in May.

The Bishop of London has given the Prebendal Stall in St. Paul's Cathedral, vacant by the death of Bishop Billing, to the Rev. Dr. Barlow, Vicar of Islington.

An interesting experiment has just been made in her Majesty's prison, Exeter. The chaplain, the Rev. J. Pitkin, obtained the sanction of the Commissioners of Prisons for a ten days' mission, with the object of influencing those especially who are classed, for various reasons, as "habitual criminals." The mission was arranged by Canon Atherton, and the missioner was the Rev. W. Bryan Brown. A similar mission has just been held by the Church Army at Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, at the request of the authorities.