

## Short Notices.

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*Studies in the Life and Character of St. Peter.* By Rev. H. A. BIRKS, M.A. Pp. 280. Hodder and Stoughton.

THE purpose of this little book is explained in a paragraph of the introduction, from which we quote a few words :

The following studies . . . make no profession of learning. I leave it to others to press forward to higher fields. . . . I am content if on a lower level I may but linger lovingly and pick a few sweet blossoms here and there which others may indeed have noticed but not stopped to cull, intent upon an enterprise more arduous.

But in this paragraph the author scarcely does himself justice. A later paragraph expresses the substance of the book better :

We have in the great Apostle a noble example for our own lives, and as we come to know and love him more from patient pondering upon his conflicts and his struggles, his hopes and fears, and humbled following of his great Master Christ, the knowledge of his life gives a fresh force and power to his words, and they strike home to conscience and to heart with strength unfelt before. Instead of a mere abstract exhortation, we begin to hear in the words of Peter the voice, as it were, of a human friend, rich in his human sympathy, and glowing with the ardour of an undaunted hope. We feel, as it were, the grasp of a powerful man laid gently and firmly on our shoulders, and bringing us to Christ himself.

From these two paragraphs it may appear for what sort of readers the volume is chiefly meant ; not so much for learned theologians, or for doubters of the truth of revelation, or for anxious inquirers after the way of salvation, or for wilful wanderers from it, as for that large class who profess faith in Christianity, but have not realized what that faith means ; who have been taught that the Bible is God's Word, and look on Bible-reading as a religious duty, but have not learned to take God's testimonies as "the men of their counsel" ; who believe that Jesus died for them and is their Saviour, yet know but little of Him as He showed Himself to His disciples. To all such this book will, we believe, be very helpful. Yet no divine, however learned, but may find something fresh and well worth pondering in it, and no reader, however far from being a divine or caring for volumes of divinity, can fail to be impressed by the ingenuousness of the writer. To those who look on Christian faith as something obsolete except in Christian pulpits, a book like this must be a puzzle in its very naïve simplicity. We think it is a pity that the writer has not followed the Apostle more persistently to the close of his life. These "Studies in the Life of Peter" may, however, be conducive to what the Church yet lacks, a study of the life of Peter as a whole.

M.A.

*The Prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, arranged for reading in chronological order, together with Notes on the Transfer to the Christian Church of the New Covenant, and on Ezekiel's Temple Vision.* With diagram and map. By E. S. ELLIOTT. Morgan and Scott.

"Surely the chronology of Jeremiah's prophecies is somewhat confused!" exclaims a reader of its successive chapters ; and, in the hurry and manifold occupations of everyday life, the Book is laid down, it may be, with little more than the selection of an isolated verse for practical service or spiritual enjoyment.

"Oh, I have given up Ezekiel's Temple!" is full often the reply to an observation or inquiry concerning the last nine chapters of the prophecy.

'I suppose it has to do with the millennium, and we must wait till then to understand it! Besides, when so many people differ, who are far wiser than I, how can I expect to know about it?' And so the subject is easily, and apparently with little reluctance, set aside."

Should any of our readers here recognise an echo of their own words, we would suggest their possessing themselves of the pamphlet thus introduced. Representing, as it does, years of study, and evidencing an inheritance from the revered author of the "*Horræ Apocalyptica*," of a spirit of patient and accurate chronological inquiry, no thoughtful student of its pages can fail to gather clear light and teaching from their perusal, while the Rev. J. Smith Warleigh's work—"Ezekiel's Temple"—here finds appreciative representation. Both this little work and "*The Holy Seed*," an illustrated chart previously issued by the same author, we heartily commend to the notice of all Bible students. M.A.

*Joyce Tregarthen.* By E. CHILLON. J. F. Shaw and Co.

This might be called a story of almost exceptional ability. The scene is laid in the Scilly Islands, and a good deal is made out of the local scenery, though not quite so much as might have been expected. The chief figure is the heroine, Joyce Tregarthen, who is improbable but not impossible, a sort of shadowy-substantial character, presented, however, with great consistency. She is a young girl who has always breathed in a religious atmosphere, and falls into the fatal idea that it is possible to live without sin, and that she has attained to this condition. Unfortunately she shares this revelation with the simple fisher-folk of the islands, who hang on her words as on a saint's. But she is roughly disenchanted when she finds herself sinning indeed grievously, and after a sore struggle (which the author paints vividly) she tells her disciples the truth. This "devilish-holy fray" between Joyce's pure mind and pure yet mistaken imaginings is the main idea of the tale; but the potent elements of love and humour are not wanting. The hero and transgressing lover is least satisfactory; Joyce's sister Effie is attractive and real; but Mr. Wells, the schoolmaster of the Isles, possesses a marked individuality. He is a misunderstood genius who has a scheme for regenerating the world by the aid of cookery; and he mixes up love, revenge, and indigestion beautifully. Altogether this little story teaches a true moral, and in a deeply interesting way.

*Remarks on "Tithe Redemption."* By the Hon. and Rev. GEORGE BOURKE, M.A., Rector of Pulborough, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen. Pp. 12. Elliot Stock.

This able pamphlet opens thus: "The proposal to redeem the tithes throughout England and Wales is of such vast importance that no subject relating to the Church's property, or the temporal interest of the Church, more urgently needs the serious consideration of both clergy and laity at the present time than it." The author proceeds to say: "For my part I feel very strongly that the redemption of the tithe throughout the country, or in other words, the conversion of the Church's property from tithe or tithe rent-charge into money, would be nothing less than disastrous. The consequences, as they seem to me, of such a proceeding would be more far-reaching, more revolutionary, in fact, than people are aware of." We invite attention to Mr. Bourke's "remarks."

<sup>1</sup> "*The Holy Seed*," a chart (Bagsters, etc.), in gold and colours, demonstrating the connectedness throughout Scripture history of God's chosen-out remnant, in its relationship to the course of the world's kingdoms, up to the establishment of the millennial reign. Suitable for insertion in Bibles. Price one shilling, post-free. May be had at 66, Mildmay Park, N.

*The Epistles of St. Paul to the Colossians and Philemon.* By ALEXANDER MACLAREN, D.D. Hodder and Stoughton.

This new volume by Dr. Maclaren is the second of the "Expositor's Bible" series, to which we have already referred in reviewing the Dean of Armagh's "Commentary on St. Mark." It is satisfactory to find that this work as well most ably fulfils the intention of the series, as also sustains the already high reputation of the writer. As we conceive the purpose of these volumes to be that of supplying popular commentaries of an expository character for the general reader, and not merely the dry bones of criticism for the theologian, we must not find any fault with Dr. Maclaren's style, eminently suited as it is for the former work. To all readers of the Manchester Preacher's sermons his theological opinions will be already known; they are those of a deeply earnest man in touch with his age, equally unwilling to demand intellectual certainty on those subjects whereof it is written "Now we know in part" as he is to subject his own individuality to the theories of any particular school of thought. This volume will amply repay perusal, not only for its thoughtful exposition and literary grace, as for that tone of loving genial sympathy with his readers, which pervades all Dr. Maclaren's writings.

R. W. S.

*Are Foreign Missions doing any Good?* (Kegan Paul and Co.) is a little book to be specially noted for practical use. It is a selection of testimonies to the good results of Missions, gathered from many sources, particularly official reports and the speeches and writings of distinguished men, travellers, Anglo-Indian rulers, *savants*, etc. It is just the kind of quiet, cogent array of evidence that impresses a thinking man. Clergymen would do well to provide themselves with a few copies to keep by them handy, to give to the business men of their congregations, and to young men generally. The book does not emanate from a Missionary Society, and it is anonymous; but the dedication, by permission, to the Speaker of the House of Commons is a sufficient guarantee of authority.

The February *National Review* (W. H. Allen and Co.) is a very good number. "The Marquess of Wellesley and the Earl of Iddesleigh," by Sir H. Stafford Northcote, and "Are Rich Landowners Idle?" by Lady John Manners, are interesting papers. Canon Gregory on the "Extension of the Episcopate" is well worth reading.

In the *Anglican Church Magazine* (Harrison and Sons) appears an interesting review of M. Henri Lasserre's translation of the Gospels. After the review was written, M. Lasserre's book (adorned with the *imprimatur* of the Archbishop of Paris) was placed on the Index.

We gladly invite attention to *The Present Position and Future Prospects of the Church in Wales*, the admirable address of Lord Selborne at Lampeter, to which we referred at the time (Macmillan and Co.). The noble Earl quotes from the valuable pamphlets of Mr. Stevens, of Portslade, on Tithe, which were reviewed in the *CHURCHMAN* of last October.

In the *Church Sunday-School Magazine* (a good number) appears "In Memoriam: Bishop Ryan."

*The Official Year-Book of the Church of England, 1888* (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge) appears to be quite as interesting, to say the least, as the preceding volume. Everywhere, as far as we see, there are the marks of singular care and good judgment, and the statistics are most encouraging.