

God otherwise than by that self-manifestation of God in and through the conscious reason—we are wholly out of sympathy. But the brilliance of the book, its admirable temper, the valuable side-lights it reflects upon certain stages in the secular development of the world-religions, and its abundant learning, are everywhere manifest. Professor Tiele is a master of his subject; he has a first-hand as well as intimate acquaintance with the documentary evidence upon which he bases his hypotheses, and he does not try to wriggle out of difficulties which beset his (*i.e.*, the naturalistic) theory. Hence one welcomes his book, while one takes the liberty to doubt and question all along the line.

One remark may, perhaps, be usefully hazarded here. Christianity differs not in form, but in principle, from all ethnic faiths; for in it alone are the presence of *sin* in the cosmos fully insisted on, a systematic and consistent explanation of this strange and dreadful fact duly contrived, and the remedy pointed out. If this were better realized by certain evolutionary critics, our histories of religion would be more satisfactory than they are at present, and juster notions prevail as to the exact position of the Christian faith in particular.

E. H. BLAKENEY.

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## Short Notices.

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### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

*Battledown Boys.* By E. EVERETT GREEN. Price 2s. 6d. Pp. 239. Sunday-School Union.

A capital story of farmhouse life; full of exciting incidents, and troubles that all come right in the end.

*Martin Luther* (Splendid Lives Series). By E. VELVIN. Price 1s. Pp. 144. Sunday-School Union.

A vivid and trustworthy biography of the intrepid Reformer who shook all Europe.

*The King's Daughter.* By "PANSY." Price 1s. Pp. 255. Sunday-School Union.

A pleasant illustration of a girl's influence over rough town boys; suitable for reading at mothers' meetings, and in the interests of temperance.

*Angelica's Troubles.* By L. E. TIDDEMAN. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 160. Sunday-School Union.

A story for young children of an orphan girl who, in spite of faults and difficulties, became in the end comforting and useful to her father.

*Miss Merivale's Mistake.* By Mrs. HENRY CLARKE. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 155. Sunday-School Union.

A pleasant tale of quiet home-life: a well-meant blunder happily cleared up.

*Beside the Guns.* By MARY E. SHIPLEY. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 153. S.P.C.K.

An inspiring account of the early struggles of a brother and sister, ending in the martyrdom of the former as a missionary in East Africa.

*The Parish Clerk.* By A. R. HOPE. Price 1s. Pp. 128. S.P.C.K.

A capital poaching story, illustrating country manners and life, and concluding with the clearing up of an unwarranted suspicion.

*The Great Gold Mine.* By C. E. M. Price 2s. Pp. 212. S.P.C.K.

A thrilling narrative of a swindle, and the way it affected certain good village folk of various degrees; well told, wholesome, and useful.

*The Story of Frank and his Missionary-Box.* By Archdeacon WYNNE, Price 1s. Pp. 127. S.P.C.K.

A pretty story for little boys, showing close observation of the ways and thoughts of children.

*Mrs. Merriman's Godchild.* By H. LOUISA BEDFORD. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 159. S.P.C.K.

A little gipsy girl goes through many amusing adventures, is adopted by a good lady in a village, and marries a virtuous soldier, who has enlisted from the same place. The various characters are well drawn, and the interest sustained.

*The Red House by the Rockies.* By ANNE MERCIER and VIOLET WATT. Price 1s. Pp. 126. S.P.C.K.

The exciting incidents of Biel's Red Indian revolt in 1885 are skilfully woven into a well-conceived narrative. The facts about the colonists at Fort Pitt are historical, but the names and circumstances changed.

*The Faith of his Father.* By HELEN SHIPTON. Price 3s. 6d. Pp. 363. S.P.C.K.

This is an ably-written story of home life in a Northern manufacturing town, and adventures in Canada and the United States. It is for young men, and may well encourage them to persevere, even in the severest times of difficulty and doubt.

*The Mystery of Hope Lodge.* By HENRIETTA S. STREATFIELD. Price 2s. Pp. 218. S.P.C.K.

A tale of good works, reconciliation, restoration, and ultimate happiness.

*Seaton Court.* By MAUD CAREW. Price 2s. 6d. Pp. 256. S.P.C.K.

A charming sketch of mutual influence between the families of squire and parson.

*A Wife's Faith.* By Mrs. STEVENSON. Pp. 147. C.E.T.S., 4, Sanctuary, S.W.

The writer narrates how a brave and loving wife, aided by various striking incidents, rescues her husband from his tendency to drink: a well-merited tribute to woman's influence.

*Queen of the Isles.* By JESSIE M. E. SAXBY. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 160. Partridge and Co.

An agreeable story of the Shetland Islands. The authoress has successfully studied the locality and the people.

*Mistress of the Situation.* By JENNIE CHAPPELL. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 160. Partridge and Co.

An autobiography, giving an account of a capable girl and her doings in the complex varieties of modern life.

*The Fireside.* Annual Volume. 1897. Price 7s. 6d. Pp. 762. Home Words Office.

This welcome instalment of wholesome religious literature shows no falling off from its predecessors. It is full of interest and variety, illustrations, poetry, biography, and thought. The picture of the Queen in the dress of June 22 is particularly good.

*Hand and Heart.* Annual Volume. 1897. Price 2s. Pp. 236. Home Words Office.

Contains much pleasant, bright, informing reading.

*Boys' and Girls' Companion.* Annual Volume for 1897. Price 2s. Pp. 192. Church of England Sunday-School Institute.

A most useful and important publication for all senior Sunday-school scholars and those of the same age of a different class who are taught at home.

*The Church Worker.* Annual Volume for 1897. Price 2s. Pp. 192. Church of England Sunday-School Institute.

The companion volume for all Sunday-school teachers, teachers of classes, and the like. The chief features are fifty-two lessons on the Creed by the Rev. R. Resker, and the Notes and Comments. The volume forms a handbook of great value.

*Childhood.* Pp. 100. George Stoneman, 39, Warwick Lane, E.C.

This "Annual for Little Folks" is well suited to its purpose: short stories in simple words, short poems, intelligible illustrations.

*Report of the Church Missionary Society.* 1897.

The interest and encouragement of these records increase yearly.

*Report of the British and Foreign Bible Society.* 1897.

A yearly comment on the text "So mightily grew the Word of God and prevailed."

*Report of the Colonial and Continental Church Society.* 1897.

A hopeful and gratifying account of a year's steady work.

*A Year's Sermons.* By Dr. HILEY. Price 6s. Pp. 351. Longmans.

This is the third volume of a series contemplated by the author. Each sermon is on a text from the Scriptures appointed for the Sunday morning. They are the sermons of a scholar, a thinker, a good man, and one who knows the people. They contain much wholesome, practical advice, clear thought, and liberal sympathies.

*Heroines of Daily Life.* By FRANK MUNDELL. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 159. The Sunday-School Union.

This little book contains a wonderful collection of true stories of women's bravery, and will prove interesting to girls and young women.

*Through Thorns and Briars.* By H. S. STREATFIELD. Price 1s. 6d. Pp. 155. S.P.C.K.

This book can be recommended for its general tone and good moral. The plot is perhaps not very natural.

*Report of the Christian Endeavour Convention at Liverpool, 1897.*

Much of earnestness and reality may be learned from this comparison of experiences.

*Thirty-first Annual Report of Dr. Barnardo's Homes.*

This excellent Lay Reader of the Church of England is as full of resource and ingenuity as he is of courage, faith, and perseverance. It is to be hoped that his health will not suffer from any want of growth in funds proportional to the constant growth of work and responsibility.

*Fifty-fourth Annual Report of Church of England Sunday-School Institute.*

All Church people will be interested in the account of the proceedings of this invaluable handmaid of the Church.

*Report of the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews.*

Once more a hopeful and inspiring record.

*Ninth Annual Report of the Church House Corporation.*

It is difficult now to understand how the Church carried on its work previously to the establishment of this adjunct.

*Sixty-sixth Annual Report of the Trinitarian Bible Society.*

The income of this Association is close on £5,000, and its circulation of Bibles, Testaments, and portions amounts to 81,290.

*Clergymen and Church Workers' Visiting List for 1898.* Hazell, Watson and Viney.

A most useful and well-thought companion and pocket-book.

*Pre-Reformation Worthies.* By the Rev. W. COWAN. Elliot Stock. Price 5s. Pp. 192.

It is very important in these days to know something of the best characters in the Church before the time of the Reformation. Mr. Cowan has contributed pleasant papers on Grossetête, Bishop of Lincoln; Thomas à Kempis; Henry Suze, the Minnesinger; John Ruysbroeck; Archbishop Fitzralph and the Mendicant Orders; Reuchlin and the Humanists; and John Staupitz, the teacher of Martin Luther. All these represent important phases of Christian life in the Middle Ages, and contributed in the end to the Reformation. The biographer's work is done with care and sympathy.

*Heaven.* By J. HURST COOK. Pp. 128. Price 2s. Baptist Tract and Book Society.

This is "an inquiry into what Holy Scripture reveals and suggests of the glories of the Father's house." The titles of a few of the chapters will show the author's views on certain deeply interesting points: "Heaven a Place," "Diversity in Glory," "Variety of Pursuit," "Recognition in Heaven."

*Pastoral Work in the Colonies and the Mission Field.* By the RIGHT REV. J. R. SELWYN, D.D. Pp. 159. S.P.C.K.

This book contains a series of lectures delivered at Cambridge as the Pastoral Lectures. It is primarily intended for those who mean to devote themselves to missionary work abroad, but will be found to be full of interest for those who are filled with the missionary spirit, but can only help the great cause at home.

*Our Christian Year.* By A TEACHER. Pp. 346. Elliot Stock.

These lessons for senior classes for each Sunday of the ecclesiastical year will be found useful by many teachers who lack time or skill adequately to prepare for their classes. The system adopted is excellent, that of questions and answers evoking explanation, doctrinal teaching, and practical lessons.

*From our Dead Selves to Higher Things.* By F. J. GANT, F.R.C.S. Pp. 177. Price 3s. 6d. Nisbet and Co.

This is an interesting, original, and excellent book, which we recommend our readers to make themselves further acquainted with. We feel sure that the author's earnest hope that it may be the means of raising those of its readers who may be "dead" from death unto life will be abundantly realized.

*Our Dear Home Life.* By the Rev. J. G. GREENHOUGH, M.A. Pp. 143. Price 1s. 6d. Nisbet and Co.

This little work gives an attractive picture of what a Christian home ought to be. Written primarily for Nonconformists, there is much that will appeal to a larger public. Some clergymen's wives, for instance, might lay to heart that their "home duties are always the first and most urgent." It is bright and wholesome.

*Notes on the Life of Christ.* By the late Rev. W. M. WHITTEMORE, D.D. Pp. 241. Price 2s. George Stoneman.

This book contains explanatory chapters or lessons on one hundred incidents in our Lord's life, with a brief application to each. They are well adapted for home or school teaching.

*True Womanhood.* By the REV. W. CUNNINGHAM, D.D. Pp. 63. Swan Sonnenschein and Co.

This little volume contains a series of practical addresses to women, delivered originally in St. Andrew's, Wells Street.

*The Church Catechism,* with Notes, by E. M. Illustrated. Pp. 56. S.P.C.K.

A plain orthodox exposition of the Church Catechism, prettily got up.

*Mary or Madonna?* By W. MARSHALL. Pp. 96. Wycliffe House, Great Queen Street.

A new edition of a pamphlet against the worship of the Virgin.

*The Heavenly Vision.* By F. B. MEYER. Pp. 40. Price 6d. Sunday-School Union.

This little book well shows that God has a distinct purpose for every life; that it is our business to find it out and fulfil it.

*Five Years' Course of Bible and Prayer-Book Teaching.* Lessons for the Fourth Year. Pp. 147. Price 2s. Church of England Sunday-School Institute.

The present volume seems as excellent as its predecessors. The subjects are: The Litany and Ante-Communion Service, by the Principal of Tottenham Training College, and Old and New Testament Lessons, by the Rev. J. Wagstaff.

*The Forgotten Truth.* By the REV. CHARLES BULLOCK, B.D. Pp. 144. Price 1s. London, Home Words Publishing Office.

There can be no doubt that the influence and blessing of the Holy Spirit are not as much thought of as they ought to be by many professing Christians. This little work is intended "to present this truth in its general and practical bearings upon Christian experience." This is its fourth edition.

*The Evangelist's Bible Digging.* By HENRY THORNE. Pp. 64. Holness, Paternoster Row.

A useful little collection of notes on the Gospel of St. Matthew.

*Thirty-one Parables Explained.* By LOUISA HORSLEY. Pp. 76. Elliot Stock.

Short, simple, practical comments on the parables.

*Principles and Practice of Teaching in Sunday-Schools.* By the REV. EDWIN HOBSON, M.A. Pp. 127. S.P.C.K.

This contains some very useful hints as to Sunday-school teaching by the Principal of Tottenham Training College.

*Meditations on Faith and Practice.* By CLARA LANGTON. Pp. 47. Elliot Stock.

A helpful little work for those who combat unbelief in themselves or in others.

*Missions to Jews.* By the REV. T. W. GIDNEY, M.A. Pp. 128. Price 6d. Operative Jewish Converts' Institution, London.

The success and use of Jewish missions is often questioned; the Secretary of the London Society for Promoting Christianity among the Jews here gives us in answer a handbook of reasons, facts, and figures.

*The Mission Call.* By the REV. WILLIAM WALSH, B.A. Pp. 86. Price 1s. cloth, 6d. paper.

Some valuable statistics for preachers and speakers.

*Prayer in the Four Gospels.* By W. E. WINKS. Pp. 88. Price 1s. 6d. Baptist Tract and Book Society.

A devout attempt to collect everything that can be learnt about prayer, as taught us in the life and words of our Lord.

*The Daily Life of Women.* By K. R. SHARMAN. Pp. 58. S.P.C.K.

We recommend this little book, which gives admirable suggestions on such subjects as Home-making, Motherhood, Children, Servants, etc.

*Christ in His Holy Land.* By the REV. ALEXANDER BODDY, F.R.G.S. Pp. 320. S.P.C.K.

This book is full of descriptive touches, showing that the writer is well acquainted with the appearance of the Holy Land, and also with the customs of its inhabitants in the days of our Lord. It would be of use to the Sunday-school teacher, the cottage-lecturer, and also to the general reader. It contains a map and illustrations.

*The Titular Archbishops of Ireland in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth.* By the REV. HENRY C. GROVES, D.D. Pp. 208. Association for Promoting Christian Knowledge, Dublin.

A work of much research, in which the learned author proves how futile were the attempts of the Pope to secure a succession of his own in the Archiepiscopal Sees of Ireland during Elizabeth's reign.

*How the Old Clergy Lived under Disestablishment.* By M. J. HERBERT. Pp. 77. Banks and Son, Fleet Street.

With Welsh Disestablishment still threatened, it is well that Mr. Herbert's interesting little book should be widely circulated.

*Spiritual Stepping-Stones.* By the REV. F. BOURDILLON. Pp. 86. Price 1s. James Nisbet and Co.

We cordially welcome this fresh work by the author of "Bedside Readings." It deals with progressive religion as taught in Rom. v. 1-11.

*Hooks and Eyes, or Little Helps to Little Folks.* By the REV. F. LANGBRIDGE. Pp. 128. R.T.S.

Likely to be popular with both mothers and children.

*A Winter's Mails from Ceylon, India, and Egypt.* By GEORGINA A. GOLLOCK. Pp. 189. C.M.S.

We recommend these simple candid journal letters by a lady missionary; they are most interesting, and full of a true missionary spirit.

*A Briton's Birthright.* By ANDREW SIMON LAMB. Pp. 102. Nisbet and Co.

The Briton's Birthright alluded to by the author is his interest in the Established Church, which Church, he points out, is losing its Protestant character. The writer urges as a remedy that she may be not disestablished, but "cleansed and defended."

*A Wonderful House and its Tenant.* By Five Members of a Working-Men's Club. Pp. 61. Skeffington.

These are interesting essays on Soul and Body—a new departure, we should think, on the part of a working-men's literary club.

*The Times of Christ.* By LEWIS A. MUIRHEAD. Pp. 179. T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh.

This book contains in convenient form a good deal of useful information, historical, contemporary, and religious, and is designed, of course, to throw light on the sacred narrative.

*Victoria the Great and Good.* By L. A. LAW. Pp. 27. Elliot Stock.

A loyal little effusion, putting in concise form the debt of gratitude which we owe to our Queen.

*The Child, the Wise Man, and the Devil.* By COULSON KERNAHAN (author of "God and the Ant"). Price 1s. J. Bowden.

In the brief space of eighty-two pages, Mr. Kernahan gives us a brief but striking example of what (we may well believe) a "Christless" world would be. That the book will do good we feel assured, though there is a

slight vagueness in its close, which is, perhaps, the least satisfactory part of it.

*Heldai's Treasure.* By FRANCES HARRIOTT WOOD. Pp. 103. S.P.C.K.

A well-told story, illustrating the manners and customs of Palestine.

*In the Beginning: Lessons on Great Subjects.* By MARY E. BELLARS. S.P.C.K.

This book, evidently the result of much care on the writer's part, is perhaps more suited for the guidance of adults who have the teaching of young children in their hands than for actual reading to the children themselves. The sequence of subjects in the chapters is well arranged, and we wish the book success.

*Helps to make Ideals Real.* By Mrs. A. R. SIMPSON. Oliphant Anderson,

The dainty exterior of this little book is in keeping with its refined style. It will no doubt be appreciated by a certain class of readers.

*The Man of Sorrows.* By REV. G. CULROSS, D.D. Drummond's Tract Depôt, Stirling.

This tiny volume is an earnest and helpful exposition of the argument of Isaiah liii. It should have a wide circulation.

*Some Observations of a Foster-Parent.* By JOHN CHARLES TARVER.

Pp. 282. London: Archibald Constable and Co.

The foster-parent in this case is the schoolmaster in all his grades—don, public school, private school, and elementary. The observations are a series of essays on educational subjects, with a very wide range. They are marked by much genial common-sense, and often lit up with flashes of kindly humour. Some possess considerable learning put in an almost conversational style, e.g., the one on "Reading and Writing." We do not find ourselves always able to accept the conclusions drawn by the author—as, for instance, in the essay on the Voluntary School question. But as a whole the book is very well worth reading by both parents and pedagogues, because the author, himself a well-known master, writes with full knowledge of his subjects, and considerable sympathy for the object of all our educational experiments—the Boy.

*Some Thoughts on the Third Order of St. Francis.* By an Anglican.

London: Skeffington and Sons.

Those who have read the life of St. Francis of Assisi, in either Mrs. Oliphant's fascinating sketch or Canon Knox-Little's recent book, will remember the celerity with which his "Third Order" spread itself amongst, for a time, all classes of people. Putting it roughly, the Order would embrace all Christians pledged to any definite work other than that of the full ministry. This circulation of charity and good works amongst all believers is an idea which would be of incalculable benefit if it were found possible to work it; the practical difficulties in our times are so very great as to seem almost insurmountable. This little book, however, discusses the question in an earnest and devout manner, and contains at least many hints profitable to parish clergy.

*The Busy Man's Bible.* By G. W. CABLE. London: The Sunday-school Union.

A collection of essays on Bible-reading, worthy of all praise as regards their earnestness, but containing little that is not trite and self-evident.

*A Year's Teaching for Infant Classes.* By Mrs. J. F. MORTON. Church of England Society-School Institute.

Like all the publications of the Institute, this is clear and workmanlike. Attention to practical detail is most conspicuous. The lessons are from both Old and New Testament, and cannot fail to be helpful to those who undertake what is really the most difficult task of all—teaching infants.

*How to Sing the People's Part.* By R. W. GENGE, M.A. London : Elliot Stock.

Careful and accurate, and likely to be of use to congregations possessing a fully musical service.

*Lined with Love.* By the Rev. GEORGE EVERARD. London : J. Nisbet and Co.

Kindly talks to girls, enlivened with many apposite anecdotes, and instinct with the simplicity of the Gospel.

*Private Devotions of Bishop Andrews.* Selected by Prebendary J. E. KEMPE. London : S.P.C.K.

Many will welcome these selections from the devotions of the saintly Bishop, which rank with the "Imitation of Christ" and Spurgeon's "Morning by Morning."

*The Sympathy of the Passion.* By the Rev. F. W. ISAACS. London : S.P.C.K.

These addresses are deeply reverent, and evidently the result of wide reading, which has enriched them with many valuable quotations.

*An Open Letter to Lord Halifax.* By M. F. CUSACK. London : Marshall, Russell and Co.

While we think that Miss Cusack occasionally runs a risk of overstating her case, we are in complete concord with a great deal of her argument, which is concerned with the comparative validity of Roman and Anglican orders.

*The Ordering of Deacons and Priests.* Edited for use at Ordinations by C. W. HOLGATE. London : Mowbray and Co.

There is perhaps sufficient convenience in having these services at hand for ordinations to justify their temporary exaporation from the Book of Common Prayer.

*The Four Last Things.* By the Rev. F. H. CARLISLE. London : Elliot Stock.

We need not expect to find ourselves in agreement with all the statements in every volume of sermons. The term "up-to-date" treatment indicates the view of the author.

*Quiet Hours.* By JOHN PULSFORD, D.D. London : Andrew Melrose.

Dr. Pulsford's style is clear and limpid ; there is a fastidious accuracy in the choice of words that reminds us of Robert Louis Stevenson. The thoughts of the essays are mystical ; there is a marked absence of any sectional or party spirit. The volume should prove very acceptable to many for quiet reading and meditation.

*Heart Cheer for Home Sorrow.* By Rev. CHARLES BULLOCK, B.D. London : Home Words Office.

Mr. Bullock's little book is well known and esteemed, and we are glad to see it in the third edition.

*Lost Habits of the Religious Life.* By the Rev. H. M. B. REID, B.D. Edinburgh : J. Gardner Hilt.

Quiet yet searching remarks on some of the old-fashioned Christian observances which, alas ! are apt to be forgotten in the modern whirl ; e.g., almsgiving, private prayer, family worship. They are full of reasonable remonstrance, lovingly conveyed. The author in one chapter pleads strongly for a Book of Common Prayer for the Scottish Church.

*Jennifred, and Other Verses.* By SEPTIMUS G. GREEN. Elliot Stock 62, Paternoster Row, London, 1897.

We are glad we are able to speak favourably of "Jennifred and Other Verses," by Septimus G. Green. The poem which gives its title to the



book runs to about six hundred lines, and tells the pathetic story of the end of the de Wichchalse family with simple directness and a pleasant freedom from affectation. Mr. Green has something to say and a faculty for saying it. "Jennifred," "The Old Year's Death," and "The Lover's Defence," are fair specimens of his skill in different keys and measures, and in "The Poet's Apology" he earns our commendation by his recognition of his limitations and his humility with regard to his attainments.

"Be this my task—to give my best,  
And leave to Time's sure touch the rest."

In those words Mr. Green addresses his critic, and we have no hesitation in saying that his best is very good.

*A Brief Memoir of Christina G. Rossetti.* By ELLEN A. PROCTOR, S.P.C.K., London, 1895.

Christina Rossetti presents to the student of human nature a more interesting psychological study than probably any woman since Sappho, and, therefore, any portrait of her is valuable that is drawn by one who knew her personally. The influence which she exercised upon everybody with whom she came in contact is extraordinary. Her strong devotional instinct, her beautiful affection for her mother, sister, and brothers, her poetical genius and picturesque imagination, her gentleness, cheerfulness, and patience in great suffering, all combine to make up a remarkable personality. The best criticism that can be passed upon this tiny volume is that made by Wm. M. Rossetti, one of the foremost of living critics, in his brief Prefatory note. "The following pages," he says, "have been carefully perused by me. I find them to present a pleasant and interesting little portrait of my sister, and a true one."

All who are interested in the extraordinary spectacle offered by the genius of Maria Francesca, Gabriel Dante, William Michael, and Christina Georgina Rossetti should possess this little book.

*The Higher Teaching of Shakespeare.* By LOUIS H. VICTORY. Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, London, 1896.

Did Shakespeare before writing a play sit down and select a text upon which to write it? Upon our answer to that question must rest our estimate of the actual value of Louis H. Victory's thoughtful little work "The Higher Teaching of Shakespeare." We know that novelists nowadays deliberately choose what in modern jargon is called *la donnée psychologique*, and find their plot in the evolution of that underlying idea. But we are not quite prepared to agree with Mr. Victory that that was Shakespeare's method. To give some practical illustrations we may say that Mr. Victory regards "Macbeth" as a revelation of conscience, "King Lear" as a declaration of truth, limited subsequently to the particular truth that the helplessness of earthly life will prove too strong for all philosophy; "The Merchant of Venice" as a revelation of chance; "Romeo and Juliet" as an exposition of the text that "out of evil cometh good," and so on. Whatever our view of Shakespeare's primary motive may be, whether it was to point a moral or only to adorn a tale, we are bound to confess that in almost every instance Mr. Victory makes out a good case for himself. We submit, however, that the best special pleader does not necessarily know the most law, and we also venture to think that in his inquiry into the "soul" which animates the "form" of Shakespeare's plays, Mr. Victory is not quite the pioneer his preface suggests. None the less, he knows his Shakespeare well, and his book should help others to know it too. And that is good service.