

Christianity is, so much the greater the national vitality—all these things bring us once more, with gratitude and humility, to the foot of the Cross. We join the voice of many angels, round about the throne, ten thousand times ten thousand, who cry with the loud tones of perfect knowledge: "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing." With every creature which is in heaven and on the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, we sing: "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever." And when we think of the 144,000—the ideal, perfect, emblematical number of those that were sealed, not only of Judæa, but of all the tribes of the children of Israel—we wait with patience the gradual unfolding of God's eternal purpose; and once more we sing, in the jubilant strains of Wesley's anthem: "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away!"

WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

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## Short Notices.

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### CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

*The Sunday at Home.* Annual Volume. R.T.S. Pp. 812. Price 7s. 6d.

THIS admirable compilation keeps pace with the times, and continually increases in interest. Among the Biographical Sketches are: Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. Browning, Mr. Gladstone, Bishop How, Professor Legge, Dr. Moon, Lady Muir, George Müller, Oberlin, Pilkington, Christina Rossetti, Isaac Sharp, Spurgeon, Stoughton, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Tennyson, Dr. Watts, William Wilberforce. Other series are: Twenty-four poems, "Studies on Elijah," "Scripture Studies," "Women's Settlements in London," Serial Stories, "Sketches from Life," "Tombs of the English Kings" (twenty-nine, illustrated by Whymper), Stories for the Young, and Notes for the Month.

*The Leisure Hour.* Annual Volume. R.T.S. Pp. 812. Price 7s. 6d.

The Religious Tract Society is preparing to celebrate its hundredth anniversary, but its magazines show perpetually renewed youth. The present volume is exquisitely illustrated, and replete from end to end with interest. It contains seven Australian sketches, fifteen biographies, six astronomical papers from Mr. Maunder of Greenwich Observatory, a long and striking series of "Oversea Notes" (American), eight sketches of English Ports, a valuable collection of papers on "Science and Discovery," serials by Mary Palgrave, Charles Lee, and E. E. Overton, besides a number of short stories, sketches, and varieties.

*The Quiver*. Annual, Volume. Cassells. Pp. 1148. Price 7s. 6d.

This wonderful magazine is as full of charm as ever in picture and letterpress. Among its contributors are the Bishops of Ripon, Winchester, and Derry; Lords Herschell and Roberts; Sir Edwin Arnold, Sir Lewis Morris, and Sir George Martin; Agnes Weston, Lady Meath, Agnes Giberne, Katharine Tynan, Mrs. Molesworth; Dean Farrar; Drs. Barnado, Joseph Parker, Armes, Hopkins, and Preston; Mark Guy Pearse, F. B. Meyer, and B. Fletcher Robinson. It aims at giving attractive and suitable reading for Sunday and every day in the Christian households, including sermon-papers, philanthropic and missionary narratives, stories, sacred music, Scripture lessons, children's papers, and Short Arrows. It is, as it wishes to be, *a library in itself*.

*The Church Monthly*. Annual Volume. Office: 30, New Bridge Street. Pp. 283. Price 1s. 6d.

This favourite and widespread journal is again a triumph of its able editor. Amongst the writers are the Archbishop of York, the Bishops of Exeter, Gloucester, Peterborough, Newcastle, Wakefield, Derry, and Calcutta (designate); Dean Spence, Edgar Sheppard, E. A. Stuart, J. W. Horsley, Theodore Wood, Sir George Martin, Professor Shuttleworth. The representative Churchmen are the Bishops of Bristol, St. David's, Wakefield, Ossory, Ripon, and Stepney. Fourteen papers on Sunday Questions are contributed by the Rev. W. Sunderland Lewis; twelve on "Thoughts for Holy Days" by the Rev. W. H. Draper.

*The Dawn of Day*, 1898. S.P.C.K. Pp. 286. Prices 1s. 6d. or 1s.

This popular and well-edited serial maintains its usual high reputation. The story is by Austin Clare; Bishop Winnington Ingram contributes a series of "Popular Objections to Christianity"; May Cochrane one on "The History of the S.P.C.K."; and the Rev. Montague Fowler narrates "Church Progress at Home and Abroad" from month to month.

*Light in the Home* (the old *Tract Magazine*), 1898. R.T.S. Pp. 288. Price 1s.

This excellent little monthly pennyworth is calculated to do much good in cottage life in town and country. Among the biographies are: Janet, Lady Colquhoun, and Dr. Donald Fraser. "The Bible Readings," "The Characteristics of the Spiritual Life" (Rev. W. A. Challacombe), "The Scripture Exercises and Texts," and "The Tract Union Supplement" (Bible study by correspondence), are all suited to promote religion in family life.

*The Church Worker*, 1898. Sunday-School Institute. Pp. 192. Price 2s. 4d.

The bulk of this useful periodical is taken up with fifty-two "Lessons on the Book of Genesis." The Sunday-School Institute is untiring in providing useful matter for its teachers. Amongst other contributors are the Bishop of Ripon, Professor Gwatkin, Lady Frederick Cavendish, Mrs. Nisbet, Rev. Selwyn Blackett, and R. E. Daniel. The Notes and Comments and the Outlook are well done, and the whole forms a valuable exponent of orthodox Church of England teaching.

*Friendly Greetings*. R.T.S. Pp. 208. Price 2s. 6d.

These "Illustrated Readings for the People" are an agreeable collection of well-chosen sketches and papers.

*The Cottager and Artisan*, 1898. R.T.S. Pp. 144. Price 1s. 6d.

The illustrations and letterpress of this attractive volume are worthy of its established popularity.

*Our Little Dots*, 1898. R.T.S. Pp. 188. Price 1s. 6d.

A really beautiful book.

*The Child's Companion*, 1898. R.T.S. Pp. 188. Price 1s. 6d.  
Charmingly illustrated, and full of instruction and amusement.

*Sunshine*, 1898. Stoneman, Warwick Lane. Pp. 188.

This lively magazine for children contains numerous competitions, several stories in parts, Editorial Notices, Editorial Letter-box, "Scripture Portions for the Sunshine League," and papers on "Everyday Helpfulness." It is a capital means of communication for intelligent children between each other and the editor.

*Brave Deeds of Youthful Heroes*. R.T.S. Pp. 96. Price 2s.

Thirty-one finely-illustrated stories of courage amongst boys and girls, ancient and modern, forming a handsome gift-book.

*The Gold of that Land*. By MARGARET S. COMRIE. R.T.S. Pp. 320. Price 5s.

A well-told tale of Italian and Scottish cousins in Italy, their various adventures, misfortunes, and experiences, with final prosperity and religious enlightenment.

*The Wishing-Well*. By LUCY TAYLOR. R.T.S. Pp. 192. Price 2s.

A lively story for young girls, with a moral in favour of candour.

*Shadows*. By MRS. O. F. WALTON. R.T.S. Pp. 308. Price 3s. 6d.

It was a pretty idea to take the varied vicissitudes of an old armchair and weave them into an autobiographical story. There is no limit to what it may go through, and the experiences are touched in with pathos and interest.

*The Cry from the Sea*. By Rev. T. S. TREANOR. R.T.S. Pp. 256. Price 3s. 6d.

Twelve splendid stories of heroic adventure and manly courage by the well-known and popular Deal Chaplain. The book is sure to be a great favourite with boys.

*Asceline's Ladder*. By ELLEN L. DAVIS. R.T.S. Pp. 288. Price 3s. 6d.

A bright story of social life in country and town, with a gradual weaning from the wiles of Vanity Fair. But why do good young women marry elderly men?

*Antonia's Promise*. By author of "Joseph's Little Coat." R.T.S. Pp. 160. Price 1s. 6d.

A pretty narrative of English clerical life, with the temptations and restoration of a son at college, and the devotion of a sister.

*The Secret Room*. R.T.S. Pp. 192. Price 2s.

A salutary and timely illustration of the dark days of the never-forgotten Marian persecution.

*A Girl's Experiment*. By MARGARET KESTON. R.T.S. Pp. 192. Price 2s.

An excellent and wholesome story for girls.

*Ruth's Path to Victory*. By EVELYN L. THOMAS. R.T.S. Pp. 160. Price 1s. 6d.

An account of children from India coming home to live with an aunt in England, and of the heroine's progress to the unselfish life.

*Janie Fletcher*. By F. E. READE. S.P.C.K. Pp. 160.

A capital tale of girls' life at school; thoroughly wholesome and English.

*Rough-Cast*. By CHRISTABEL COLERIDGE. S.P.C.K. Pp. 159.

A charming and sympathetic representation of humble life, where a young man with promise in him is saved from destruction by his love for a true-hearted girl.

*By the Gail Water.* By ELLA N. LEFROY. S.P.C.K. Pp. 124.

A Scottish story of a child left in a village, adopted by a maiden lady, enlisting after her death, discovered to belong to a good family, and dying heroically in the Crimea. The opportunities for characterization and pathos are well taken in hand.

*Mar and Lettice.* By HESTER WHITE. S.P.C.K. Pp. 128.

A vigorous reminiscence of the days of George III., wherein the son and daughter of a gamekeeper, and their lord and his family, go through various characteristic adventures.

*Number One.* By CHRISTABEL COLERIDGE. S.P.C.K. Pp. 126.

A sympathetic glimpse of humble life in London.

*The Splendid Stranger.* By ROBERT LEIGHTON. Sunday-School Union. Pp. 190. Price 2s.

An episode that brings vividly back the exciting times of the Duke of Monmouth's blow for the Crown.

*The Fireside,* 1898. "Home Words" Office, Paternoster Square, E.C. Pp. 762. Price 7s. 6d.

We have only space to mention, as we go to press, that this thoroughly readable volume maintains the reputation of its predecessors. "By the Way," "Chats about Authors and Books," Miss Giberne's story, "Heart Cheer for Home Sorrow," "Present Day Topics," and "Sunday Readings," are all full of interest.

*Hand and Heart,* 1898. "Home Words" Office. Pp. 236. Price 2s.

This may also be strongly recommended.

*Life of the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Napier.* Cheaper edition. Longmans.

Of this excellent work Mr. Gladstone wrote :

"January 2, 1893.

"DEAR LADY NAPIER,

"I am glad to hear that you have published in a form adapted to an extensive circulation the life of your distinguished husband, who set us all a good example by the high cast of his principles and actions, and by manifesting at an early date his kindly interest in the mass of his countrymen. Believe me, faithfully yours, "W. E. GLADSTONE."

*Stories of Bible Nations.* By EDITH RALPH. Sunday-School Union. Price 2s.

Seven stories of Egypt, six of Chaldæa, and nine of Assyria, drawn from the evidence of the monuments, ably told and admirably illustrated.

*Four Little People.* By ADA J. GRAVES. Sunday-School Union. Pp. 96. Price 9d.

A pleasant little book for young children.

*Nelly's Work.* By E. CHILTON. Sunday-School Union. Pp. 95.

The ups and downs of a child who was led to do good in humble life.

*The Young Reporter.* By WILLIAM DRYSDALE. Andrew Melrose. Pp. 298. Price 3s. 6d.

An American story of resolution, adventure, and success, founded on principle and conduct, and told with vigour and experience.

*By Strange Paths.* By FANNIE NEWBERRY. Andrew Melrose. Pp. 304. Price 3s. 6d.

An admirable book for girls. The scene is laid in America, and the lesson inculcated self-sacrifice.

*The Knight's Quest.* By Rev. EDWIN GREEN. C.E.T.S. Pp. 123. Price 1s. 6d.

Eight stories for boys, recommending total abstinence : seven for the sake of others, the eighth from prudence. A useful addition to temperance literature.

*A Legend of Reading Abbey.* By C. MACFARLANE. Archibald Constable and Co. Pp. 248. Price 3s. 6d.

Macfarlane's "Reading Abbey" has been selected by the editor, G. L. Gomme, to represent the reign of King Stephen in Constable's Library of Historical Novels and Romances. It was first published in 1846. It is extremely interesting as a careful illustration, fortified with antiquarian research, of one of the least known periods of English history, under a King with whom most of us are unfamiliar.

*The New Home.* By Mrs. C. S. PEEL. Archibald Constable and Co. Pp. 276. Price 3s. 6d.

A perfect treasury of useful and artistic advice on the arrangement, decoration and furnishing of a house of medium size, to be maintained by a moderate income, with separate inventions at the end of things necessary and desirable in different departments. Agnes Walker's suggestive illustrations add to the attractiveness of the book.

*The Church of England.* A History for the People. Vol. iv., Dean of Gloucester. Cassells and Co. Pp. 484. Price 6s.

In this fourth and last volume Dr. Spence brings his labour of love to a close, and his readers will be sorry that they are to have no more. He takes us from James I. to the present day, passing over ground sown thick with controversy. The Dean is so moderate in his judgments, and anxious to do justice to all, that strong partisans on either side will not be satisfied, yet, so full is the information, so varied the subjects, and so abundant the illustrations, that even they cannot help being fascinated by this charming narrative of English religious life.

*A Settler's Story.* By F. B. FORESTER. S.P.C.K. Pp. 320.

An illustration of the tonic of colonial life on young, restless, and inexperienced blood.

*Helen's Probation.* A. E. D. S.P.C.K. Pp. 150.

A story of resistance to worldly pressure happily rewarded.

*Ralph Rodney's Mother.* By H. LOUISA BEDFORD. Pp. 224.

An example of the happy effect of a mother's patient love in rural life.

*Great Books.* By Dean FARRAR. Isbister and Co. Pp. 235. Price 5s.

The Dean of Canterbury uses his eloquent pen and keen intuition to introduce young readers to the habit of reverence for great books, to interest in special branches of literature, and specially to the study of Bunyan, Shakespeare, Dante, Milton, and Thomas à Kempis. It is needless to say that these fascinating pages throw brilliant light on the character and genius of these immortals.

*St. Botolph, Aldgate.* Rev. A. O. B. ATKINSON. Grant Richards, 9, Henrietta Street, E.C. Pp. 244.

The local histories of our great parishes, when compiled with knowledge and skill, are an important contribution to the internal and domestic history of the people. We have here the annals of a great City Ward (Portsoken), of an important City Priory (Holy Trinity), a great City Gateway and its surroundings (Aldgate), the Parish Church, the Chuntries, the Church in the reign of Elizabeth, the traces of the Commonwealth, Plague, and Fire, Aldgate Worthies, the present classical Church, and the last ten years of progress and consolidation under the able, wise, sympathetic leadership of the Rev. R. H. Hadden, Vicar, who has lately been appointed to St. Mark's, North Audley Street.

*Present Day Tracts.* Vol. xiv. R.T.S. Price 2s. 6d.

The present volume of this invaluable series contains "Testimony of Earlier Prophetic Writers to the Primal Religion of Israel" (Professor Leathes); "Whom say ye that I am?" (Rev. H. R. Reynolds, D.D.); "Modern Views of Zoroastrianism in the Light of Christianity" (Rev. M. Kaufmann); "Non-Christian Religions: their State and Prospects" (Rev. J. Murray-Mitchell, LL.D.); "The Trinity in Sacred History" (Rev. D. W. Simon, D.D.); and "Culture and Christianity" (Rev. M. Kauffmann). All are full of suggestion, thought, and encouragement.

*Health at Home Tracts.* By Dr. SCHOFIELD. R.T.S. Pp. 192. Price 1s. 6d.

This excellent book is a compendium of useful knowledge for the house, the district visitor, and the clergy. It contains papers on "Cleanliness," "Nursing and Medical Terms," "Cholera Epidemic," "Value and Cost of Food," "When to see the Doctor and How," "Effects of Alcohol," "Rest in Health and Sickness," "Moral Training of Children," "Plain Words on Health Laws," "Old Age and its Claims," "Hospitals, Dispensaries, and Infirmaries," and the "Five Laws of Health." Dr. Schofield is a member of the National Health Society, and has been providing lectures on these and kindred topics for the clergy.

*Our Indian Sisters.* By Rev. E. STORROW, Missionary. R.T.S. Pp. 256. Price 3s. 6d.

An admirable account, at first hand, of the condition of the women of India, with thirty photographic illustrations: a real stimulus to missionary sympathy.

*A Letter for You, and Other Readings for Mothers' Meetings.* By J. M. K. R.T.S. Pp. 192. Price 2s. 6d.

Twenty thoroughly good addresses for reading to meetings of women.

*Midland Sketches.* By W. J. GORDON. R.T.S. Pp. 160.

A very instructive and interesting work, by the author of "How London Lives," on the life and industries of our great Midland towns: Coventry, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Northampton, Redditch, Kidderminster, Walsall, Leicester, Birmingham, with fifty-eight charming photographic illustrations.

*Insect Lives as Told by Themselves.* By EDWARD SIMPSON. R.T.S. Pp. 126. Price 1s. 6d.

This is an amusing and instructive adaptation of the principle of "interviews" to the wonder of insect life. Autobiographies are given by the Black Water-Beetle, the Whirligig, the Tiger Beetle, the Ladybird, the Earwig, the Mole Cricket, the Cockroach, the Death's-Head Moth, the Goat Moth, the Dragon-Fly, the Caddis Worm, Thrips, the Wasp, the Cuckoo-Spit, the Water Boatman, Stylops, the Chameleon and Drone, Flies, the Gnat, and the Flea.

*Musings for Quiet Hours.* By GEORGE S. BARRETT, D.D. R.T.S. Pp. 128. Price 1s. 6d.

Twenty-three very useful devotional papers from the well-known Norwich preacher on vital subjects, full of spiritual experience.

*Assyria* (Ancient History from the Monuments Series). By GEORGE SMITH. Revised by Professor Sayce. S.P.C.K. Pp. 206.

This is a new edition of the valuable little work of the late George Smith of the British Museum, brought up to date by the learned editor. Much progress has of late been made in Assyrian discovery.

*Blessed are Ye.* By F. B. MEYER. Sunday-School Union. Pp. 142. Price 2s.

Able and thoughtful meditations on the Beatitudes by a spiritual teacher of eminence, experience, and acceptance.

*The Revised Version of the Holy Bible, with Revised Marginal References.* Henry Froude, Oxford University Press Warehouse, Amen Corner, E.C. Minion 8vo. Price 5s.

The importance of this edition can hardly be exaggerated. The whole old scheme of references has been thoroughly revised and greatly enlarged. A flood of new light is thrown on the text of Holy Scripture and its scope and meaning. While the revision was in process, a small company of the New Testament Revisers, especially Dr. Scrivener and Dr. Moulton, prepared a very elaborate body of marginal references, which were printed for the use of the Revisers. The University Presses agreed to print at least one edition of the Revised Version with these references. After the death of Dr. Scrivener, the task was entrusted to Dr. Moulton, after whose death, in February, 1898, it was finished by the Rev. J. H. Moulton and the Rev. A. W. Greenup, Dr. Moulton's assistants.

The general work was superintended by Dr. Price, Master of Pembroke, Oxford, Archdeacon Palmer, Dr. Aldis Wright (Vice-master of Trinity, Cambridge), Professor Kirkpatrick, and Professor Ince. Dr. Stokoe of Lincoln College was general editor, and prepared the references for the Old Testament and Apocrypha, with the help of Dr. Barnes of Peterhouse, Mr. Greenup, Rev. E. R. Massey, of Exeter College, and the Rev. J. W. Nutt, of All Souls. All students of Scripture will welcome this completion of the utility of the Revised Version.

#### MATERIALS FOR THE PRESENT CONTROVERSY.

*The Papal Attempt to Reconvert England.* By One born in Romanism. R.T.S. Pp. 142. Price 1s. 6d.

This is one of a powerful series issued by the Religious Tract Society giving information on the present crisis. It is a melancholy but impartial account from within of the more repulsive side of Romanism—its claims and liabilities, its intrigues, its monopoly of interpretation, its treatment of private judgment, and the like.

*Present Day Primers: A Primer of Roman Catholicism.* By Dr. WRIGHT. R.T.S. Pp. 160. Price 1s.

A valuable exposition by an expert of the constitution and teaching of the Roman Church, Rule of Faith, the Church, the Sacraments, the Sacrifice of the Mass, False Assumptions, False Teachings.

*Present Day Primers: The Reformation in England.* By W. H. BECKETT. R.T.S. Pp. 160. Price 1s.

This invaluable manual should be in the hands of everyone who wishes to form a fair judgment of the present conflict.

#### TRACTS.

1. *The Worship of the Virgin Mary.* By REV. A. R. PENNINGTON.
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3. *Shall we reunite with Rome?* By DEAN FARRAR.
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5. *Think for Yourself.*
6. *Shall I go to Confession?*
7. *True History of Gunpowder Plot.*