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hint of rebuke to him, when He used the words, "Blessed is he, whosoever shall find none occasion of stumbling in Me" (Luke vii. 23).

Christ never hesitated to rebuke His disciples when they erred; witness His unmistakable words to the disciples in the storm: "Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?" (Matt. viii. 26); to Peter, sinking in the water: "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" (Matt. xiv. 31); to Peter, who had dared to rebuke Christ: "Get thee behind Me, Satan" (Matt. xvi. 23); to doubting Thomas: "Be not faithless, but believing" (John xx. 27). In none of these instances do we find praise at the *same* time. Conversely, when Christ praised His disciples, as, for instance, when He said to Peter, "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. xvi. 17), there was no blame at the *same* time.

Hence, we conclude, when John the Baptist sent to ask his question, since he received such very great praise from Christ, that true and faithful motives prompted his action.



Literary Notes.

"LITERARY Rambles in France" is the title of a book by Miss Betham-Edwards, which was published a little while since. I suppose Miss Betham-Edwards knows as much about the intellectual side of the French people and their country as anyone living. She has studied their ways and their homes, and seems to know every phase of their life. The volume is excellently illustrated. It was about the time of the appearance of this delightful book that Miss Betham-Edwards was the recipient of a testimonial in recognition of her twenty years of literary work. It may surely be accepted as a concrete fact that she has done not a little in cementing the firm friendship which now happily exists between our own nation and that of France by the writing of so many delightful, refined, and cultured books about the French people. Possibly she has achieved some of her charm of writing from the Lambs; for she is the niece of Sir William Betham, Ulster King-at-Arms, and Matilda Betham, who were great friends of Charles and Mary. This new edition contains several photogravures.



What should prove to be a volume of most alluring reminiscences this coming autumn is the memoirs of Mr. Walter Crane, which he is now busily seeing through the press. Artists' lives are always attractive; some particularly so by reason of their associations with the better things of life. In this last category we may place Mr. Walter Crane. His work always possesses a tone at once intellectual and uplifting. There is nothing ever sordid or unpleasant in it. One may, just for the looking and a momentary thought, find in it a sermon full of strong and influential qualities. The book will give Mr. Crane's early impressions of life and experiences. These "items" of his career will form a consecutive account of his life as lived in many countries. There will be travel notes, and recollections of many distinguished persons he has met at different times during his life. Letters from many dead great artists, such as Lord Leighton, Sir E. Burne-Jones, William Morris, and G. F. Watts, will be found in the volume. Mr. Crane will also describe the various artistic, social, and political movements with which he has been associated from time to time, and the volume will contain several illustrations from his own very clever brush.



Definite word has now come to hand as to the publication of those long-looked-for "Letters of Queen Victoria," which are being edited by Mr. A. C. Benson and Viscount Esher. The volumes—there will be three in number—will contain, as has already been mentioned in these pages, a selection from Her Majesty's correspondence between the years 1837 and 1861. They are to be published by the authority of His Majesty the King. The whole work, which will actually appear in October of this year, will undoubtedly be the most important book of the present generation. On no previous occasion has the correspondence of a British Sovereign been published officially, and the work, which is to be copyrighted in America and translated into the leading European languages, must possess a unique interest for the whole of the civilized world. The first volume covers the correspondence of the Queen till the age of about twenty-five. The second volume covers the period dealing with the repeal of the Corn Laws, the Foreign Revolutions—and there were plenty of these—of which the most sensational incident will perhaps be found to be the story of the flight of Louis Philippe to Newhaven; while the third will deal with the Eastern Question, the Crimean War, the Indian Mutiny, entailing the transfer of the Government of India to the Crown, the China War, the Franco-Austrian War, and the struggle for a United Italy. The selection of letters terminates with the Prince Consort's life.



A new volume has just been published of "The Political History of England," which is being written by various authors under the direction and editorship of the Rev. Dr. Hunt and Mr. Reginald Lane Poole, M.A., Ph.D., who is editor of the *English Historical Review*, and a brother of that well-known student of Eastern history, Mr. Stanley Lane Poole. So far seven volumes have been issued: vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, and 11. The new volume (vol. 6) is entitled "From the Accession of James I. to the Restoration (1603-1660)," by Mr. F. C. Montague, M.A., Professor of History in

University College, London, who was at one time Fellow of Oriel College, Oxford. There will be eventually twelve volumes of this very important history. Each has an index and several maps, and the price per volume is 7s. 6d. net. But complete sets may be subscribed for through the booksellers at £4 net, which works out at 6s. 8d. per volume. The next volume will be "The Reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901)," and may appear about the same time as the "Letters" mentioned in the previous paragraph. Mr. Sidney Low has written this volume.



The neurotic efforts of the unsettled, disruptive, modern intellectual minds are producing a plethora of books, which calls forth all the patience and long-suffering charity that the contemporary literary critic may happen to possess. On the one hand we get a large number of books—probably many of them are published at the authors' expense—supporting the new theories; on the other hand, we are—I write it with a very thankful spirit—able from time to time to report new books and new editions defending the old title-deeds of Christianity. Here we have, then, in the critical section, Mr. Worsley writing a volume on the "Concepts of Monism"—but really more a historical survey than an aggressive consideration of the subject; Rev. James H. F. Peile, M.A., Fellow of University College, Oxford, writing on "The Reproach of the Gospel," the sub-title of which is "An Inquiry into the *Apparent Failure*" (the italics are ours) "of Christianity as a General Rule of Life and Conduct, with Especial Reference to the Present Time; being the Bampton Lecture for 1907." Then we have the Methodist Publishing House issuing a 628-page book, written by the Rev. Robert Ayres, and dealing with "Christian Baptism," a treatise on the mode of administering the ordinance of the Apostles and their successors in the early ages of the Church; the S.P.C.K. issuing the Rev. Dr. George E. Jelf's book, "Sound Words," a devout and instructive work on the Book of Common Prayer; Canon Robinson bringing out a new edition of his able and suggestive "Studies in the Character of Christ," at 6d. net; and the Rev. Thomas Waugh publishing, through the Methodist Publishing House, a new impression of his "Power of Pentecost: Chapters on the Relation of the Holy Spirit to Christian Life and Service," of which something like 250,000 copies have already been sold.



Difficult to place are "The New Appreciation of the Bible," by Dr. W. C. Selleck; Mr. Henry Waring's "Christianity and its Bible"; and Professor Rauschenbusch's "Christianity and the Social Crisis." I say "difficult" because they are not published with the definite object of belittling the value and authenticity of what the true believer holds dear. Dr. Selleck's object is to help those who desire to understand the best results of modern Biblical Scholarship, and the educational value of the Bible in modern life; while Mr. Waring writes from a liberal Protestant standpoint in detailing the history of the Bible and of the development of Christianity, together with a consideration of the religious problems of to-day. In the case of Professor Rauschenbusch we have an effort to set forth a vigorous and outspoken volume on the duty that rests upon the Christian Church

“to transform human society into the kingdom of God by regenerating all human relations and reconstituting them in accordance with the will of God.”



At the time of his death, a little while since, the Rev. Ethelred L. Taunton was engaged upon a Life of Cardinal Pole. It was in nowise in a completed state, and it is doubtful if it will ever be published. Mr. Taunton was the writer of many books dealing with the Roman Catholic Church, among which was “The History of the Jesuits in England,” a guinea book, and which I noticed the other day had been what the publishers call “remaindered” for a few shillings.



Notices of Books.

SCIENTIFIC CONFIRMATIONS OF OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY. By G. Frederick Wright, D.D. Pp. 450, with 40 illustrations. Price \$2.00 net. Oberlin, Ohio: *The Bibliotheca Sacra Company*. 1906.

Every day we are being reminded that this is an age of science, but with many this term merely means mechanical science. Electricity has so taken up people's minds that they seem to be able to study little else, except perhaps it is biology, connected with the magic word “evolution.” The two sciences, however, which Bible students are most called upon to study are geology and prehistoric archæology. The first of these is needed in order to show the manner in which living things appeared upon the earth. The latter is still more necessary, because it is concerned with the origin, antiquity, and primitive condition of man. On these points sceptical writers declare that modern science is utterly and hopelessly opposed to the early narratives in the Book of Genesis.

Professor Wright in this book does not touch on the origin and antiquity of man, but he gives six long chapters to prove the credibility of the Deluge of Noah, and the reasons why geology strongly declares that such a flood took place. The greater part of his book is devoted to this subject. He begins with a chapter on the witness of the New Testament to the truth of the Old Testament. Then comes next a chapter on ancient Jewish History, which refers to the usual historical illustrations, and then another on Israel in Egypt. This last shows that famines in Egypt were by no means unusual in ancient times, as the prosperity of the country depended on the height of the inundation of the Nile. All this indicates that there is nothing improbable in the Biblical narrative, but monumental evidence is, of course, wanting. The whole later history of the Jews, however, is so based on the Exodus and the Egyptian sojourn that those events must have occurred, and by no other cause than the death of the firstborn and the departure from Egypt can the institution of the Passover be explained. As to the Exodus itself, Professor Wright examined the ground carefully, and agrees in the main with the view put forward by Sir William Dawson.