

Studies in Texts :

SUGGESTIONS FOR SERMONS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

BY REV. HARRINGTON C. LEES, M.A.

I.—ECHOES OF A FORGOTTEN EPIPHANY.

Texts :—“ O Tyre, thy borders are in the heart of the seas.”
EZEK. xxvii. 4, R.V.M.

“ He went away into the borders of Tyre.”
MARK vii. 24, R.V.M.

[Book of the Month : “UNWRITTEN SAYINGS OF OUR LORD”¹=S.
Other references : Smith’s “Days of His Flesh”=D.F. ;
“Hastings’ Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels”=C.G.]

“OUR Lord with the Twelve visited Tyre, and obtained a ready hearing.” “Incidental evidence that ministry attended with success” (S. 78). “Tyre built on island, at this time connected with mainland by celebrated mole” (S. 79).

I. A REST FOR CHRIST (Mark vii. 24, R.V.M.).—He needed a lull in life ; *cf.* vi. 31-46 (= John vi. 15), vii. 36, viii. 10, 13. “He must seek a new retreat.” “Abhorred as unclean in Jewish eyes, it seemed to promise retirement” (D.F. 247). Possibly, also, “intensive instruction for Twelve” (C.G. ii. 774).

II. A RECOVERY THROUGH CHRIST (vii. 30).—His fame preceded Him ; Mark iii. 8 (= Luke vi. 17). He was disturbed, petitioned, compliant. He never fails.

III. A READINESS FOR CHRIST.—“He tarried awhile preaching. Momentous episode, only occasion outside Holy Land” (S. 77). “Instead of retracing steps He visited Tyre” (D.F. 253), *cf.* Mark vii. 31, R.V. “Jesus quoted reception in Tyre as a melancholy contrast to Galilee” (D.F. 253). See Matt. xi. 20-22.

IV. A REMINISCENCE OF CHRIST.—“His manner to employ surroundings for illustration. Would point His hearers to mole

¹ By David Smith, D.D. Hodder and Stoughton. Price 2s. 6d. A mine of fruitful thought.

spanning channel, thronged by brisk passengers" (S. 80, 81). Perhaps now uttered Logion carved on Akbar's mosque. "Jesus said, 'The world is only a bridge: pass over it, but build not thy house on it.'" "Strong presumption of truth" (S. 71, 73). Akbar "culled from every faith and race the best" (Tennyson, "Akbar's Dream"). "No bridges in Holy Land" (S. 74). Perhaps mole of Tyre supplied image. "Attractive possibility" (S. 75).

So haven of rest turned into door of work, one cure into many calls, echo of Tyrian sermon found in Indian mosque at Futtehpur Sikri.



The Missionary World.

MANY of us welcomed the formation of the Missionary Press Bureau, under the auspices of the Laymen's Missionary Movement, and have watched its development in the hands of its efficient Secretary, Mr. C. T. Bateman. But the activities of the Bureau have been almost obscured by the extraordinary predominance of missionary matters in the public Press these last few weeks. The *Times*, in its "Review of the Year," on January 1 had an admirable section which opened by stating that "Foreign missions continue to claim an increasingly important place in the attention of almost every religious body in England," and then went on to refer to the Livingstone Centenary, the meeting of the Continuation Committee in Holland, the Archbishop's Fund for Western Canada, the C.M.S. Conference at Swanwick, the Conference of the Laymen's Missionary Movement at Buxton, the Centenary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society, the deficit which burdens the L.M.S., the action of the Chinese Government in soliciting Christian intercession, the Kikuyu Conference, and the consecration of Bishop Azariah, which, by the way, fell within the last three days of 1912.