

We may help Jesus keep His Birthday as well.

1. *The Birthday Greeting.* "Many happy returns of the day," we say to each other. That is really a prayer. "May God send you many happy returns of the day." We must *mean* this, when we say it to our friends: and help to make it come true; by our sweetness and unselfishness making happiness for them. And we can make Jesus happier by trying, each year, to be more like Him; and by helping to make His Kingdom of Love come on earth.

2. *The Birthday Gift.* Let us give Him—

- (1) Our hearts, to love Him.
- (2) Our bodies, to serve Him.
- (3) Our possessions, to use for Him.

3. *The Birthday Feast.* Jesus will give us Joy, that cannot be taken away; Peace, in the midst of all life's troubles: Strength, for all we have to do and bear.

And some glorious Christmas Day, we shall all meet Him at a happy Birthday Feast in our Father's royal Home.

The volume is rich also in illustrations. Here is one culled at random from a very large collection:—

THE REAL LIKENESS.

Bishop Thoburn tells a beautiful story about a picture of his dead child, a very imperfect photograph, so blurred that scarcely a trace of the loved features could be seen in it. But one day he took the picture to a photographer, and asked him if he could do anything to improve it. In three weeks the bishop returned, and, as he saw the picture in its frame on the wall, he was startled. It seemed as if his child were living again before him. The image had been in the old picture, but was concealed beneath the blurs and mists that were there also. So Christ, like the skilled artist, took the blurred image of God in the hearts of men, and brought out all its beauty and charm.

Clearly Mr. Ellis has done good service in publishing this excellent volume.

Christmas Books.

THIS year's output of Christmas books is somewhat smaller than usual, owing, no doubt, to the shortage of paper and other war pressure. But publishers who have faced the conditions make a brave show, and it is certain their venture deserves success. The gift of a book, whether to children, young people, or their elders, is still one of the most acceptable of Christmas presents, and those in search of suitable volumes for the purpose will find in those we notice below a rich variety from which to make their choice.

To take the larger volumes first, "War Inventions and how they are Invented" (by Charles R. Gibson, F.R.C.E.; *Seeley Service and Co., Ltd.*; 3s. 6d.) tells us much about guns, explosives, submarines, torpedoes, mines, airships, etc., in a most fascinating way. The descriptions are simple rather than technical, and the beautiful illustrations and diagrams help the narrative. A most excellent book for these times; boys—and their elders—will be greatly interested in it. Closely allied with this volume is "Marvels of Scientific Invention" (by Thomas W. Corbin; *Seeley Service and Co., Ltd.*; 3s. 6d.), which explains in non-technical language almost everything one ought to know about the invention not only of guns, torpedoes, submarines and mines, but also of smelting, freezing, colour-photography, and other scientific discoveries. A thoroughly illuminating volume. The same

publishers send us also "Stories of Great Sieges" (by Edward Gilliat, M.A.; 2s. 6d.), a volume telling of heroism, bravery, and resource in a manner which makes British blood tingle with pride. The coloured frontispiece showing the charge of the Highlanders at Lucknow is a fine piece of work, and all the illustrations are good. Another war-book, also from *Seeley Service and Co., Ltd.*, is "Ian Hardy Fighting the Moors" (by Commander E. Hamilton Currey, R.N.; 5s.). The story is most captivating, rich in incident and vivid in description, and the illustrations in colour arrest attention. But stories of bravery and resource are not confined to the battlefield, and boy readers will find much to inspire and stimulate in "Daring Deeds of Hunters and Trappers" (by Ernest Young, B.Sc., F.R.G.S.; *Seeley Service and Co., Ltd.*; 3s. 6d.). A powerfully-written book, full of interest and informative throughout. The illustrations are particularly fine. We give a specially cordial welcome to the next volume on our table, "Missionary Heroines of the Cross" (by Canon E. C. Dawson, of Edinburgh; *Seeley Service and Co.*; 3s. 6d.). Those who recall the beauty and grace of Canon Dawson's "Life of Bishop Hannington" will open this volume with the highest expectations and they will not be disappointed. The stories it tells of splendid courage and patient endurance of women missionaries in all parts of the world shed a lustrous light on the glory of missionary service, and the girl or young woman reading these pages will assuredly receive fresh inspiration in a life of devotion.

The splendid response of the Overseas Dominions to the call of the Mother Country invests with a fresh interest even the most distant part of our great Empire. Our knowledge of Newfoundland hitherto has not been great, but "The Last Sentinel of Castle Hill: A Newfoundland Story" (by the Rev. J. A. O'Reilly, D.Ph., D.D.; *Elliot Stock*; 6s. net) adds greatly to our information. Vividly written, with a wealth of incident, it illustrates life in Newfoundland as it is to-day. The dedication is most appropriately to the soldiers of the Newfoundland Brigade. We commend the volume most warmly; it is thoroughly interesting throughout.

There are novels and novels; some are not worth the paper they are printed on; others are read with real enjoyment and profit. To the latter class belongs "The Blue Carnation" (by Mrs. E. de M. Rudolf; *Ward, Lock and Co., Ltd.*; 6s.), which for its purity of style and beauty of expression should take a high place among the books of the season. It is described as a "gardening novel," and the fragrance of its pages is as the fragrance of flowers. It is based on a simple incident, but the book is full of liveliness, vigour, and interest.

"Honeybun, Others, and Us" (by Irene H. Barnes; *Church Missionary Society*; 1s. 6d. net). This is a delightful missionary play-book, full of pictures, and dedicated to "everybody who is not more than eight years old." There are real portraits of the four heroes of the book—Teddie Honeybun the Bear, Sure Foot the Elephant, Oo-ee the Monkey, and Puss Tiger. Each tells his own life-story over a magic telephone at three o'clock in the morning, and relates some wonderful encounter with missionaries in his native land of India.

From the S.P.C.K. we have received three volumes associated with the name of the late Rev. J. Mason Neale, D.D. "The Sword of King Affonso" (1s. 3d.) a tale of the Portuguese Church in the Sixteenth Century; "The Lily of Tiffis" (1s. 3d.) is a sketch from Georgian Church History; and "The Exiles of the Cebenna" (1s. 3d.) is Dr. Neale's English translation of a journal written during the Decian Persecution of Aurelius Gratianus.