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the book, as a whole, in relation to revealed religion, it seems melancholy and perplexing. Concerning the "ethics of George Eliot's" writings, we observe, there has been lately some discussion; and the *Nonconformist* reviews a work which actually commended her books as teaching the "doctrine of the Cross." The *Nonconformist*, however, observes:—

If we have read her at all aright from the side of Positive teaching, nothing is more certain than that the high inducement she holds forth for self-sacrifice is not rooted in any idea either of a personal Saviour or of a personal immortality.

The drift, at all events, of the teaching, so far as her works afford "religious" suggestions, will generally be admitted to be humanistic. Certainly, the self-sacrifice inculcated in them is not the self-sacrifice taught in the Word of God; it is not "the doctrine of the Cross." On the contrary, it looks extremely like, to say the least, a Positivist merging the individual in some "ideal whole" ("Theophrastus Such," p. 340). The truth is, one finds it difficult to understand the religious teaching of several writers in these days; they take New Testament ideas and common religious expressions, but they do not apply the ideas of Scripture upon Scriptural truths, the great facts through which religious principles have power. Hence, much of their language is perplexing to the last degree.

Oh may I join the choir invisible

sounds like a Christian prayer; but what must be said of such verses as the following:—

Oh may I join the choir invisible  
 Of those immortal dead who live again  
 In lives made better by their presence. So  
 To live is Heaven. . . . .  
 To make undying music in the world  
 Breathing us beauteous order, that controls  
 With growing sway the growing life of man.  
 So we inherit that sweet purity  
 For which we struggled, groaned, and agonized  
 With widening retrospect that bred despair.  
 . . . . This is life to come  
 Which martyred men have made more glorious  
 For us to strive to follow. May I reach  
 That purest heaven, and be to other souls  
 That cup of strength in some great agony.

Such verses must be dismissed as worthless rhapsody. What is meant we cannot tell. But assuredly here is no echo of a Christian hope. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: their works do follow them." This is the promise, the fact, of Holy Scripture. "The love of Christ constraineth us" to a life of holy usefulness, a life of hope, a life of sure reward. For this, Comtist talk about the enthusiasm of humanity and the instincts of "sociology" is, indeed, a miserable substitute.

## Short Notices.

*The Student's Commentary on the Holy Bible: founded on the Speaker's Commentary.* Abridged and edited by J. M. FULLER, M.A., Vicar of Bexley. Vol. II. Murray.

It is truly said that "the Speaker's Commentary" has won for itself a recognised place as the foremost work of its class available to English readers. The "Abridgment," in six volumes, of which the second volume is before us, will, no doubt, be similarly successful. It acquaints the reader with the conclusion of learned investigations, and supplies him with

satisfactory answers to several misinterpretations. Mr. Fuller has done his work well. The volumes, with a neat cloth cover, are handy as to size and printed in clear type.

*Carthage and the Carthaginians.* By R. BOSWORTH SMITH, M.A.  
Second edition. Longmans.

This is undoubtedly an able work of high interest for historical students. The author justly observes that the first Punic war throws more light on the energies and character of the Carthaginians than the second. Further, we have the guidance of Polybius throughout the history of the first war. Dr. Arnold, however, gave only one chapter of his noble history to that war. Mr. Bosworth Smith treats it at considerable length.

*Spent in the Service. A Memoir of the Very Rev. Achilles Daunt, D.D., Dean of Cork.* By the Rev. F. R. WYNN, M.A., Incumbent of St. Matthias's, Dublin. Hodder & Stoughton.

A valuable biography. Dean Daunt was a man "of special singleness of mind and heavenliness of character;" esteemed on all sides as emphatically "a good man"—faithful, lovable, lowly-hearted. The memorial of such a Christian Minister has a value of its own.

*Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.* By F. A. PHILIPPI, Doctor and Professor of Theology at Bostock. 2 vols. T. & T. Clark.

A translation from the third edition of Professor Philippi's Commentary on the great Epistle can hardly fail to win its way among English theological students. Sound, scholarly, and, if we may use such a word, *sensible*—not loaded with details—the work is really helpful. With "Haldane on the Romans," in its own way unrivalled, setting forth the Apostle's argument with logical lucidity, and Philippi's work, of present-day tone, with classical references, many students of the original will find all that they require.

*The Unsafe Anchor; or, "Eternal Hope" a False Hope.* Strictures on Canon Farrar's Westminster Abbey Sermons. By C. F. CHILDE, M.A., Rector of Holbrook. Fifth edition. W. Hunt & Co.

We are by no means surprised to read, in a brief preface, that "repeated applications have been made for the issue of a cheaper edition of this little work," "The Unsafe Anchor." Not a formal treatise upon the subject of Eternal Punishment, nor containing a complete answer to all the arguments in Canon Farrar's "Eternal Hope," it is what it professes to be, a review of that book. The style is clear and vigorous; and the argument, ably set forth, runs on sound lines. Mr. Childe's rule is to "prove all things" by the standard of God's Word, and to "hold fast" that alone which is "written therein, or may be proved thereby."

*Travels with a Donkey in the Cevennes.* By R. L. STEVENSON.  
C. Kegan Paul & Co.

The journey which this cleverly-written little book describes was, we can understand, "very agreeable." THE CHURCHMAN, however, having in view the social circle, is bound to take exception to certain expressions in the book neither witty nor wise; and, further, its religious descriptions, though here and there, from a certain *naïveté*, not without attractiveness, are by no means satisfactory. In a visit to the Trappist monastery of "Our Lady of the Snows," the author met with a monk who prayed daily, night and morning, for Dr. Pusey, who was, he believed, "very near the truth."

*Short Sketches of Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands.*  
By CHARLES ST. JOHN. New edition. Murray.

A new, cheap edition of a well-known work, now forming portion of "Murray's Home and Colonial Library," will form an amusing companion in a Scottish tour. Of Highland lakes, of salmon and seals, wild cats and tame owls, dogs of many kinds, weasels, stags, ptarmigan and eagles, and so forth, this Highland Selborne writes with zest and skill. Anecdotes abound. We quote one of a shepherd's dog. To prove his dog's quickness, the shepherd said to a friend before the kitchen fire, in the middle of a sentence about something else—"I am thinking the cow is in the potatoes." The dog, apparently asleep, was up in a moment and on the roof, where he could see the potato field; but as the cow was not there he ran to the byre, where she was "all right." The dog came back to the fire. After a short time the shepherd said the same words, and the collie repeated his look out. But when the false alarm was given the third time, the dog simply got up, and wagged his tail, and when the men laughed, he laid down, slightly growling, to show he was offended.

*The Song of Solomon, arranged for Sunday Reading. With Meditations on each Portion.* By the Very Rev. HENRY LAW, M.A., Dean of Gloucester. Hamilton, Adams & Co.

We heartily recommend this suggestive work, bright with Christian cheerfulness, firm, and faithful. The little book is tastefully got up, and is most suitable for a present. In a polished dedication to Lord Shaftesbury, the venerated Dean remarks that on all occasions the noble Earl's "adherence to the grand principles of the Reformation has been clear as the light, and high above the duplicities of compromise."

*The Holy Bible, with an Explanatory and Critical Commentary.*  
Edited by C. F. COOK, M.A., Canon of Exeter. New Testament, vol. 1. Murray.

The first portion of the Speaker's Commentary, New Testament, has been before the public some time, and we do not therefore review it. But purposing to review the forthcoming volumes, and express our opinion on the work as a whole, we gladly call attention to the volume before us, the Commentary on the Synoptical Gospels. The introduction by the Archbishop of York is masterly.

*The Church Missionary Atlas. Containing an Account of the various countries in which the Church Missionary Society labours, and of its Missionary operations.* New edition (the sixth). With thirty-one Maps, a Chronological Chart, &c. C. M. House, Salisbury Square.

An admirably executed volume. Originally planned by the Rev. W. Knight, the first edition of the Atlas appeared in 1857. The fifth edition, brought out by the late General Lake, in 1873, was considerably enlarged, and contained ten new maps. After the retirement of that devoted servant of God, he set himself to collect materials for an improved edition, and a memorandum was left among his Atlas papers, signed by himself in May, 1877, exactly a week before his lamented death, mentioning many friends who had rendered him assistance. The delays which have occurred in bringing out the present (the sixth) edition, have at least conduced to the completeness of the work. It is now one of singular interest and value. The maps are truly excellent. An *ad Clerum*, with the signature W. K., deserves especial praise.

*Anglo-American Bible Revision.* By Members of the American Revision Committee. Nisbet & Co.

This little book, containing twenty essays by American divines, has a peculiar interest at the present moment. In an introduction by Dr. Schaff the revision principles are unfolded; and it is added:—"If these principles are faithfully carried out (as they have been thus far), the people need not apprehend any dangerous innovations. No article of faith, no moral precept, will be disturbed, no sectarian views will be introduced. The revision will so nearly resemble the present version, that the mass of readers and hearers will scarcely perceive the difference; while a careful comparison will show slight improvements in every chapter and almost in every verse.

*Some Remarks upon a Letter to the Rev. C. J. Elliott, M.A., by the Rev. E. King, D.D., Regius Professor of Theology, Oxford.* By the Rev. C. J. ELLIOTT. Murray.

We had intended to call the attention of our readers to this important brochure in our present Number, but our review is unavoidably postponed. Mr. Elliott shows the real character of the *Communicant's Manual* and other ultra-Church works in this reply to Professor King's recent "Letter." *Justæ causæ facilis est defensio.*

*Unsearchable Riches. What do the Times Require?* By the Rev. J. C. RYLE, M.A. William Hunt & Co.

We notice these sermons for a two-fold reason. In the first place, they are exceptionally good. In the second place, the doctrines vigorously and clearly set forth in them are the doctrines which will be maintained in this Magazine. They are the doctrines, we believe, of the Reformed Church of England, the Liturgy and Articles being fairly construed, and further, the doctrines set forth in the Primitive Church and in the New Testament. The Preacher *speaks out*, according to his wont (*Quicquid fecit valdè fecit*;) and his words run smoothly along the good old lines.

*Ancient Monuments and Holy Writ.* By W. PAKENHAM WALSH, D.D., Bishop of Ossory. Fifth edition. Dublin: George Herbert.

An interesting pamphlet, and truly valuable.

*Kept for the Master's Use.* By FRANCES RIDLEY HAVERGAL. Twentieth Thousand. Nisbet & Co.

The proofs of this little book were revised by Miss Havergal shortly before her death, on Whit-Sunday last. Not a word of commendation is necessary.

*The Way Home.* By the Rev. CHARLES BULLOCK, B.D., "Hand and Heart" Publishing Office.

A new edition of a well-known book; it has a very pretty cover.

*A Voyage in the "Sunbeam," our Home on the Ocean for Eleven Months.*

With Sixty-six Illustrations. By MRS. BRASSEY. Longmans.

A really charming book; chatty, animated, with much information.

*The Odyssey of Homer rendered into English Verse.* Books I. to XII.

By G. A. SCHOMBERG, C.B., General. Murray.

A work of no small merit. We have read many pages with care, and the rendering seems to us, on the whole, exceedingly good.

*A Nook in the Apennines; or, a Summer Beneath the Chestnuts.* By L. SCOTT. With Twenty-seven Illustrations. C. Kegan Paul & Co.

If only this well-written, tasteful book had a Protestant tone we should gladly recommend it.