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Short Notices.

Our Present Needs and How to Meet Them. A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Meath at his Third Visitation, October, 1879. By the Most Rev. LORD PLUNKET, D.D., Bishop of Meath. Dublin: Hodges, Foster & Figgis.

We have read this Charge with lively interest, and, in the main, with gratification. We earnestly recommend those of our readers—we hope there are many—who desire to know the real state of things within the Church of Ireland, to study this pamphlet. The words of the amiable and accomplished Bishop are well weighed, and they have an interest for English Churchmen with regard to our own Church. Referring to his own diocese, Lord Plunket affirms that “tokens of vigorous life and steady progress present themselves on every side.” The statistics of Confirmation supply an example: “We know that there is no surer sign of a wavering allegiance to Church principles than a dislike to the rite of Confirmation. Is it then the case, as some would affirm, that Plymouth Brethrenism is spreading so rapidly amongst us and honeycombing the Church of Ireland with its doctrines? The facts I have instanced do not certainly look like it.”

The Capercaillie in Scotland. By J. A. HARVIE-BROWN, F.Z.S.
Pp. 150. Edinburgh: David Douglas.

This tasteful volume will prove within a certain circle, probably a very small one, a right welcome guest. As to the *Capercaillie* or *capercaillie* (*capercaillie*, according to the Scotch Bellenden; *capercaillie*, according to the English Pennant), “the old bird of the wood,” its history—we mean with regard to Scotland, the extinction and restoration of the species—its customs and its food, curious and interesting information is given. Perthshire is the headquarters of the capercaillie population; Forfarshire is the next favoured county. In the year 1842, as we learn from “Her Majesty’s Journal,” Prince Albert shot a capercaillie at Taymouth. Mr. Charles Buxton, in his “Memoirs of Sir T. F. Buxton” (p. 333, foot-note), claims to have shot, along with his brother, “the first of these birds that had been killed in Scotland for a hundred years.” On the title-page, with a pretty etching, appear the lines of Gisborne (“Walks in a Forest”):—

And from the pine’s high top brought down
The Giant Grouse, while boastful he display’d
His breast of varying green, and crowd and clapp’d
His glossy wings.

The Difficulties of the Soul. By W. HAY M. H. AITKEN, M.A.
Hodder & Stoughton.

Many of our readers, no doubt, have already read these twelve papers; they appeared in our excellent contemporary *The Clergyman’s Magazine* during the year 1879. Deeply reverent earnestness and practical common sense, with singularly wide experience, are the chief notes of this ably written treatise.

Yesterday, To-Day, and For Ever. A Poem in Twelve Books.
By E. H. BICKERSTETH, M.A. Twelfth edition. Rivingtons.

We gladly welcome a new, cheap, edition of Mr. Bickersteth’s great work. According to the *Times*, “this Poem has made its way into the religious world of England and America without much help from the

critics." That it has made its way is undeniable, for the edition before us is the twelfth; and the sale of the book in other countries has been very large. Now, for a shilling, any English working man can get a well-printed copy of this standard Poem.

Bible Hygiene, or Health Hints. By A PHYSICIAN. Pp. 240.
Hodder & Stoughton.

A sensible and suggestive work; it shows that the secondary trendings of modern philosophy run in a parallel direction with the primary light of the Bible. The force of Scripture health-hints is brought out clearly and simply enough for any "general reader."

Side Lights of the Bible. Indirect Evidences of its Truth. By the Rev. WILLIAM BURNET, M.A., Rector of St. Michael's, Norwich. Pp. 86.
Jarrold & Sons, 3, Paternoster Buildings.

With this little book we are much pleased. Sound and suggestive, its six chapters—two of which appeared a few years ago in the *Christian Observer*—may be read with profit.

From Bethlehem to Olivet. A Course of Lessons on the Life of Jesus Christ. By JOHN PALMER. Church of England Sunday School Institute, 34, New Bridge Street, Blackfriars.

A series of ably-written Lessons for Sunday School Teachers. At the commencement of each Lesson are printed "Passages for Reading," a "Text to learn," and then a "Central Thought" which "should be the object of the Teachers to develop and to keep in view in the application;" while every Lesson is concluded by a "Blackboard," Questions, Notes, and a Hymn. This little book is likely to prove most acceptable to Teachers, the divisions of each Lesson being *natural*, both simple and striking. The arrangement, indeed, is admirable; and there is an originality about the work which gives it a peculiar value.

Prayers and Responses for the Household. Fourth Thousand.
W. Skeffington & Son.

A short, low-priced, well-printed Manual of Family Devotion; the prayers are sound, fervent, and useable.

Jonah. With Notes and Introduction. By the Ven. T. T. PEROWNE, B.D., Archdeacon of Norwich. Cambridge Warehouse, 17, Paternoster Row.

A volume of that very useful series, "The Cambridge Bible for Schools." The work of a well-read divine, its interest and value will be acknowledged by many students of Scripture who have long ago left school.

The Cross: Heathen and Christian. A Fragmentary Notice of its Early Pagan Existence and Subsequent Christian Adoption. With Illustrations. By MOURANT BROCK, M.A. Pp. 90. Seeley.

An interesting little volume. For those who have not access to elaborate treatises, its facts and arguments will have an attraction.

Adventures in Many Lands. By PARKER GILLMORE, "*Ubique*," author of "The Great Thirst Land," "Gun, Rod, and Saddle," &c. Marcus Ward & Co.

A new "improved" edition of Colonel Gillmore's adventures is likely to

obtain fresh favour in a wide circle of "general readers." To most of the elder lads, at all events, it will prove irresistible, as they read such chapter headings as "Spearing a Wild Boar," "Catching a Shark," "Being Chased by a Buffalo," "Tricking an Alligator," "Hunting down a Bengal Tiger," and "Shooting a Grizzly Bear." The book contains several spirited sketches.

Day of Rest. Family Year Book of Sunday Readings for 1879.
Strahan & Co.

In this attractive volume—850 pages—appear contributions from Professor Blaikie, Dean Vaughan, Rev. W. Fleming Stevenson, Rev. H. Downton, and several other well-known writers. With an interesting "Story of Christianity in Pagan Rome," containing graphic sketches of life and manners; some suggestive Scriptural papers, and records of Missionary struggles and successes, we are much pleased. A paper on Shoreham, Kent, of which parish good Vincent Perronet was instituted in 1728, a sketch of Shoreham, Sussex, and other bits of home scenery by pen or pencil, are interesting. The illustrations, of which there are some 300, are, as a rule, exceedingly good. Several pages of "Characters and Scenes in the Pilgrim's Progress," by Mr. F. Bernard, deserve especial praise. The volume, we must add, has a very handsome cover.

Strahan's Grand Annual for the Young, 1879. Strahan & Co.

In this beautifully bound Annual appear Adventures, Tales, Biographies, Papers on Natural History, and Short Stories, by writers who are famous in this line; and there are upwards of 500 drawings on wood from designs by eminent artists. At a glance one can see that the volume will prove a veritable treasure for young readers. In the opinion of one "Nursery" critic, the fairy stories are really delightful, and all the tales are good. Forty years ago, surely, no such "splendid" stories, with pretty pictures to match, were in existence anywhere.

Chatterbox, 1879. W. Wells Gardner. *The Prize for Girls and Boys, 1879.* Gardner.

The annual volumes of two favourite Magazines; cheap and good. In the "Prize" appear twelve illustrated papers, "The Gentile Rulers of Scripture." The woodcuts are exactly what, in such books, they ought to be.

Lady Rosamond's Book. Dawning of Light. The Stanton-Corbet Chronicles. By ELLEN GURNEY, author of "Lady Betty's Governess," &c. Pp. 345. J. F. Shaw & Co.

A cleverly written, interesting, and instructive story, showing the evils of the conventual system, and the blessings of the Reformation. Many aristocratic houses, no doubt, supplied material for chronicles such as those of the "Stanton-Corbet" family. "Celibate," writes Jeremy Taylor, if we remember right, "dwells in a perpetual sweetness"; but over the door of many a monastery or nunnery such a motto might seem to its inmates merest mockery.

Muriel Bertram. A Tale. By AGNES GIBERNE. Seeley.

Miss Giberne's tales are sure to be good, and may very safely be strongly recommended. There is nothing of what is called "goody-goody" about them, and yet the pearl of great price is their chiefest ornament. Here and there the tale before us in some respects reminds us of Elizabeth Sewell and of Jane Austen. Happily married was its heroine Muriel, and the strain of the story is pleasing all through.

The Story of Stories, and other Sermons to Children. Preached in Trinity Church, Dublin. By the late JOHN GREGG, D.D. Edited by his Son, R. S. GREGG, D.D., Bishop of Cork, Cloyne, and Ross. Dublin: Geo. Herbert.

We heartily recommend this attractive book. Some sermons to children are sound and suggestive, but decidedly dry; others are full of anecdotes, but lack instruction and point. The sermons before us are both interesting and instructive. An admirable New Year's gift book.

Hobiness: its Nature, Hindrances, Difficulties, and Roots. By the Rev. J. C. RYLE, M.A. With Preface, Introductory Essay, and Supplementary Extracts from Old Writers. Pp. 470. W. Hunt & Co.

A valuable book, in all ways excellent. The preface and introduction contain some cautions for these times, in regard to Sanctification, keynote of the whole work, which is eminently practical. The gift of such a volume as the one before us—interesting all through—brings a treasure-house of good within a family circle.

Sun, Moon, and Stars. A Book for Beginners. By AGNES GIBBERNE. With a Preface by the Rev. C. PRITCHARD, M.A., F.R.S. Pp. 300. Seeley, Jackson & Halliday.

"The tale of the Stellar Universe," writes Professor Pritchard, "is herein told with great simplicity, and perhaps with sufficient completeness; in an earnest and pleasant style, equally free, I think, from any considerable inaccuracy, or any unpardonable exaggeration." The Professor, therefore, "heartily commends" the book; and, for ourselves, we have read it with the greatest interest. The illustrations, coloured, are charming; the cover and printing deserve warm praise. *Quid plura?*

Daily Readings for a Year. By ELIZABETH SPOONER. Pp. 312. S.P.C.K.

In this book appear extracts—as a rule sound and helpful—from Barrow, Bunyan, Howson, Leighton, Carlyle, Farrar, Robertson, and others. Well printed.

The Story of our Sunday Trip to Hastings. Related by one of the Party. S. W. Partridge & Co.

A well-written story, published under the auspices of the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association; likely to do good.

The Broken Looking-Glass. Dorothy Cope's Recollections of Service.
By MARIA LOUISA CHARLESWORTH. Seeley.

There are few books of this kind, and none, we think, so good as the little book before us. Not only servants, but many others, will read it with pleasure. Mrs. "Dorothy Cope" is a charming companion. Several illustrations.

The World of Moral and Religious Anecdote. Illustrations and Incidents gathered from the Words, Thoughts, and Deeds in the Lives of Men, Women, and Books. By EDWIN PAXTON HOOD. Fifth Thousand. Pp. 750. Hodder and Stoughton.

The title-page explains this book. We quote two of its anecdotes:—"What is your opinion of your two sons as preachers?" inquired a friend of Mr. Clayton, an old dissenting minister. "Well," he replied quaintly, but pleasantly, "George has a better show in his shop-window than John; but John has a larger stock in his warehouse." When Henry Venn Elliott called upon Simeon at King's College, Simeon said, "My dear friend, I am delighted to see you; but *have* you rubbed your shoes

upon the mat?" "Yes," said Elliott, with corresponding gravity, "upon all four."

Stories of the Cathedral Cities of England. By EMMA MARSHALL.
Pp. 330. Nisbet & Co.

With these "Stories" we are much pleased. Mrs. Marshall's writings, are, happily, well known, and deservedly valued, as really interesting, with a natural graceful style, and in the best sense of the word suggestive. The book before us has many charms, and we heartily recommend it. Thoughtful children will read it with pleasure, while the "general reader" class, as a rule, are likely to praise it. The "Cathedral Cities," are Canterbury, York, London, Westminster, Winchester, Durham, Carlisle, Chester. There are several good illustrations.

Homiletical and Pastoral Lectures. Delivered in St. Paul's Cathedral before the Church Homiletical Society. With a Preface by the Right Rev. C. J. ELLICOTT, D.D. Pp. 530. Hodder & Stoughton.

In this portly octavo appear Lectures by Archbishop Thomson, Bishops Thorold, Goodwin, Ryan, and Titcomb, the Deans of Ripon, Chester, and Peterboro', Archdeacon Perowne, and several other dignitaries. The subjects are Preaching, Preparation of a Sermon, Cottage Lectures, Parochial Temperance Work, and such like. It is hardly necessary to remark that the book has a singular value for clergymen; so far as we know it is unique.

Times before the Reformation. With an Account of Fra Girolamo Savonarola, the Friar of Florence. By W. DINWIDDIE, LL.B. Pp. 380. Nisbet and Co.

This is a well-written work. Its account of the great Friar, who beheld cultured refinement together with appalling licentiousness and ferocity, is clear and correct. No wonder that Savonarola, as he wept over the wickedness of blinded Italy, "virtue everywhere despised and vice honoured," lost courage—

Heu ! fuge crudeles terras, fuge littus avarum.

The Renaissance only gilded the pagan superstitiousness and licence which pervaded all classes from Pope and nobles downwards.

Ten Addresses at the Triennial Visitation of the Cathedral Church and Diocese of Lincoln in October, 1879. By CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH, D.D. Rivingtons.

We have here much that is interesting, and much with which we thoroughly agree. But certain observations of the pious and learned Prelate with regard to Vestments we greatly regret, and we are compelled to contrast them with the remarks of such High Church Bishops as Drs. Durnford and Mackarness.

Little Folks in Feathers and Fur, and Others in Neither. By OLIVE T. MILLER. First series. John F. Shaw & Co.

A charming volume, full of pretty pictures by pen and pencil. "A Bear with a Bed-quilt," "A Little Dark Nursery under the Ground," "A Funny Family," "The Baby that Lives in a Box"—such headings are sure to attract all children who have a liking for natural history chats. The description throughout is a really clever pencil-painting, so that little folks, like Molière's character, may read "prose" without knowing it.

The School of Grace. Expository Thoughts on Titus ii. 11-14.

By W. HAY M. H. AITKEN, M.A. Pp. 384. Shaw & Co.

Thoughtful, deeply spiritual, affectionate, impressive. The Epiphany

and Mission of Grace; the Negative Teaching of Grace; the Positive Teaching of Grace; and, lastly, the Practical Results—are the chief notes of this eloquent exposition.

The Voice and Public Speaking. J. P. SANDLANDS, M.A., Vicar of Brigstock. Pp. 180. Hodder & Stoughton.

A book well worth reading. One chief principle, "open the mouth well in speaking," will be insisted on by all who have watched such speakers as the late Bishop Wilberforce, and the present Bishop of Peterborough.

Golden Childhood. Ward, Lock & Co.

The Annual of a very attractive Magazine for little people. The stories are remarkably good; the instructive papers are not dry; and the illustrations are numerous and pleasing. For girls of say eight or ten years, the volume will prove a delightful New Year gift-book.

Harrison Weir's Pictures of Birds and Family Pets. R.T.S.

Twenty-four coloured Plates from original drawings, printed in oil colours by Leighton Brothers; beautifully done. The letter-press is not unworthy. A charming volume.

From Messrs. Hatchard we have received Canon Hoare's valuable little book, published last year, entitled *Redemption*, with a third edition, of the companion volume *Sanctification*; also a fourth edition—just issued—of Mr. Bourdillon's *Short Sermons*, plain and pointed; also Canon Garbett's brief treatise *The Immortality of the Soul*, a real *multum in parvo*; also two little books which we have much pleasure in recommending—the Rev. A. R. Fausset's *The Church and the World*; and the Rev. J. Richardson's *Praternal Suggestions*, an *ad Clerum*.

From Messrs. Seeley, Jackson & Halliday we have received two very choice gift-books:—*Stories from the Greek Tragedians*, by the Rev. Alfred Church, M.A., a companion volume to *Stories from Homer*, and *A Traveller's True Tale*, after the *Vera Historia* of Lucian. Mr. Church is evidently a ripe scholar; and these interesting adaptations show a rare fidelity and finish. The coloured illustrations in these beautiful books are exquisite. For boys with the slightest classical taste these "Stories" are the best prize-books we have ever seen.

We have received from Messrs. John F. Shaw & Co. several volumes, attractive within and without, and in all ways suitable for New Year gifts. *Dot and Her Treasures*, by L. T. Meade, author of *Bel-Marjory*, and other clever stories; *Prairie Days*, a tale of "our home in the far West," with an illustration of an Indian wigwam; *The Hamiltons, or Dora's Choice*, by Emily Brodie, author of that pleasing and wholesome story, *Jean Lindsay*; *Brave Geordie*, a capital tale for the bigger boys; *Nellie Arundel*, a tale of home life, specially suited for girls, by the author of *The Gabled Farm*, a very interesting volume which we have had the pleasure of recommending; *Ragamuffins*, a chatty, interesting description of some "Arabs of Love Lane":—all these are really good. *Prairie Days*, the largest volume, is a handsome gift-book.

From Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co. we have received four specimens of their "Picture Library" for little folks, with decorated covers. Books I. and II. contain pictures of the Parables, and two other books contain pictures of Poultry and Cows. The full-page illustrations in colours alone are worth the money.

A new cheap edition of *Hay Macdowall Grant, of Arndilly*, by Mrs. Gordon, has been recently published (Edinburgh: D. Douglas). Some portions of "the life and labours" of this devoted Christian have been condensed or omitted.

From Messrs. Ward & Lock we have received a really splendid volume for very little children—*The Royal Nursery Picture Book*, with coloured and other illustrations.

From "Hand and Heart" Publishing Office (1, Paternoster Buildings, E.C.) we have received five books, edited or written by the Rev. Charles Bullock, B.D.; *The Fireside Annual*, 1879, handsome and attractive as usual, with a well-varied list of contents; *The Day of Days Annual*, and *Home Words Annual*, cheap, well illustrated, wholesome, and readable; *Echoes from the Word*, a series of verses for the Christian year, written and arranged by the late Frances Ridley Havergal; and *The Temperance Witness-Box*. We gladly invite attention to these books. The last-named contains evidence of doctors, the Press, publicans, statesmen, soldiers, employers, judges, police, sailors, poets, bishops, and clergy. These are put together in a very neat and lucid form. At a time when every protest against the great evil of intemperance is of value, Mr. Bullock's little book will prove of much service.

From Mr. Elliot Stock we have received *After Work*, "Home Reading for the Family Circle," the Annual of a cheap and wholesome magazine, illustrated; *The Teacher's Storehouse*, Vol. IV., which really deserves its title-page claim, "A Treasury of Material for Working Sunday School Teachers;" Part I. of *The New Sunday School Teachers' Biblical Dictionary*, with an Introduction by the Rev. J. F. Kitto, M.A. We are much pleased with this new serial publication—threepence monthly—well got up; likely to be very useful.

From the Church Sunday School Institute we have received *Lessons on Genesis*, by the Rev. W. Saumarez Smith, B.D., a valuable series which we can recommend to Religious Instructors who are not Sunday School Teachers; *The Sunday Scholar's Companion*, illustrated, cheap and sound; a good sheet almanack, a class register, and some useful New Year Addresses to elder children, parents, and teachers; *When We were Boys*, a pleasing story of Sunday School Life, by the Rev. T. Turner, a capital little gift-book. Also, the bound volume of the valuable Magazine published by the Institute.

The annual volume of *Good Words* (Isbister & Co.), a very handsome gift-book, contains many ably written papers. We are particularly pleased with the Rev. W. Fleming Stevenson's "Mission Fields of India, China, and Japan,"—excellent articles.

The annual volumes of the *Sunday at Home* and *Leisure Hour* appear this year in a new garb. But our old friends are as welcome and as valuable as ever. How the able Editor contrives to keep up the freshness and vigour of these Magazines we cannot tell.

The S.P.C.K. has issued another volume of the "Non-Christian Religious Systems" Library, viz., *Confucianism and Taoism*, by Professor Douglas, a well-written and readable treatise. From the S.P.C.K. we have received also a series of studies on the *Benedictine*, with the title "Seek and Find," a little book with a value and interest of its own; also some sixpenny attractive, pretty, and little stories; *A Great Treat*, and others, capital Christmas or New Year school gift-books; and *Ember Season Addresses*, a series of discourses—thoughtful and impressive—delivered at Brighton during Trinity Ember Season, 1879.

