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It is in favour of the above interpretation that otherwise this most prominent feature of the Holy of Holies is unaccountably passed over altogether by the writer, except in the incidental mention of it afterwards in connection with the cherubim (*Verse 5*).

J. S. PURTON.

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### BRIEF NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR SCHOOLS. *St. Mark*; by Dr. Maclean (University Press, Cambridge). In many of our Grammar Schools and High Schools, at least the elder lads are now "examined" in some portion of Holy Scripture, and have to "get it up" as they would a book of Virgil or of Homer. In a large proportion of these schools the Scripture examination is conducted by members of the Cambridge University. The examiners have found, as was natural, that, while on every other subject handbooks of the most accessible and serviceable kind abound, there is an absolute dearth of similar manuals on the several books of Scripture. Now the lads in our schools, and even the junior students of our colleges, can hardly be expected to keep a long array of commentaries on their shelves, or to be able to use them to much purpose even if they have access to them. Hence the Syndics of the University Press have decided to produce a series of the Scripture manuals of which there is just now so great a need, and have selected Canon Perowne as general editor of the series. No better selection could have been made. The name of Dr. Perowne is a guarantee for good and scholarly work; while his intimate acquaintance with the Biblical scholars of every Church and school of thought will enable him to secure the co-operation of the men best fitted to assist him.

The first volume of the series now lies before me—a small octavo of two hundred pages, price *one shilling!* It is a marvel of cheapness, for paper and type are as good as can be desired. And into this small volume Dr. Maclean, besides a clear and able Introduction to the Gospel, and the text of St. Mark, has compressed many hundreds of valuable and helpful notes. In short, he has given us a capital manual of the kind required—containing all that is needed to illustrate the text, *i.e.*, all that can be drawn

from the history, geography, customs, and manners of the time. Of course it is part of a *School Bible*, and does not trace the sequence of thought in the Gospel, or emphasize the truths taught in it; still less does it deduce and discuss doctrines. But as a handbook, giving in a clear and succinct form the information which a lad requires in order to stand an examination in the Gospel, it is admirable. Whether or not a little more should have been done, even in a *School Bible*, to indicate and emphasize the connections and transitions of thought in, for example, the teaching of our Lord, may be open to question; but so far as it goes, so far as it professes to go, I can very heartily commend it, not only to the senior boys and girls in our High Schools, but also to Sunday-school teachers, who may get from it the very kind of knowledge they often find it hardest to get.

A POPULAR EXPOSITION OF THE EPISTLES TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA, by *Professor Plumptre* (London, Hodder and Stoughton), is a reprint of eight valuable papers which appeared in the second and third volumes of this Magazine. It contains a wonderfully fresh and telling exposition of these Letters, which many commentators have taken in hand. Dr. Plumptre, however, has excelled them all. His monogram is likely long to remain the best and most complete study of these brief but weighty Scriptures.

ST. PAUL IN ASIA MINOR AND AT THE SYRIAN ANTIOCH (London, Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), is another of those charming little studies in which *Dr. Plumptre* excels. It traces St. Paul from Tarsus to Antioch, Ephesus, Lycaonia, Galatia, and Phrygia; and gives us, in a lively and telling way, all that is known of the ministry of the Apostle in them. Like most of his works, the book is marked by one feature of special value to teachers and preachers of the Word. It both sets many passages of Scripture in their proper framework of circumstance, thus throwing a light upon them which makes them very vivid and fresh, and often it so retranslates them, or hints at such latent suggestions in them, as will furnish much food for thought, whether in the pulpit or out of it.