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While the silent Heavens roll, and Suns along their fiery way,
All their planets whirling round them, flash a million miles a day.

Many an Æon moulded earth before her highest, man, was born,
Many an Æon too may pass when earth is manless and forlorn,

Earth so huge, and yet so bounded—pools of salt, and plots of land—
Shallow skin of green and azure—chains of mountain, grains of sand!

Only That which made us, meant us to be mightier by and by,
Set the sphere of all the boundless Heavens within the human eye,

Sent the shadow of Himself, the boundless, thro' the human soul;
Boundless inward, in the atom, boundless outward, in the Whole.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

(To be continued.)

Short Notices.

The Biblical Illustrator: 1, 2, 3 *John and Jude*. By Rev. J. S. EXELL, M.A., 1898. Price 7s. 6d. London: Nisbet.

THE value of Mr. Exell's "Biblical Illustrator" is too well known by this time to require more than passing notice. The compiler has gathered together a host of illustrative matter on the verses of the Bible, from a wide range both of English and foreign literature. Hence the volumes of the "Illustrator" cannot fail to be serviceable to the clergy in particular, with a view to sermon-preparation. No man can preach effectively without giving careful thought to his sermon beforehand; and thought is quickened and enriched by reading the thoughts of others, as well as by private meditation.

The only fault we have to find with the book is its very untaking appearance; clipped margins, small and closely-packed type in long unbroken paragraphs, offend the eye, and make continuous reading a by no means easy task.

The Mutable Many. By ROBERT BARR. Pp. 394. Methuen and Co.

An extremely interesting and well-written novel on the subject of strikes, dealing with the reasons for and against, and giving both points of view with great fairness. The book tends to show how easily the people are led astray, and how great a responsibility lies on agitators.

Norman's Universal Gambist. By JOHN HENRY NORMAN. Pp. 275. Effingham Wilson.

This is a ready-reckoner of the world's foreign and colonial exchanges; of 7 monetary and currency intermediaries, with the aid of less than 60,000 figures, by which 756 tables of exchange, consisting of from 13,800 to 200,000 figures each, can be dispensed with. The volume also contains further aids to the construction of the science of money since 1892. It is in reality the second edition of Mr. Norman's "Ready Reckoner of the Exchanges of Gold and Silver," issued in 1893. This is a clear and scientific work by a great authority on a very obscure and difficult subject, but of great interest to mathematicians and to those engaged in the vast and intricate commerce of the British Islands.

Among the Sailors. G. HOLDEN PIKE. Pp. 328. Hodder and Stoughton.

A capital and well-compiled account of the work of the British and Foreign Sailors' Society during the Queen's reign. Among the contributors are Agnes Weston, John Britten, D.D., and E. W. Matthews, the secretary. There are many illustrations, and the book should do much to help and popularize one of the most interesting features of Christian work in the British Islands.

The Life-work of Archbishop Benson. By Canon CARR. Pp. 273. Elliot Stock.

The visit of the late Archbishop to Ireland immediately before his death indefinitely increased its value and interest. Canon Carr had already written many papers and articles on the Archbishop's work and speeches, and there were few men for whose biography more abundant material existed. Canon Carr has woven all this into a pleasant, appreciative, and interesting narrative. One of the Archbishop's sons is understood to be writing the large and permanent biography, but in the meantime this smaller volume raises a welcome memorial of a truly sanctified life, typical of all that is best in the modern English Church.

The Clerical Life: Letters to Ministers. Pp. 257. Price 5s. Hodder and Stoughton.

These are twenty letters by eminent Scottish professors and clergy to young men entering on the ministry. They have a certain local colouring, but will be very useful also to English clergymen. They are full of wit and humour and practical good sense, and if taken to heart by young men would help them to avoid many failures, disappointments, and mistakes. Among the writers are Ian Maclaren, Marcus Dods, Professor Denney, and Dr. Robertson Nichol.

Church and Realm in Stuart Times. By the Rev. C. ARTHUR LANE. Pp. 393. Printed for the author at the Old Printing Press, 123, Fulham Road.

This is the letterpress of ten courses of Church History Lectures, given by the well-known lecturer on behalf of Church Defence, on 600 different slides. Mr. Lane has arranged his information in a graphic and picturesque manner. He does not intend to give a connected or philosophic history of the times, but merely facts and illustrations, which, however, produce a permanent effect of a more vivid character than the reading of many more ambitious histories. Mr. Lane seems to have steered his way through the difficult controversies of the period with fairness and skill.

When thou Prayest; or, Suggestions for Daily Private Prayer. By Rev. W. HEWETSON, M.A., Association Secretary C.P.A. With a Preface by the BISHOP of COVENTRY. Loudon: Home Words Office.

An unpretentious little book, likely to be helpful to young communicants and others.

Candlewicks: a Year of Thoughts and Fancies. By CAROLINE TILBURY. London: Elliot Stock, 62, Paternoster Row, E.C. (In small 4to.) 1897.

Miss Tilbury set herself a difficult task when she essayed to write a book of "thoughts and fancies" suitable for every day of the year. Considering the initial difficulty, the book is not without merits, and, though not calling for any special remark here, has attained some measure of success. Some of the maxims scattered up and down these pages are neatly turned. The illustrations to the various months—presumably by the authoress's sister—are gracefully done.

The Sacrament in Song. By E. A. D. Henry Frowde, Oxford University Press Warehouse, Amen Corner, E.C. Price 2s. 6d.

This is a particularly charming collection of extracts from English poets on the Holy Communion, arranged for the Sundays and Holy Days of the Christian Year. The book is exceedingly well produced, and its contents have been selected with admirable discrimination. We recommend it cordially to all.



The Month.

THE dispute between the United States and Spain over Cuban affairs has gone on steadily, till at last an ultimatum has been sent from the States to Spain, calling on the latter country to withdraw her army and navy from the island, and granting only three days' grace, an answer being required by April 23. The immediate result was that Señor Polo de Bernabe, the Spanish ambassador at Washington, applied for his passports, which were sent him. No instructions had been sent to General Woodford to apply for his passports at Madrid.

Thus has this Paschal and Easter season been made memorable to America and to Spain. To ourselves it has been made so by the victory granted to our forces in Egypt in the great battle fought on Good Friday, in which Mahmud was taken prisoner. Osman Digna, "with his customary alertness," made good his escape. It is pleasing to find that on Easter Sunday a Church parade of our troops was held to give thanks to Almighty God for this success. Egypt seems to be that part of the world in which, for some time past, we have been most prosperous. Does the fact just recorded indicate a reason?

At home the season has not passed without calamities. Besides an accident, which might have been still worse, to a train which was carrying some of our volunteers home, there has been a shocking catastrophe in a mine at Whitwick, near Leicester. A fire, which had long been burning in this, which was commonly thought a very safe mine, burst its bonds on April 19, and it is feared that some thirty-five victims have in consequence perished.

Of another character is another fire. This fire, above ground, broke out in what is known as Mr. Spurgeon's Tabernacle on April 20, and left only the walls standing. The chapel records seem happily to have been saved.

Turning to Church affairs, we find the season marked by the much-debated action of Mr. John Kensit, who has made public protests by word of mouth against illegal ceremonies in certain churches, and has laid hands on a crucifix which was being "venerated" in St. Cuthbert's, Philbeach Gardens, on Good Friday, and carried it down the chancel, when it was snatched from his hands. This proceeding brought on a prosecution before Mr. Rose, the magistrate at the West London Police Court, on Easter Eve. What further consequences will follow remain to be seen. The attention of the press is turned to these matters. Canon Fleming apologises for the excitement of a strong Protestant, while the Dean of Windsor writes with grave severity. The account of Mr. Kensit's inter-