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All the evening I shut myself up in my parsonage ; but I cannot contrive to shut up and guard myself in such wise as not to hear the song of men who are brutalising themselves in the public-house, and the fiddle and the dancers, which are carrying off the women and the girls. It is heart-breaking.

And this quasi-heathenism prevails in a country where "Puritanism" has no power.

At the close of vol. III. appears a letter to the Oxford University Commissioners (Jan. 1879), from the Bishop of Lincoln, as Visitor of two Colleges, Brasenose and Lincoln, concerning the Statutes to be made. It is a weighty letter, and the religious character of the Colleges will, we trust, be maintained.

Short Notices.

Is Life worth Living? By W. H. MALLOCK, Author of the "New Republic," &c. Pp. 245. Chatto & Windus.

This is an able argumentative work ; it shows acuteness, logical power, and literary skill. To the Positivists—not only the followers of Comte, but to members of "the scientific school," such as Professor Huxley—it offers questions which they cannot answer. The quotations from George Eliot's writings are melancholy in the extreme. "The Positivists think," writes Mr. Mallock, "that they had but to kill God and His inheritance shall be ours. They strike out accordingly the Theistic beliefs in question, and then turn instantly to life. They sort its resources, count its treasures, and then say, 'Aim at this, and this, and this. See how beautiful is holiness, how rapt is pleasure ; surely these are worth seeking for their own sakes, without any reward or punishment looming in the future.'" In the concluding part of the work, however, the author places before doubters an Infallible Pope or Church, instead of the Infallible Word of God with the light of the Holy Spirit.

The Best Wish, and other Sunday Readings for the Home. By the Rev. CHARLES BULLOCK, B.D. Pp. 250. "Hand and Heart" Publishing Office.

Eighteen "Readings ;" sound and practical.

Zechariah and his Prophecies, considered in relation to Modern Criticism. With a Critical and Grammatical Commentary and New Translation. By C. H. H. WRIGHT, B.D., Incumbent of St. Mary's, Belfast. Second edition. Hodder & Stoughton.

This is a learned and ably-written commentary on an important portion of Holy Scripture. Mr. Wright, Bampton Lecturer last year, has shown considerable scholarship in his previous writings ; and the present work will add to his well-earned reputation. We do not endorse every expression ; but regarding the work as a whole it seems to us a truly valuable addition to theological libraries. Lack of space prevents us from noticing it at length.

The Story of the Cheh-Kiang Mission of the C.M.S. By the Rev. ARTHUR E. MOULE, B.D. Second edition, with illustrations. Pp. 170. Seeley's ; and Church Missionary House.

A valuable book for parish missionary libraries ; earnest, cheerful, devout, and—what even a reader prejudiced against Missions might add—sensible.

The Home Life of the Prince Consort. By the Rev. CHARLES BULLOCK, B.D. With portraits and illustrations. "Hand and Heart" Publishing Offices.

In a prefatory note to this pleasing volume, Mr. Bullock observes that his desire has been "to illustrate and commend the spirit and character of our national Christian loyalty." He has done his work, we think, remarkably well. The extracts are happily chosen, and the thread connecting the whole is thoroughly good. A more tastefully got up book, a better book of the kind in every way, is seldom seen.

A Contribution to the Cause of Christian Unity. By SIMEON WILBERFORCE O'NEILL, M.A. Pp. 258. Hayes.

Mr. O'Neill is one of "The Cowley Fathers," and his book contains "the thoughts of an Indian missionary on the controversies of the day." One chapter, e.g., advocates Asceticism in missionary work. Here and there we have noticed questions and statements which, we confess, surprised us greatly. Mr. O'Neill may take it for granted that all "Evangelical and orthodox Protestant" bodies hold firmly the scriptural doctrine of the Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. For English readers it is unnecessary to quote the *Indian Evangelical Review*.

Steps through the Stream. By MARGARET STEWART SIMPSON. Pp. 112. James Nisbet & Co.

An attractive little book, arranged for daily reading during a month. A Scripture locality, or an emphatic phrase, serves in each case as a starting point, from which the author strives to lead her readers, by means of sweet and persuasive exhortations, mingled with anecdotes and illustrations, into the way of peace, or to a closer following after those things which accompany salvation. The introduction is, we observe, written by the author of "The Way Home," an affecting narrative of crushing bereavement, which may be remembered by some of our readers. Christmas gifts are of various kinds, and this thoughtful little volume may, with advantage, have a place among those of the graver sort, bestowed with other thoughts than that of amusing a leisure half-hour.

Northcote Memories. A Book for Watch and Ward. By the Author of "Copsley Annals," "I must keep the Chimes going," &c. Pp. 280. Seely, Jackson, & Halliday.

Better stories can hardly be seen—simple, affectionate, thoroughly real. Primarily intended for the Sick Watch and the Hospital Ward, this book is very suitable for the Mothers' Meeting and the Parish Lending Library. Clear, large type.

Musings in Verse on the Collects. By the Lady LAURA HAMPTON. With an Introduction by the Right Hon. Lord Selborne. Pp. 137. W. Kent & Co.

Evidently a labour of love. Tender and thoughtful, deeply reverent.

Family Readings on the Gospel according to St. John. Short Consecutive Portions, comprising the whole Gospel, with a simple Exposition for daily use in Christian Households. By the Rev. FRANCIS BOURDILLON, M.A. Pp. 340. Religious Tract Society.

Mr. Bourdillon's writings are happily well known. The present book, like his "Readings on St. Matthew," is exceedingly good. We warmly recommend it. Few men have the same gift of clear, crisp, affectionate explanation. Really practical.

The Gospel according to St. Mark. With Notes and Introduction by the Rev. G. F. MACLEAR, D.D., Head Master of King's College School. London: Cambridge Warehouse, 17, Paternoster Row.

This is a part of a valuable series, "The Cambridge Bible for Schools," of which the general editor is Dr. J. Perowne, Dean of Peterborough. We hope shortly to comment on several volumes of this series. Meanwhile we gladly recommend the volume before us, an admirable little manual for school use. Dr. Maclear's notes are short, suggestive, and scholarly. In his remarks on xvi. 9-20, might well have been inserted a reference to Dean Burgon's masterly work.

The Three Witnesses: Scepticism Met by Fact; in Fresh Evidences of the Truth of Christianity. By STEPHEN JENNER, M.A. Pp. 235. Longmans, Green, and Co. 1879.

The evidence from "Undesigned Coincidences," or the surface facts of one set of documents, compared with the surface facts of another, is undoubtedly of great value as proof of the genuineness of the respective writings, and of the truth at the foundation of them. But the evidence that *underlies* written records, and that is of their very *texture*, being more intrinsic, and coming less within the possibility of fabrication, is, one may argue, of even greater value. Such is the kind of evidence set forth in the ably-written book before us, evidence which the author thinks has been hitherto overlooked, brought out chiefly as it is from Scriptures which have not been examined with a view to Christian Evidence. His "Three Witnesses" are Peter, James, and John; and in examining their writings the Epistles are compared with the Gospels and the Acts. Mr. Jenner shows scholarship and sound judgment; his argument, though full of details, is interesting all through, clear, and cogent. In the second part of the work, "Special Forms of Evidence," we are particularly pleased with the chapter on tenses. In 1 John i. 1, *e.g.*, he shows the difference between the perfects and the aorists, unhappily hidden from the English reader. In chapter i. 10 the use of the perfect tense lies against the doctrine of so-called "perfection," thus, "if we say we *have not sinned and do not sin.*" (And here Mr. Jenner aptly quotes ἀφῆκαμεν, Matt. vi. 12, "we have forgiven and do forgive.") In chapter ii. 1, the perfect is changed to the aorist, to intimate that the sin then spoken of must be a *single act* and not a *habit* of sin, and it might be more correctly rendered, "If any man sin a *sin.*"

Coming Events and Present Duties. Miscellaneous Sermons on Propheatical Subjects. By the Rev. J. C. RYLE, M.A. Second edition, enlarged. Pp. 226. W. Hunt & Co.

A new and enlarged edition of Mr. Ryle's book on prophecy needs but few words of commendation in these columns. The title was happily chosen; and the work—which is not always the case—well answers to it. In the chapter on Idolatry occurs this sentence: "Romanism in perfection is a gigantic system of Mary-worship, saint-worship, image-worship, relic-worship, and priest-worship."

Biblical Things not Generally Known. A Collection of Facts, Notes, and Information concerning much that is rare, quaint, curious, obscure, and little known in relation to Biblical Subjects. Second series. Pp. 380. Elliot Stock.

This is an interesting work, evidently prepared with diligent care, and it will be found of real use, we think, by several classes of Bible students. No opinions are expressed in it. The numbers of the paragraphs are continued from "the first series," and the indices cover both volumes.

La Vérité Chrétienne et le Doute Moderne. Conférences Données à Paris pendant l'Exposition Universelle, 1878, par la Société de Londres pour la Défense du Christianisme. Avec une préface [par EDMOND DE PRESSENSÉ. Pp. 320. London: Christian Evidence Society, 13, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C. Paris, G. Fischbacher, 33, Rue de Seine.

The contents of this interesting book are:—*La Méthode Expérimentale et le Christianisme*: par E. DOUMERGUE, Pasteur Auxiliaire de l'Église réformée de Paris. *La Terre et le Récit Biblique de la Création*: par B. POZZY, Pasteur, Membre de la Société d'Anthropologie de Paris. *La Royauté de l'Homme*: par EDMOND DE PRESSENSÉ, D.D., Paris. *La Destination de l'Homme*: par F. GODET, D.D., Professeur de la Faculté de Théologie de l'Église Neuchateloise indépendante de l'état. *Les vraies Conditions du Bonheur*: par EDOUARD MONOD, Pasteur suffragant de l'Église réformée de Marseille. *Les Livres du Nouveau Testament*: par JEAN MONOD, Professeur de la Faculté de Théologie de Montauban. *Le Miracle et les Lois de la Nature*: par CHARLES BOIS, Doyen de la Faculté de Théologie Protestante de Montauban. *La Divine Autorité de Notre-Seigneur Jésus-Christ*: par FRANK COULIN, D.D., Pasteur, Genthod près Genève. In a characteristic preface, Dr. de Pressensé remarks:—"Ce n'est pas en courbant l'homme devant une autorité extérieure quelconque qu'on l'amène à la foi salutaire, c'est en le conduisant au pied du Crucifié et en lui disant: Regarde et adore! Sans doute il faut bien lui répéter en lui offrant le livre divin, *Tolle et lege*, mais à condition d'ajouter, *Viens et vois*, et de lui montrer avant tout la personne du Christ dans le livre du Christ."

Thorough. An Attempt to show the Value of Thoroughness on several departments of Christian Life and Practice. By the Rev. Sir EMILIUS BAYLEY, Bart., B.D., Vicar of St. John's, Paddington. Pp. 386. Second edition revised and corrected. Hatchards.

We are by no means surprised to see a second edition of this valuable work so soon called for. In its tone and temper, as well as in its treatment of the subject, it deserves unstinted praise. "Personal Religion in relation to the Church," and "the Churches," and in relation to Culture, and "Typical Conversions," are excellent chapters, but every chapter is practical and sound. We heartily recommend the book as of real value at a time when there is much religious excitement with—it must be feared—much mere surface-work. If we must make a criticism, in view of a third edition, we should venture to suggest that on page 46, in showing the difference between regeneration and conversion, a sentence or two might be added for the sake of many readers, concerning *σπαραγή*, Matt. xviii. 3, and the literal translation of *ἐπιστρέφω* in such passages as Acts iii. 19, Matt. xiii. 15 (cf. Isai. vi. 10: "convert.") Conversion is spoken of in Holy Scripture as the work of man, and it is commanded by God: not so with Regeneration.

Songs of Heaven and Home. Written in a foreign land. By ARTHUR E. MOULE, B.D., Minister of the Church Missionary Society at Ningpo and Hangchow. Pp. 100. Seeley's.

A tiny, tasteful volume; verses tender, and full of trust.

The Quiver. Vol. XIV. Illustrated. Cassell, Petter, & Galpin.

We have always had a kindly feeling for the *Quiver*; it is an evangelical magazine, interesting and of good tone. The attractive volume before us is quite up to the usual standard. A capital book for parish libraries.

Beneath the Cross. Counsels, Meditations, and Prayers for Communicants. By the Rev. GEORGE EVERARD, M.A., Vicar of St. Mark's, Wolverhampton. Pp. 140. Sixth Edition. W. Hunt & Co.

That this clearly written book was needed, is proved by the fact that it has in a short time reached a sixth edition. Like all the esteemed author's writings, it is thoroughly scriptural, with a decidedly Protestant tone. At a time when erroneous teaching concerning the Lord's Supper is widely circulated, it is incumbent upon Evangelical churchmen to recommend books which are both sound and practical. We are pleased to see that another of Mr. Everard's valuable little books, "The Holy Table," has reached a third edition.

The World of Prayer. By Dr. D. G. MONRAD, Bishop of Lolland and Falster, Denmark. Translated from the fourth German edition. Pp. 236. T. and T. Clark.

It is intimated in the German preface to this interesting treatise upon prayer that Dr. Monrad is one of the most active of the Danish bishops. St. Paul's *τῇ προσευχῇ προσκατερέεστε* was joined, we know, with his *περισσεύοντες ἐν τῷ ἔργῳ τοῦ Κυρίου πάντοτε*. It is pleasing to notice that Bishop Monrad's call to prayer has been so welcome in Germany.

War and Peace. A Tale of the Retreat from Cabul. By A. L. O. E. Pp. 230. T. Nelson and Son.

A new edition of the well-told story of the Retreat of 1841 will be found especially interesting at the present time. The value of the A. L. O. E. series is widely known. Excellent books,

Every Boy's Annual. Every Girl's Annual. Routledge.

Two most attractive volumes, well illustrated and beautifully bound. Happy will be the boys and girls who are fortunate enough to get them. Stories and interesting Articles, all good and wholesome, so far as we have examined, are of a high class. Delightful Christmas gift-books.

Little Wide Awake. An Illustrated Magazine for Good Children. George Routledge and Sons.

"Little Miss Patty," whose charming picture appears as a frontispiece to this Annual, would always claim, no doubt, to be one of the "good children" for whom the volume is prepared. It is, perhaps, the prettiest, most tasteful book of the kind. The story by Mr. Knatchbull-Hugessen, we must confess we have not read; but a juvenile critic praises it most warmly; and the right hon. gentleman's fairy stories are known to be good.

Was I Right? Mrs. O. F. WALTON. Religious Tract Society.

A pleasing story, giving with great attractiveness the experiences of a young lady who went out as a "companion." Thoroughly religious in the best sense. We can heartily commend it.

From Messrs. Nelson and Sons we have received three capital gift-books:—A tale for boys, by Mr. W. H. G. Kingston, entitled *In New Granada*; a story for elder readers, *True to his Colours*, by the Rev. T. P. Wilson, M.A., Vicar of Pavenham; and *In the Woods*, or *Chats with Young Folks about Birds and Wild Flowers*, a charming volume beautifully illustrated and got up in Messrs. Nelson's well-known style.

Home Workers for Foreign Missions, by Miss Whateley (R.T.S.), is really interesting, and withal a very practical book. The anecdotes—it is stated—are all from life, and they show how stingy are many professed supporters

of missionary work. From the Tract Society we have also received *Bible Readings from the Gospels*, suitable for Mothers' Meetings; and *The Epistle to Philemon*, a carefully written work, by the Rev. A. H. Drysdale.

We have received from the Advertising Art Agency copies of two of their very beautiful groups of flowers with texts, one of these is called *The Lily Group* and the other *The Rose Group*—both are exceedingly artistic, and will well bear close inspection as to workmanship. They are excellently adapted for decoration of schoolrooms or mission-halls, while with the addition of a frame (which they are honestly worthy of) a drawing-room would not lose caste by their presence. The low price charged for them places them within every one's reach.

From the Oxford University Press Warehouse (7, Paternoster Row) we have received two new editions of *The Oxford Bible for Teachers*. The larger one, printed with the border lines and headings of chapters in red, is a really beautiful book: as to workmanship throughout, style, and finish, it deserves the highest praise. With the smaller copy, a thin edition for pocket use, printed on paper marvellously good considering its extreme thinness, we are much pleased. The value of this Teachers' Bible *fac-simile* series is well known. Notes, Summaries, Concordance, Maps, Dictionary of Proper Names; a treasure-house, trustworthy.

From the R. T. S. we have received several packets of charming cards, coloured, large and small. *Heart Melody*, *Morning Joy*, *Evening Blessing*, are really splendid; the first-named is particularly pleasing and exquisitely finished. The R. T. S. has this year surpassed itself. *Birds and Blossoms*, *Precious Promises*, with New Year and Christmas Cards, in small packets, are also excellent. The Pocket Books, Almanacks, and Reward Cards, are, as usual, both cheap and good.

A pamphlet entitled *Consumption*, or "Practical Hints" on *Lung Diseases*, by H. S. Purdon, M.D. (J. Hutchinson: Belfast), is well worth reading. Pulmonary consumption, says Dr. Purdon, occasions fifteen per cent. of the mortality of Great Britain.

From Mr. W. Wells Gardner (2, Paternoster Buildings) we have received the Annual of *Sunday*, an interesting magazine for little folks. The volume is well illustrated and cheap; a capital gift-book, and a very desirable addition to parish lending libraries.

We have received from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge several of their new publications, too late—we regret—to notice them in the present number as fully as they deserve. *Narcissus*, a tale of the early Christian times, by the Rev. W. Boyd Carpenter, carefully written, is both interesting, and instructive. Another volume of the new S.P.C.K. "Home Library," is *The Military Religious Orders of the Middle Ages*. Of *The Fathers for English Readers*, four volumes have been published; Gregory the Great, St. Ambrose, the venerable Bede, and St. Basil; an attractive series, neatly got up and cheap. With those passages which we have been able to read, we are much pleased. *The Child's Gospel History*, and *The Child's Acts of the Apostles*, are simple, pleasing commentaries for little folks. In some respects, indeed, they surpass all other books of a similar sort, sound in doctrine, with which we are acquainted. Some excellent little books on Health have recently been published by the S.P.C.K. The latest, *The Habitation in regard to Health*, is an admirable manual; short, and thoroughly practical. We heartily recommend it.