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casts aside the "traditions" of the critical "elders," and adventures himself, unencumbered with their weight, into the study of the linguistic features of the earlier books of the Old Testament, will reap a rich reward. To Mr. Spencer, as a pioneer of the much-needed research in this new direction, all lovers of the Bible will offer their congratulations, and it is to be hoped that a large number of our younger scholars may be encouraged to follow him.

J. J. LIAS.

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## Short Notices.

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*The Churchman's Household Prayers.* The Bishop of Ripon. Pp. 142. Price 3s. 6d. Nisbet and Co.

This volume provides a short liturgical form of prayers for family worship, morning and evening, during a month. The scheme is that each short service should begin with a response and answer from the Psalms, followed by a collect and the Lord's Prayer; then follows a lesson, the collect for the day, two or three more collects and a blessing. The revised table of lessons comes at the beginning, and the collects from the Prayer Book at the end. There are also prayers for special occasions. Those short prayers in the volume which are not from the Prayer Book are taken from ancient and modern writers, and the Bishop expresses his particular debt to Canon Bright for the graceful translations of his excellent collection from ancient sources. The volume is compiled with the charming taste and delicate feeling which are native to Dr. Boyd Carpenter, and will be a very agreeable variety in the round of household prayers. There is, of course, a special value in the family prayers of Thornton, Oxenden, Bourdillon, Vaughan and others; but if the same volume is always used the words become too familiar. The Bishop of Ripon's addition to our treasury of devotion is sure to be popular.

*Christ Mystical.* Bishop Joseph Hall. Pp. 174. Price 3s. 6d. Hodder and Stoughton. 1893.

This is the second volume in Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton's Devotional Library. It was reprinted from a copy presented to the Rev. H. C. Wilson by General Gordon. The marks at the side of the pages are those made by General Gordon in his own copy. There is a preface by Mr. Wilson on the theology of General Gordon. This treatise consists of eight short chapters in the style of the "Imitatio Christi," and it is at once a help to the spiritual reception of the Holy Communion and a corrective to material views of that sacred ordinance. It continually points out that there are other means of grace, though all may no doubt be summed up in that most solemn hour. The tone of the argument may be seen from the following passage: "My son, if ever thou look for sound comfort on earth and salvation in heaven, unglue thyself from the world and vanities of it; put thyself upon thy Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ; leave not till thou findest thyself firmly united to Him, so as thou art become a limb of that body whereof He is head, a spouse of that husband, a branch of that stem, a stone laid upon that foundation. Look not, therefore, for any blessing out of Him, and in, and by, and from Him

look for all blessings. Let Him be thy life, and wish not to live longer than thou art quickened by Him. Find Him thy wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption; thy riches, thy strength, thy glory." The printing is by R. and R. Clark, of Edinburgh, and is an agreeable specimen of the art.

*The Official Year Book of the Church of England for 1893.* Pp. 718. S.P.C.K.

This marvellous work is at the present time absolutely invaluable. Without the slightest attempt to boast or to exaggerate, it places within easy grasp of even a careless student a conspectus of the extraordinary varied energy of the living Church of England. It reflects the greatest credit on Mr. Burnside and all who have co-operated with him. Many members of Parliament have expressed to influential ecclesiastics the great importance of this work with reference to the misunderstandings and misrepresentations which are current amongst the opponents of Christianity and of the Church. It is divided into three parts: Historical Records, Statistical Records, and the Offices and Societies of the Church. The first chapter is on Training for Holy Orders, with a very valuable section on Organizations for the Assistance of Candidates. The second chapter has fourteen exhaustive sections on the Home Mission Work of the Church. Chapter III. is on the Educational Work of the Church—Elementary, Sunday and Higher. Excellent accounts of the foreign mission work of the Church follow in Chapter IV. Chapter V. is the official statement of the Church's work in the Colonies, India and missionary dioceses. Then come the official reports of the Church of Ireland and the Episcopal Church in Scotland in America. A valuable record is given in Chapter VII. of the work of the Councils of the Church during the past year, and the first part concludes with chapters on the Home Episcopate Church Choral Associations, Clergy Pensions, Endowments and Charities, Work for Young Men, Church Defence, Chronological Record, and a review of recent Church literature.

*Alone with God.* Rev. F. Bourdillon. Second series. Pp. 212. S.P.C.K. 1893.

Mr. Bourdillon's name is a household word in the region of simple, devotional writing. His books of family prayers have been a help to the godly life in innumerable quiet households, and his Bedside Readings have brought comfort to great numbers of sick persons in the stillness of their rooms. The present volume contains forty appropriate meditations on texts of Scripture, suitable to a time of illness, and shows a truly pastoral understanding of the thoughts and needs of those who are thus afflicted. It should be in the hands of every parish clergyman and district visitor. The type is large and clear.

#### MAGAZINES.

*The Thinker* contains an interesting account of Professor Harnack's review of the Gospel and Apocalypse of Peter. He says: "I am not able to see how Justin's acquaintance with this Gospel can be disputed." This would place it in the first third of the second century. In the first half of the second century he places the Apocalypse of Peter. There is also an admirable page on the standard of veracity amongst the Jews. Professor Max Müller reviews favourably Bishop Copleston's work on Buddhism. "We are truly grateful," he says, "to Bishop Copleston for what he has done; but we should have felt more grateful still if he had rendered his excellent account of Buddhism, past and present, more complete by a chapter on the branching off of Bodhism in the first century of our era.

*Blackwood* contains an exquisite translation by Sir Theodore Martin, of

Schiller's "Lament for the Gods of Greece." It suggests how important would be the benefit to mankind if some great Christian poet would exhibit the beauty of nature from the Christian point of view. There is a pleasant article by Sir Herbert Maxwell on mid-winter in Thessaly, and a capital reduction to absurdity of the Home Rule bubble.

In the *Newbery House Magazine*, Mr. W. H. Jewitt has an imaginative and poetical paper on the Mystery of the Holy Incarnation, illustrated by woodcuts from the great masters, and by mediæval carols and other verses. The Rev. J. Sheepshanks writes on Shamanism, the oldest heathen religion; and the Rev. Alfred Gurney on the meaning of Mr. Burne Jones' pictures at the New Gallery. The "Layman's Recollections" take the form of a pilgrimage in the South of England, passing Hursley and Lavington, and ending with John Mason Neale, of East Grinstead.

*The Cornhill Magazine* gives some unpublished letters of William Wordsworth. The "Son of the Marshes," who writes in *Blackwood*, contributes a paper on "Life in an English Forest." There is a pleasant and suggestive paper on "Useful People."

In *The Leisure Hour*, Dr. Macaulay provides a biography of the illustrious scientist, Sir Richard Owen. The "City's Housekeeping Series" gives the Butlery and the Medicine-chest of Paris. In the "Days of Our Age," Prebendary Harry Jones arrives at the Justice. Mr. Pinnock, writing on the Black Country, describes its superstitions; and Dr. Edkins, of Shanghai, writes on the Polynesian myth of Creation, of which he says that it is evidently founded on the traditions of Western Asia, and there is in it the echo of early beliefs and of Divine teaching.

In *The Sunday at Home* there are notices of some saintly Quaker women of the past; a thoughtful paper on "Sight and Insight," by the Rev. W. J. Smith; on the "Usefulness of Some of our Police-birds," by F. A. Fulcher; an amusing paper on "American Graveyard Curiosities;" and an important meditation on the Basis of Our Lord's Teaching, by Dr. Robertson.

In *The Quiver* the Bishop of Ossory, the Dean of Canterbury, and Dr. John Brown, of Bedford, supply thoughtful theological papers; Mr. Murdoch Johnstone writes suggestively on "Character"; and A. K. H. B. undergoes the same process to which he has subjected so many well-known persons. This magazine would be much easier to read if the pages were all even.

*The Religious Review of Reviews* provides a beautifully illustrated paper on the Chicago Exhibition and the way to reach it. We quote with sympathy an important sentence from Mr. Compton Reade's paper on Anglican Church Music: "What are termed bright, hearty services too often degenerate into gabble and shindy; being, in fact, bad art, and worse religion." Accounts are given of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation, the Church of England Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays, the British Home for Incurables, and the Bridge of Hope. Sketches are given of papers by Canon Bevan on the Church in Wales, by the Rev. Peter Lilly on Religion in Persia, by Lord Meath on Religion in America and Australia, by Mr. Bartlett on the Relation of Dissenters to the Catholic Church, by Mr. Barrett on Poor Law Reform, and by the Bishop of Bedford on Urban Populations.

In *Cassell's Family Magazine* may be noticed the paper entitled "Through London on a Barge"; one on Corpulence; an interview with Sir George Reid, the President of the Royal Scottish Academy; and an illustrated article on Football. The insertion of a duet for violin and pianoforte is a happy idea.

*The Church Missionary Intelligencer* has important papers on the Brahma-Somaj, the Bombay Missionary Conference, Lord Rosebery's

Instructions to Sir Gerald Portal, and Notes on Uganda. It also prints Archdeacon Moule's Sermon before the University of Cambridge, and the Bishop of London's Address to the London clergy.

We have also received *The Church Sunday School Magazine*, *The Expository Times*, *The Boys' Own Paper*, *The Girls' Own Paper*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Little Folks*, *The Bible Society's Reporter*, *The Evangelical Churchman of Toronto*, *The Cottager and Artisan*, *Friendly Greetings*, *The Church Missionary Gleaner*, *The Church Worker*, *Light and Truth* (Reformed Church in Spain and Portugal); a special number of *Church Bells*, containing Archdeacon Farrar's Sermons on the Lord's Prayer; *The Child's Companion*, *The Boys' and Girls' Companion*, *Our Little Dots*, *Awake! Light in the Home*, *New and Old*, *The Dawn of Day*, *The Child's Pictorial*, *The Children's World*, and *The Vegetarian*. We have also received a penny booklet by Agnes Giberne, *A Pretty Kettle of Fish* (S.P.C.K.); *Hannah More*, the R.T.S.'s new Penny Biography; *The Sacrifice of the Mass*, C. H. Leet, F.R.C.S.; *Dr. Pfander*, the new number of Nisbet's brief sketches of C.M.S. workers; *In Mid-Air* (S.P.C.K., Penny Library of Fiction), by G. Manville Fenn; *Rome Rule in Ireland and England*, and *The Catholic Truth Society Exposed* (Protestant Alliance); and from the S.P.C.K. ten useful tracts: address to working lads by Mr. Winnington-Ingram, of the Oxford House, Bethnal Green; two on Confirmation by Canon Hammond, of Truro; and two on Good Friday and Easter Communion, by the Rev. W. H. Jackson. *Partnership* is an eloquent address by the Archbishop of Canterbury on Christian Co-operation. *Evolution, Creation, and the Fall* is an address to men by Archdeacon Wilson. He describes the story of the Fall as not a fable, not an illusion, still less a mere fiction; but a temporary and figurative mode of expression. The Seventy-first Annual Report of the Scripture Readers' Society for Ireland is, at the present time especially, deeply interesting. We regret to notice that whereas last year's income amounted to £3,588, a balance is due to the treasurer of £97.

Lack of space compels us to reserve for notice: *Christ in Modern Theology* (Dr. Fairbairn); *The First Book of Kings* (Archdeacon Farrar); *Sir John Stevenson* (J. S. Bumpus); *Hebrew Idolatry* (Higgins); *A Metaphysical Octave*; *Essays on Vegetarianism* (Hills); *Unity and Order* (Kennion); *Clews to Holy Writ*; *Apologetics*, or *Christianity Defensively Stated*; *The Hidden Mystery*; *The Question of Questions*; *Poems in Petroleum*; *Cross Bearing*; *Faith*; *Thoroughness*; *Some Australian Sermons*; *Memoir of W. M. Falloon*; *Prayer Thoughts*; *The Pillar in the Night*; *Expository Lectures and Sermons*; *Home Weal and Home Woe*; *The Biblical Museum*, vol. x.; *The Class and the Desk*; *Bible-Class Expositions*; *Nineteen Centuries Ago and Now*; *Fruit Farming for Profit in California*; *Women of the Bible*; *Men of the Bible*; *Moule's Holy Communion*; *Gladstone's Romanes Lecture*; *Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress*; *The Decalogue*; *Some Lights of Science on the Faith*; *Twofold Life*; *Ryle's Ezra and Nehemiah*; *Hibbert Lectures, 1892*; *The Incarnation:—A Revelation of Human Duties*, being the Bishop of Durham's Charge; *Out in the Sunshine*; *The Smaller Cambridge Bible for Schools*, *Judges*; *Robinson's Catechism on the Book of Common Prayer*; *Dr. Jessop's Doris*; *Child's Church and Science*; *Arcana in the Ruwenzori*; *Bishop Westcott's Gospel of Life*; *The Lenten Opportunity*; *Talks in a Hospital*; *The King of Sorrows*; *Poems* (Edward Templeman); *Seven Lamps of Fire*; *Bible Class Expositions*; *The Creed or a Philosophy*; *University and Cathedral Sermons*; *The Scientific Study of Theology*; *The Sacrifice of Praise*; *The Life of Love*; *Commentaries on the History of England*; and *The Sacramental System*.