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Short Notices.

The Bridge of Beauty. By MRS. LINNÆUS BANKS. Sunday-School Union.

An interesting, clever, and careful study of Welsh provincial life in the last century. The writer is thoroughly at home with her subject, and if anything, goes too minutely into detail; but the story is well worth reading, and will add to the author's well-deserved reputation.

Tools for Teachers. Compiled by WILLIAM MOODIE. Elliot Stock.

This admirable book is, as the author describes it in his preface, "a practical manual and storehouse for teachers of Sunday-schools, Bible-classes, and boys' brigades, and generally for all who have to do with the moral and religious training of the young." Teachers of all sorts will find it a most valuable help in preparing for their classes, and the poetry is specially well chosen.

The Children's Pew. By Rev. T. RED HOWATT. James Nisbet and Co.

Mr. Howatt is no novice in the art of religious writing for children, and the little sermons—fifty-three in number—contained in this volume, deserve high praise for originality, simplicity of language, and lively descriptions. We can cordially recommend it to mothers and Sunday-school teachers.

In the Grip of the Algerine. A Historical Tale of the Mediterranean. By ROBERT LEIGHTON. Sunday-School Union.

This is something more than a merely interesting and exciting story for boys; there is much historical information to be gained from it, and the Elizabethan style is well maintained throughout—except in the matter of the illustrations, Una's figure in particular being decidedly that of a maiden of the latter half of the nineteenth century.

The Girls of Cliff School. By GRACE TOPLIS. Sunday-School Union.

Any girl will enjoy this graphic and life-like story of school life, though we hope that not many English schools can boast of such exciting events as are to be found at Cliff. But the whole tone is excellent and healthy, and it will be devoured by school-girls from the first page to the last.

Dick's Match. S.P.C.K.

This little book has an original plot, well worked out, some very good descriptions, notably the affray with the poachers, and a solemn lesson on truth-speaking. The writing is, however, occasionally rather slipshod, and the sentences involved. The story is very suitable for parish lending libraries.

Will it Pay? By MARGARET KESTON. S.P.C.K.

This story of the London poor, by one who has evidently had much experience among them, and which is especially written for working people, cannot fail to attract and interest readers of both sexes, and will rejoice the heart of the superintendent of the mothers' meeting, and of the manager of the parish lending library.

The Old House. S.P.C.K.

This very pretty little story deserves high praise for life-like characters and natural dialogues, Molly, the London high-school girl, being particularly well drawn. It is a delightful gift-book for girls over twelve years old.

In Quarantine. By the Author of "Nicola." S.P.C.K.

Anyone might rejoice to have a great-aunt with such a repertoire of charming stories as these told by Aunt Carrie. They are one and all interesting and pointed, and not one errs on the side of too great length.

The Lord's Prayer. Sermons preached in Westminster Abbey. By ARCHDEACON FARRAR. Pp. 296. Price 3s. 6d. Isbister, 1893.

Messrs. Isbister are doing good service in bringing out the series of volumes of which this is one. Like all Archdeacon Farrar's preaching, these sermons attracted great attention as they were delivered; and there must be thousands, both of those who listened and those who only heard of them, who will be glad to possess in a permanent form their trenchant and burning words. Dr. Farrar has such vast stores of reading, erudition and illustration, together with so deep a knowledge of human life, and so clear a penetration into the meaning and tendency of things, that his treatment is always abundantly rich in suggestive teaching. The Church of England has many admirable preachers, but few real orators. To this latter class the Archdeacon pre-eminently belongs. Many of our readers will be stirred by these noble words:

"What came of his Invincible Armada? Answer, ye free winds of England, when God *efflavit vento et dissipavit eos!* Answer, ye white cliffs and rocky promontories, strewn with shattered and unwieldy wrecks! Answer, spirits of our fathers, from every wave! The thunder of England's caravels hurled back their defiance to the intriguing Jesuits and their decrepit debauchee. England, so long as she is England, shall know no (spiritual) king save Jesus Christ, and no priest, impotently usurping the sole priesthood of her Lord, shall tyrannize in her dominions. If ever she should sink again, through the supineness and degeneracy of her children, into a miserable, decrepit, priest-ridden England—a pale reflex and feeble echo of mediæval superstitions—if she should not stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made her free, but voluntarily entangle herself again in the yoke of bondage—though she have been the first among the nations, her last end shall be that she too shall perish for ever."

Growth in Grace, and other Sermons. By ARCHBISHOP MAGEE. Pp. 297. Price 3s. 6d. Isbister, 1893.

In the introduction the Archbishop of Canterbury says: "In these sermons, which he never published, many who have delighted in one or other of them, and many more who had never the opportunity of delighting in the mellow ring of that free and noble speech, will rejoice to learn something of its wisdom, its vigour, its exactitude, and its tenderness." The editor, the great orator's son, says in the preface: "Those who have heard the Archbishop preach will realize how far the written words fall short of the spoken ones, and how much is now lost by the fact that Dr. Magee's sermons were purely extempore." But in this volume there is the old force, the old touch of mingled lightness and gravity, the old comprehensive grasp of argumentative power, the old masterly directness of address. It is a noble book, and a permanent addition to English sacred literature.

Christ the Light of all Scripture, and other Sermons. By ARCHBISHOP MAGEE. Price 3s. 6d. Isbister, 1893.

This admirable collection is a companion to the other volume. The sermons bring a vivid sense of what Christianity in England has lost by the removal of so vigorous an intellect, so intelligent a faith, so sympathetic a humour, and so pure a taste. These posthumous works of

the wise and eloquent Archbishop should be in the hands of every young clergyman, not indeed for imitation, for that is impossible, but as an ideal of the power of the pulpit, and of what a sermon may be made by closeness and originality of thought, unity of purpose, continuity of treatment, breadth of view, and chastity of style.

Vulcan's Revenge. Sunday-School Union.

This curious story has the merit of originality, but Vulcan is not a very satisfactory hero, and we are doubtful as to his future, even after his apparent reformation.

Christ and Society. By DONALD MACLEOD, D.D., of Glasgow. Pp. 312. Price 3s. 6d. Isbister, 1893.

This excellent contribution to our homiletical literature is an illustration of the slenderness of the lines which divide the orthodox reformed branches of Christ's Church. There are few preachers truly characteristic of the English Church who would not have been glad to reckon these amongst their own utterances. The sermons are short, the style pointed and vigorous; throughout the problems and questions that present themselves are treated with frankness and loyalty. The following words are from a sermon of great value on "Political Economy, Christianity, and Socialism": "It is true that Christianity can never be indifferent to the enactment of such laws as tend to the well-being of the poor, the weak, and the miserable. It must be in favour of that state compulsion whose object is the prevention of what is cruel, or demoralizing, or the promotion of what is human and elevating: limiting the hours of labour, granting protection to women and children, compulsory education, support of the poor, enforcement of sanitation and improvement of dwellings, public libraries, and suchlike. All these may be regarded as expressing a national feeling inspired by Christian principle. *On the other hand, moral actions which are the result of compulsion have no value in the eye of Christ.*" There lies the whole gist of the difference between Socialism and Christianity.

The Imitation of Christ. By THOMAS À KEMPIS. In Rhythmic Sentences, according to the original intention of the Author. With a preface by CANON LIDDON. Pp. 299. Price 4s. 6d. Seventh and cheaper edition. Elliot Stock.

This arrangement has had a very wide and general welcome. The cheaper edition is an exquisite specimen of printing and binding, and will become very popular as a gift-book. It should have a place in every bedside devotional bookshelf.

Reminiscences of Seventy Years' Life, Travel, and Adventure: Military, Civil, Scientific, and Literary. By a RETIRED OFFICER of H.M.'s Civil Service. In 2 vols. Vol. I., Soldiering in India. Pp. 558. Elliot Stock.

This large and important work is full of intelligent and valuable information about our vast and magnificent dependency. The learned and able author has had a wonderfully varied experience. He has been in the ranks, subsequently an officer of the Indian Civil Service, a Member of the British Association, the Royal Institution, the Society of Arts, and other scientific bodies in England and India. The work is the record of a lifetime of keen and appreciative observation in circumstances which make such reminiscences of permanent value. There is probably no book which gives such vivid, faithful, and impartial details of native and European life in that extraordinary and romantic country. The writer has, amongst other subjects of investigation, closely watched the life and progress of Christian missions; and his testimony, while

perfectly impartial and unofficial, fully corroborates the high praise of Sir Bartle Frere and Lord Northbrook. The book is full of deep and fascinating interest, and will go far to make the reader familiar with the life and characteristics of that land of wonders the destinies of which Providence has placed in the hands of the English.

The Anglican Brief against Roman Claims. By the Rev. THOMAS MOORE and Rev. ARTHUR BRINCKMAN. Pp. 640. Price 7s. 6d. Simpkin, Marshall and Co.

Mr. Moore has done invaluable service before, in the "Englishman's Brief for the National Church," and Mr. Brinckman is well known by his important work "The Controversial Methods of Romanism." We hasten to call attention to the present most opportune and welcome volume. It is a kind of digest and continuation of the thirty-seven volumes of Gibson's "Preservative against Popery." It is better than Dr. Littledale's "Reasons for not joining the Church of Rome," as it is far fuller, and is free from a certain bias. It consists of some 344 questions, with candid, fair, historical answers, and abundant references for more minute investigation. It is popular in character, clear in style, and admirable in tone. At the present day, when through various societies, some open, some secret, the old unreformed Papal Church is influencing the extreme left wing of the mediævalizing party in the National Church, and is openly expressing her confidence in a speedy conversion of England; when modern liberalism is inclined to give free scope to all innovators and aggressors, and to deny it to the National Church because she is in possession of the field; when Cardinal Vaughan and his emissaries are proclaiming open war against the Church of England, and organizing lectures in every direction; when one kind of literature is adopted for the ignorant, and another for the educated; such a clear, wholesome, historical manual as the present is quite invaluable. It contains terse and well-informed answers to every question that can be put; and every clergyman and layman who is affected in any degree by the vigorous and unexpected assaults being now made in England by the old enemy of spiritual liberty, would do well to possess himself of this handbook, and to master its contents. The only criticism we would make is, that not sufficient allowance is made for the identity of doctrine between England and Rome before the Reformation; but, then, this is a historical, not a doctrinal treatise.

Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Napier, Bart. By A. C. EWALD. Pp. 352. Cassell and Co.

The subject of this volume was an example and a type of the highest kind of Christian gentleman—the Christian lawyer. As Lord Chancellor of Ireland, he exercised a wide influence for good upon Irish society, and took a leading part in the controversies about the Disestablishment of the Irish Church.

The book is admirably put together, and is a valuable study of the best side of contemporary Irish life. The account of Sir John's part in the Ritual Commission is an interesting historical record. The present is a new and revised edition.

Echoes from a Village Church. More Echoes from a Village Church. By the Rev. F. HARPER, M.A. London: J. F. Shaw and Co.

Two volumes of capital sermons that are certainly not over the heads of the village congregations for whom they are intended, and at the same time are suggestive and provocative of thought. They are Scriptural, plain, and earnest, which is precisely what country people desire.

The Lenten Opportunity. By Rev. W. G. MosSE, M.A. London: S.P.C.K.

A series of meditations, not marked, perhaps, by much originality, but gracefully and affectionately written.

The Browning Boys. By PANSY. Boys' Pocket Library. Sunday-School Union.

Like many other Transatlantic stories, this little book is full of freshness and vigour. The adventures of the Browning family will be read with great interest, and the moral is excellent.

The King of Sorrow. By the Rev. W. S. BOURNE. London: S.P.C.K.

A series of Lenten addresses on the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah; clear and perspicuous, if not containing much that is original.

The Order and Connexion of the Church's Teaching as set forth in the Epistles and Gospels. By ANDREW JUKES. London: Longmans, Green and Co.

This will be an extremely useful little book to catechists or Sunday-school teachers. The writer's object is not so much to treat the arrangement of the Epistles and Gospels historically or exegetically, but more, apparently, to indicate the reason and meaning of the order of the Church's teaching. This has been done lovingly and carefully, both for Sundays and Saints' days. Ample material for lessons will be found under each head—material that may be expanded and adopted to meet the requirements of almost any class.

A Key to the Epistles of St. Paul. By the Ven. J. P. NORRIS, D.D. London: S.P.C.K.

This is a course of addresses delivered in Bristol Cathedral, which are marked by the author's well-known carefulness and lucidity. He had a great gift of expressing theological truth in clear and persuasive language; it is eminently exemplified in these addresses.

Northern Lights on the Bible. By the BISHOP OF SELKIRK, Canada. London: J. F. Nisbet and Co.

Dr. Bompas has pressed into the service of this pleasing little book any experience during his twenty-five years' work in Canada which seemed to throw light on the Bible. Such a treatment is decidedly novel, and not without much charm. Many valuable illustrations are to be found. The jaded preacher or teacher will meet with much to refresh and stimulate his mind. An admirable index of texts quoted adds greatly to the value of the book.

The Heirs of Dene Royal. Boys' Pocket Library. Sunday-School Union.

The plot is original, though improbable, and the language somewhat stilted. The heroes are rather too easily taken in for their age, but their strange London adventures will amuse and interest boy-readers.

The Golden Mill. Translated from the German. Girls' Pocket Library. Sunday-School Union.

A very pretty, simple, and romantic tale, well and carefully translated, containing a warning against covetousness.

Bertha Pembertky; or, The Gift that is in Thee. Girls' Pocket Library. Sunday-School Union.

This story is interesting, but perhaps the discovery of an heiress of gentle birth in the person of an obscure cottage girl is not the most wholesome form of fiction to present to damsels of low degree.

MAGAZINES.

We have received the following (December) magazines :

The Thinker, The Expository Times, The Newbery House Magazine, The Anglican Church Magazine, The Church Missionary Intelligencer, The National Church, The Foreign Church Chronicle, The Evangelical Churchman, The Gospel Magazine, The Church Sunday-School Magazine, Blackwood, The Cornhill, Sunday Magazine, The Fireside, The Quiver, Good Words, The Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Girl's Own Paper, The Boy's Own Paper, Light and Truth, The Church Worker, The Church Monthly, The Church Missionary Gleaner, Light in the Home, Awake, India's Women, Parish Magazine, New and Old, The Dawn of Day, The Bible Society's Gleanings for the Young, The Bible Society's Monthly Reporter, The Cottager and Artisan, Friendly Greetings, Little Folks, The Child's Pictorial, The Children's World, Our Little Dots and The Boy's and Girl's Companion. Number 8 of the R.T.S. "Excellent Women" series is devoted to Madame Guyon. The S.P.C.K. have issued an interesting and instructive domestic story in "The Last Straw," the latest addition to the Penny Library of Fiction.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS NUMBERS.

The English Illustrated Magazine. In addition to the beautiful illustrations which one always expects to find in this magazine, it is full of capital reading, and is delightful from cover to cover.

Sylvia's Home Journal. This number, also, cannot be too highly spoken of. It is a splendid sixpennyworth of artistic illustrations and interesting reading.

From the *Home Words* Office we have received the Christmas Numbers of those well-known publications, *The Fireside, Home Words,* and *The Day of Days.* They are well calculated to keep up the good reputation which they have earned for themselves.

Good Cheer, the Christmas Number of *Good Words,* consists of a complete story by that charming writer, Jean Ingelow, called "A Motto Changed."

The Sunday Magazine Christmas Number takes the form of a number of short stories by some of our best-known writers, amongst whom are Hesba Stretton, Sarah Doudney, and L. T. Meade.

The Boy's Own Paper and *The Girl's Own Paper* Christmas Numbers contain their usual varied papers of interest, amusement, and instruction.

Messrs. Hazell, Watson and Viney have sent us *The Clergyman and Parish Workers' Visiting List* for 1894. There is an appreciative preface by the Bishop of Manchester, and we readily endorse all the good things he says of it. No clergyman should be without it. It is published in a handsome and strong cover at 4s.

 THE MONTH.

A UNITED meeting of clergymen and Nonconformist ministers of Bradford was recently held at the invitation of the Mayor. The gathering included the Bishop of Ripon, who suggested the holding of united devotional meetings. As an outcome of this suggestion it is probable that a united prayer-meeting will be arranged for the commencement of the new year.—*Manchester Guardian.*

The crowded meeting at the Holborn Town Hall was representative of all Christian bodies, and, by contrast with the Jerusalem Chamber Con-