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Without revealing any more of the tale, we think we have said enough to show that it is one of no ordinary interest. Here and there a careful observer may detect slight slips in matters of fact. Here and there the speech bewrayeth the Archdeacon. Figures are occasionally lugged in, merely, as far as one can see, for the sake of introducing them. But the tone is so true, the imagination is so vivid, the aim is so high, that this is a noble book. ]

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## Short Notices.

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*Africa Rediviva.* The occupation of Africa by Christian Missionaries of Europe and North America. By R. N. CUSSE, LL.D., author of *Modern Languages of Africa, Bible Translations, and Notes on Missionary Subjects.* Pp. 117. Elliot Stock.

THIS book demands a longer notice than at present we are able to afford it. Full of statements and suggestions, on which no doubt the well-informed will make, in due course, worthy comment, it merits careful reading. The eminent writer, second to none in zeal for Missions, uses considerable freedom in his criticisms. It is well. The Missionary cause will lose nothing by it. In his Introduction, he says: "My book is compiled in a Catholic spirit of sincere love to all earnest Christian work, but the criticism on method employed is none the less severe, because in my opinion it is required: there are several radical errors which must be eradicated."

The volume contains four Mission-Maps compiled under the author's instructions, by Messrs. Stanford.

We quote a few specimen sentences, from the concluding remarks, on Woman's Work:

To send a young European or American married woman into the Equatorial regions with the possibility of maternity without the surroundings of decent civilized life is a downright wickedness. Do we read of any such folly in the great Missions of the early centuries? . . . I heard this year (1891) on a missionary platform a colonial Bishop, who ought to have known better, say that the exhibition of a white baby to the simple African or Indian people was *favourable to conversion.* This seems to my mind sheer folly.

*The Critical Review of Theological and Philosophical Literature.* Edited by Professor SALMOND, D.D. Pp. 460. T. and T. Clark.

With the first volume of the "Critical Review" as a whole, we are not able to say we are thoroughly satisfied. Many of the papers of course are helpful, and nearly all reach a high literary level.

*The Days of Queen Mary.* Annals of her reign, containing particulars of the restoration of Romanism and the sufferings of the martyrs during that period. Religious Tract Society.

This is a new edition of a carefully-written book.

*The Story of the Life of Mackay of Uganda, told for boys.* By his Sister. With portrait and twelve illustrations. Hodder and Stoughton.

Full of interest. Handsomely got up as a gift-book.

*The Well-spring of Immortality.* A Tale of Indian Life. By S. S. HEWLETT, Superintendent of St. Catherine's Hospital, Amritsar, N. India. Nisbet and Co.

Amritsar, we are told, means the *not-death spring*. This Missionary Tale is likely to be useful.

*How to Keep Healthy.* By ALFRED T. SCHOFIELD, M.D. Religious Tract Society.

Chatty papers on Hygiene of Daily Life, from the *Leisure Hour*, revised. All are sensible and suggestive; the paper on the Science of Old Age is particularly good.

*Life and Times of Bishop William Morgan.* By the Rev. W. HUGHES, Vicar of Llannwchllyn, Bala. S.P.C.K.

Mr. Hughes, the title-page reminds us, was joint hon. secretary of the Welsh Bible Tercentenary Commemoration Fund. He dedicates this book to Archbishop Benson, "a successor to Whitgift, whose liberality in A.D. 1588 first gave the Bible in the vernacular to the Church in Wales"; and he speaks of Bishop Morgan as one of the greatest of the long succession of Bishops in the ancient British Church. We have pleasure in inviting attention to this timely book.

*St. Paul's Song of Songs.* A practical exposition of the eighth chapter of Romans. By J. R. MACDUFF, D.D. Nisbet and Co.

Dr. Macduff's writings have long been well known and esteemed. The book before us is, to say the least, an average specimen.

*Stories from the Bible.* Second series. By the Rev. ALFRED J. CHURCH, with illustrations after Julius Schnorr. Macmillan and Co.

We have not seen the "first series" of these "Stories," but the book before us is undoubtedly interesting. Some of the footnotes, however, strike us as being rather too learned for a book of this kind.

*The Christian's Aims.* By the Rev. ALFRED PEARSON, M.A., Incumbent of St. Margaret's Church, Brighton. Nisbet and Co.

Mr. Pearson is known as an earnest and instructive preacher, a scholar, and a thinker. This little book shows his soundness and common-sense as a practical writer.

*The Races of the Old Testament.* By A. H. SAYCE, LL.D., author of "Fresh Light from the Monuments," "The Hittites," etc. The Religious Tract Society.

*The Life and Times of Joseph in the Light of Egyptian Lore.* By Rev. H. G. TOMKINS, late Vicar of Branscombe, author of "Studies on the Times of Abraham," etc.

Here are Nos. XVI. and XVII. of the very serviceable "By-Paths of Bible Knowledge" series.

After an introduction treating of the science of ethnology, language and race, and Genesis x., Dr. Sayce proceeds with the Semitic race, the Egyptians, the peoples of Canaan, the Hittites (his "Story of a Forgotten Empire" was admirable), and sums up with general conclusions. Mr. Petrie's photographs are used in the illustrations.

Mr. Tomkins has done well, and his book, full of interest, may be confidently recommended. In his preface, we notice, he refers to Canon Girdlestone's "The Foundations of the Bible" for "an able and candid exposition of the conservative views of the Biblical text."

*The Economic Review*, a quarterly (Percival and Co.), will have attraction for many of our readers.

In *Blackwood's Magazine* appears an interesting article on the Blantyre Mission, by Dr. D. Kerr Cross. The Blantyre Mission, we read, is situated half-way between Katunga and Matopé, and nearly opposite the Murchison Cataracts. Mandala and Blantyre are adjacent. Travelling towards Blantyre from Mandala you cross a wooden bridge and enter an avenue of blue gum-trees half a mile in length. This leads to a square of several acres in extent, beautifully laid out. And, what! a cathedral! at the top of this avenue rise the dome and turrets of one of the most beautiful churches in Africa. Considering everything, that building is a marvel! It was designed by a missionary and built by the natives. Clean, well-clothed, intelligent English-speaking natives are seen walking about or engaged in their several occupations. No exotics of foster growth are these, but men of the Ajawa, Manganja, or Atonga tribes. Some of them are builders, some joiners, some gardeners, some carriers—for this is an industrial mission, as are all the missions in Nyassaland. You inquire as to the schools, and find there are 200 young people in attendance, that 146 girls and lads are boarders, drawn from the tribes around, and all from families of influence. The garden is equally interesting. The soil in Blantyre is by no means the best, yet its productiveness is wonderful. Most English vegetables are here, and most fruit-trees—apples, peaches, oranges, etc. You are led by the head of the mission along one of the garden terraces to a tall coffee-plant—I had almost called it a tree—standing by itself; and speaking of it he points you to the regular lines of the coffee-plantations that have sprung up around. These hundreds of thousands of coffee-plants have sprung from that one tree. Blantyre is admirably situated. Besides being high and healthy, it is in the heart of no one powerful people, but between three—the Ajawa, Manganja, and Angoni. Formerly these three were at constant warfare one with the other. Now, however, that mission influence has been brought to bear on them, they manage to live at peace. To most of us the greatest work of the Blantyre Mission is the uniting and guiding influence on these three tribes of quarrelsome people. Instead of war-ravages devastating the country, you have the powerful Angoni coming from the hills to the west of Blantyre, and working peaceably with their former enemies the Ajawas; and the Manganja from the Lower Shiré joining them as porters. Between these three the spear has been broken. A work of similar magnitude, continues *Blackwood*, has been done by the Livingstone and Universities Missions on the lake.

*Foods for the Fat* is a little book on corpulence and its scientific dietary cure, by Dr. Yorke-Davies; third edition. (Chatto and Windus.)

*The Power of the Presence of God*, by the author of "Prayers and Responses for the Household" (Skeffington and Son), has a commendatory note by Bishop Bromby. It is simple and earnest.

*Home Words for Heart and Hearth* is capital. An interesting book, very cheap, which many will find helpful.

*The Inheritance of the Saints* is a selection of passages from "English writers," with a preface by Canon H. Scott Holland. (Longmans.) The "writers" are such as Body, Carter, Ellicott, Knox Little, Pusey and Randall.

The annual volume of the *Child's Pictorial* is wonderfully pretty and attractive. With the coloured pictures, of course, little folks are delighted. But the whole is good. (S.P.C.K.)

Mr. Elliot Stock has published an excellent edition of Bogatzky's

*Golden Treasury*, with a preface by Principal Moule, a volume of which we hope to give a worthy notice.

In the *Newbery House Magazine* (Griffith, Farran and Co.) the first paper, "Sacramental Confession," has the writer's name on the contents-page "Rev. Fr. Black," which stands doubtless for "Rev. *Father* Black," as the paper is signed "William Black." It has an illustration, "Confessional in S. Mary's Church, Clumber." "Father" Black states that there are this year 566 churches in England "where the Sacramental system of the Church is taught in its fulness (including the practice of Confession), as testified by the use of Eucharistic lights and vestments."

About the *Annals* of the *Leisure Hour* and *Sunday at Home*, what words of commendation can we use which we have not used before? The contents of these valuable Magazines are mentioned occasionally in our short notices; and the volumes are worthy of unstinted praise.

The new—very timely—work by Dr. Leathes, *The Law and the Prophets*, No. II. of the "Bible Students' Library," is published by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Canon Girdlestone's being No. I. Our notice of the learned Prebendary's important work is unavoidably postponed.

We heartily recommend *Countess Maud*, a new Tale by that accomplished author to whom readers who are fond of historical stories, very clever, and with bits of history given first-hand, are so much indebted—we mean Miss Holt (John F. Shaw and Co.); one of the best Christmas books of the kind.

From the Religious Tract Society we have received a tastefully got up book, *Heroisms in Humble Life*, being "stories from the records of the Montyon Prize of the French Academy." From a prefatory note many will hear for the first time of Monsieur le Baron de Montyon, who returned from England to France in 1816, and left a sum of money to be applied to benevolent purposes.—*Brief Counsels concerning Business*, by "An Old Man of Business," is very shrewd and sensible. Some may think it "too long" and "a trifle dry"; but it has real merit.—*Italian Explorers in Africa*, by Sofia Bompiani, with several portraits, is readable and gives much information.—An edifying little book is *The King's Cupbearer*, by the author of "Christie's Old Organ"; a series of expository sketches on Nehemiah.

From *Home Words* Publishing Office (1, Paternoster Buildings) we have received *Old Oscar*; or, *The Faithful Dog*, illustrated after Landseer, Wilkie and Weir; a pleasing gift-book.—*The Day of Days Annual*, vol. xx., is as usual full of good things. The indefatigable Editor, the Rev. Charles Bullock, B.D., always provides what is in the best ways helpful.—The fifteenth annual volume of *Hand and Heart* is exceedingly good; cheap, bright, and wholesome.

*Sunshine Annual* is about as usual (G. Stoneman, 21, Warwick Lane).

From Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton we have received *The Preacher and his Models*, the Yale Lectures on Preaching this year, by Dr. Stalker. A vigorous and suggestive book. We give an extract:

"I once heard Mr. Spurgeon preach a characteristic sermon on an unusual text. It was on these words in Hosea: 'I was unto them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.' To illustrate the first clause he drew a graphic picture of a London carter in Cornhill loosening the harness, when his horse had surmounted the incline, taking the bit out of its mouth, and fastening on the corn-bag; and he applied the second clause with humorous wisdom to the behaviour of preachers. As the carter in the stable 'lays' the hay to

"his horse, so the preacher has to 'lay' the food to the congregation. "The carter must not put the food too high, where the horse cannot reach up to it, nor too low, where it cannot get down to it, but just where it can seize and devour it with comfort. So the preacher must neither pitch his message too high, where it will be above the comprehension of the congregation, nor too low, where it will not command their respect, but just where they can reach it easily and comfortably. "This quaint illustration has often recurred to me in the study, and made me anxiously consider whether I was putting the truth in such a way that the congregation could grasp it.

"Many rules have been proposed for winning the attention of the congregation. Some have laid stress on commencing the sermon with something striking. Mr. Moody, the evangelist, whose opinion on such a subject ought to be valuable, recommends the preacher to crowd in his best things at the beginning, when the attention is still fresh. Others have favoured the opposite procedure. During the first half of the discourse nearly every audience will give the speaker a chance. At this point, therefore, the heavier and drier things which need to be said ought to occur. But about the middle of the discourse the attention begins to waver. Here, therefore, the more picturesque and interesting things should begin to come; and the very best should be reserved for the close, so that the impression may be strongest at the last.<sup>1</sup> St. Augustine says that a discourse should instruct, delight and convince, and perhaps these three impressions should, upon the whole, follow this order."

*The Two Homes*, "A Story of Life's Discipline," by Mrs. Marshall, comes to us from *Home Words* Publishing Office, 7, Paternoster Square. The esteemed writer does well in protesting against the too common notion that children under a second mother cannot be happy—that a stepmother must bring into a family disquiet and trouble.

An interesting and informing book is *Heroes of the Telegraph*, by Mr. J. Munro, a sequel to his "Pioneers of Electricity." (R.T.S.) Beginning with Wheatstone, identified with the telegraph as Watt is with the steam-engine, and Stephenson with the railway (though Cooke's work is never to be forgotten), Mr. Munro proceeds to Morse. Cooke and Wheatstone were the first to introduce a public telegraph worked by electro-magnetism; but it had the disadvantage of not marking down the message. Morse, born in Charlestown in 1791, carried on the good work. Sir W. Thomson became known in connection with the laying of the first Atlantic cable. In the year 1839, on the Great Western Railway, a wire was laid for several miles from Paddington, and in 1841 was continued as far as Slough; its utility was noised abroad through the capture of the murderer Tawell. This man, a respected Quaker in Berkhamstead, had guilty relations with a woman near Slough, and one day he poisoned her with prussic acid. The telegraph message, "He is in the garb of a Quaker," was of necessity spelt by the clerk at Slough *Kwaker*. It turned out, at the trial, that Tawell had been transported in 1820.

The third volume of *The Weekly Pulpit*, new series, contains a good deal of helpful material. (Elliot Stock.)

We have received from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge a very interesting little book, *Church Work in North China*, with a preface by the Right Rev. C. P. Scott, D.D., Bishop in North China. The Bishop writes: "The friends of the Church of England

<sup>1</sup> "The strongest part of all great sermons is the close. More depends on the last two minutes than on the first ten."—From a choice little tract on Preaching, by "Prediger."

"Mission in North China will, I am sure, be grateful for the appearance of this sketch. It is the first time that any connected account of the mission from its earliest beginning has been put forth. Many, too, who have been acquainted with the work of their Church in North China during its first stages, under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society, will be glad to trace the progress onwards from the time when that society ceased to take a direct part in the work, and will thank God that the foundations laid by the missionaries of the C.M.S. have been of great value to us who have come afterwards to build upon them. Others, again, who have only had their interest aroused in the mission since the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel began its work in this field, or, later still, since the consecration of the first Bishop for the new diocese, will be pleased to have the thread of the story carried backwards, and will understand more clearly than before the references either to existing institutions, places and persons, or to those of the past."

In the *History of my Life*, just published (Longmans) an interesting book, to which we must return, Bishop Oxenden makes some noteworthy remarks on "extreme parties" and party spirit. In his earlier years, he says, the "Body which had the decided impress of earnest personal and personal religion was that which went by the name of Evangelical." "The *Church System*, however, had little or no place in their creed. Christ, and His glorious sacrifice; the work of the Holy Spirit in individual hearts; conversion from sin and the world to a godly and Christian life; the efficacy of prayer, and the devout study of God's Word—on all these points I was heart and soul with them. But the view of the Church as a Corporate Body called into existence by our Lord Himself, and employed by Him as the appointed agency to carry on His work, was scarcely recognised by them." Bishop Oxenden refers also to ritualistic or extreme High Churchmen. He says: "Much as I approve of hearty, warm, reverential services, I have always entertained a rooted objection to the childish displays, the studied postures and movements, the unauthorized gorgeousness of vestments, and the subtle phraseology unknown in the Church's formularies." Dilutions of Romish teaching and practice, instead of having any attraction for him, have ever been subjects to which his mind and taste were decidedly averse. One thing, adds the Bishop, has often filled him with wonder and thankfulness, namely, that some very High Churchmen, when called upon to preach, as in Missions, with the express object of awakening souls, are in the habit of putting aside their special conventionalities and their fanciful observances, and proclaiming Gospel truths as simply and as earnestly as their Evangelical brethren. "And why so, but because they feel a strong conviction that these great and glorious truths can alone effectually stir the heart and turn men to God; hence the presence of a real want has in this case practically called forth the full exhibition of the Gospel message."

The *Church Monthly* and the *Church Almanack* are excellent. Mr. Sherlock's estimates for localizing are very favourable to the clergy.

An interesting little pamphlet, by Mr. Newberry, *Seventy Prophetic Weeks*, is published by Messrs. Nisbet.

The *Fireside Almanac* for 1892 is charming ("Home Words" office, 7, Paternoster Square, London).

Mr. Ballantyne's new tale of the sea, *The Coxswain's Bride*, and other tales, form a capital gift-book. (Nisbet and Co.)