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A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

object of the writer is to offer hints on the *home* training of children. It is most difficult to realize with constant vividness what Cowper, we acknowledge, says so truly :

Our earliest are our most important years.
The mind, impressible and soft, with ease
Imbibes and copies what she hears and sees,
And through life's labyrinth holds fast the clue
That education gives her, false or true.

But all through this admirable monograph Mr. Lyttelton endeavours to bring home to mothers especially their overwhelming influence over their children in their early years, whether exerted consciously or unconsciously. He is a disbeliever in minute petty rules continuously enforced by "nagging." Success in home training does not lie that way, but rather by the outward ministration of something deeper and more inward, which is not easily learnt indeed, but which is the outcome of what is known as strength of character. In treating of such subjects as religion, altruism, money, choosing a profession, the same genial wisdom is almost everywhere apparent. The suggestions on pages 35 and 63 for teaching religion and unselfishness strike us as being as happy as they are in the highest degree sound and wise.

THOMAS FLAVELL.

Short Notices.

The Romance of Electricity. By JOHN MUNRO. Pp. 320. Price 5s. R.T.S.

THE R.T.S. has done much to popularize science. Few of its branches are more fascinating than electricity. An enumeration of some of the chapters, such as those on "Thunder and Lightning," "Fire Balls," "St. Elmo's Fire," "The Mystery of the Aurora," "Electrical Glow," "The Earth as a Magnet," "Electricity in Living Creatures," "The Telegraph, Telephone, Microphone, and Electric Light," shows the immediate interest of the book.

It concludes with the following suggestive sentence: "By means of the ether, a catastrophe in the sun is able to set a magnetic needle on the earth a-wagging. Is it impossible that there may be a still finer medium connecting the heart and conscience of man with the Spirit of his Maker, and thus his prayer may receive its answer? Many curious facts appear to show that one mind can influence another at a distance, and by analogy with the material universe the influence would require a medium of transmission. Is there a spiritual as well as an ethereal universe? The question is old, but it presses itself upon our generation with increased force."

The Chronicles of the Sid. By ADELA ORPEN. Pp. 413. Price 7s. 6d. R.T.S.

Sid means lady or mistress, and is the title by which Miss Gates was known in the Sahara. The authoress was her companion, and has

chronicled in a brisk and picturesque manner her very varied wanderings and adventures. Miss Gates was at one time a factory girl. She and Miss Orpen afterwards lived in the prairies of Kansas. Subsequently they went to Sienna and other places in Italy. At the age of fifty she became an artist, and was well known as a flower-painter. Her Eastern travels began at Carthage. Some interesting chapters are devoted to wanderings in the Sahara. After going up the Nile, the friends journeyed in the Holy Land. They also went to the North Cape and to Iceland. The cheerful liveliness of tone which is characteristic of the book makes these varied travels and strange adventures highly attractive.

More about the Mongols. From the Diaries of JAMES GILMOUR, by RICHARD LOVETT. Pp. 320. Price 5s. R.T.S.

This is a valuable sequel to the biography of the famous Mongolian missionary. The mysterious region with which the book deals, so little known to Europeans, has long had a strong fascination for the more daring travellers and for students of geography and national characteristics. The travels of Dr. Lansdell, Captain Burnaby, and others have given us glimpses of that vast and unknown section of the earth's surface. The book is a valuable contribution to our knowledge of these tracts, and is written in a fresh and lively style by a real hero.

Sweet First-fruits. Translated from the Arabic by SIR WILLIAM MUIR, K.C.S.I. Pp. 176. Price 2s. 6d. R.T.S.

The writer was born and bred a member of one of the Eastern Churches; but, convinced that its teaching was unscriptural, and its ritual and teaching idolatrous, he cast off its profession and embraced the Gospel in all its simplicity. His family were specially devout in saint-worship, Mariolatry, and the worship of holy pictures. As he would not yield to their persuasions, they drove him at midnight into the darkness and storm of winter without clothing or bed. He was received by a missionary, and subsequently wrote this beautiful work, which Sir William Muir describes as, in many respects the most remarkable of its kind which has appeared to the present day. It is the first-fruits of what we may expect from the reformation now so steadily spreading among the Eastern churches; and as such may take the highest place in apologetic literature, being beyond question one of the most powerful treatises that has ever been addressed to the Mahometan world. The scene is in the city of Damascus. A letter from a Christian friend falls into the hands of some inquiring Moslems, eleven of whom, after continued debates, become Christians. The results of this step in the midst of a fanatical Mahometan population form the subject of the work. It is an exceedingly interesting glimpse into the reformed, purified and Scriptural Christianity of a thoroughly Eastern mind.

Social Life among the Assyrians, etc. By Professor SAYOE. Pp. 126. Price 2s. 6d. R.T.S.

This is the eighteenth number of the useful series of "By-paths of Bible Knowledge," published by the Society. It consists of eight chapters, originally published in the *Sunday at Home*. Professor Sayce's learning and special knowledge of his subject give particular importance to this work. In speaking of their religion he says: "When we compare the noblest gods of Assyria and Babylonia with the God revealed to a kindred people, inferior in number and political power, in wealth and culture, we may see as in a glass the unfathomable gulf which divides them."

Mr. By-ends of Fair Speech. By LESLIE KEITH. Pp. 128. Price 1s. 6d. R.T.S.

These are bright and thoughtful sketches from some of Bunyan's characters: Mr. By-ends, the Fearing family, Pliable, Old Honest, Mr. Talkative, Mr. Timorous, the Maid Mercy, Captain Charity, and Citizen Self-Denial. John Bunyan's works are a mine of suggestive thought, and Mr. Keith has been working in it well and wisely.

Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress. Pp. 423. Price 1s. BAGSTER AND SONS.

This is a very neat and handy edition of the immortal work. The type is clear and the form attractive. The illustrations, which are very numerous, are quaint, simple and suggestive, and will help the imagination of young readers.

S. Paul's Cathedral Library. Dr. SPARROW SIMPSON. Pp. 281. Elliot Stock.

The learned and accomplished librarian of St. Paul's has in this volume made an important and well-judged contribution to bibliography. It is not intended for a catalogue of the entire library, as that contains 10,446 printed books and 10,730 separate pamphlets—in all, 21,176 volumes; but it is a list with notes and information of what may be considered the most characteristic points of the collection: Bibles, rituals, and rare books, works relating to London and especially to St. Paul's Cathedral, including a large collection of Paul's Cross sermons, maps, plans and views of London, and of the cathedral. It has been a labour of love with the zealous editor, who has probably said all that could usefully be produced on the subject to which he has affectionately devoted his life.

The Five Empires. By ROBERT WILBERFORCE. Pp. 214. Price 1s. and 1s. 6d. Griffith, Farran and Co.

This reproduction forms a volume of the Ancient and Modern Library of Theological Literature. It is designed to set forth how all the facts of human history form part of a consistent purpose and plan arranged by the Divine counsel for leading men on from the corrupt state of human nature to its redemption in Christ Jesus and the establishment of His Church. Robert Wilberforce afterwards joined the Church of Rome; but in this volume the facts of the establishment of Christianity as an organized system are stated with remarkable moderation. It is a useful and important sketch of the history of the world, and may well still be read as an outline to be filled up from other sources.

Modern Anglican Preachers. By CAMERA OBSCURA. Pp. 197. Price 1s. Hodder and Stoughton.

This little work consists of thirty friendly sketches, biographical and literary, of preachers in the present day. The writer has a keen eye for characteristics, and writes with sympathy of all his subjects, and with admiration of many. In looking over the book, it is pleasant to be reminded that we have so many teachers, most of whom may be considered efficient and important. The critic deals with such names as Benson, Temple, Bary, Magee, Boyd-Carpenter, Liddon, Moorhouse, Alexander of Derry, Farrar, Lefroy, Stuart, Forrest, Wilberforce, Scott-Holland, Fleming, Page-Roberts, Teignmouth Shore, Hole, and Knox-Little. "Camera Obscura" might perhaps give us other sketches of contemporary Church life. His style is fresh and his point of view welcome.

Poems in Petroleum. By JOHN CAMERON GRANT. Pp. 168. Price 2s.
E. W. Allen, Ave Maria Lane.

The title seems to be an allusion to the modern products of America. Mr. Grant intends his verse to be of contemporary life and thought, and strongly concentrated. There is music, courage, and originality in these poems. The metres are exceedingly varied, as also are the subjects. The memorial verses for the Duke of Clarence, Whittier, and Tennyson are true, manly, and worthy of their subjects. We quote the concluding stanza from that on the late Laureate :

O Poet, all thy earthly bays
Are nothing where thou art !
O Christian, bright their heavenly rays,
For holy was thy heart.
And we, that know thy mind was great,
Tho' humble, holding yet
The faiths our fathers held as true,
Know thankfully that, remembering you,
We cannot God forget.

The Atonement. By Dr. NEWMAN HALL. Pp. 159. R.T.S.

It is sometimes said that the Evangelical position has not been supported as strongly as it deserves in recent literature. Here, at any rate, is an important manual on what is justly regarded as the main and fundamental fact of Christianity. Dr. Newman Hall has studied the latest and most thoughtful works on the subject, and he defends the orthodox position, with a true and wide spiritual insight, from various points of view. His own position may be gathered from the following paragraph : "Variations of theory may exist among those who possess the same steadfast faith. It has been truly said that all explanations of the Atonement have partial truth : Christ did die as a martyr ; as an example ; as a pattern of self-surrender ; to show sympathy ; as our representative ; to reveal the love of God ; to satisfy the claims of government ; to make us good. The Atonement fulfils all these purposes ; but each is not all, and all are defective without this—' He bare our sins in His own body on the tree.'"

MAGAZINES.

Blackwood contains interesting and important articles on the Russian acquisition of Manchuria, the East India Company's Military College at Addiscombe, a review of Sir Arthur Gordon's "Life of Lord Aberdeen," an excellent account of the struggle that is going on for the Union, and a grave and ominous, but not by any means inopportune, paper on "The Army and Civil War."

The Leisure Hour continues its valuable serial papers. There is a pleasant illustrated sketch of Charles Edward Flower, the benefactor of Stratford-on-Avon, a notice of the new "Life of the Queen ;" of the late Rev. F. O. Morris, of Milton, Jeremy Taylor, Haydon the painter, and Holman Hunt.

In *The Sunday at Home* the editor, Dr. Macaulay, gives a warning note in his paper on "The Jubilee of the Free Church of Scotland." There is a valuable article by the late Dr. Saphir on "Attacks on the Old Testament," and a biography of the writer. The contents are, as usual, varied and wholesome, keeping a steady course between rationalism and the present mediæval contagion.

It is interesting to be introduced to remote parts of the British Islands. *The Cornhill* takes us in a pleasant sketch to "Scilly." Ladies will be charmed with the article on "Needlecraft."

In *The Newbery House Magazine* much encouragement is given to workers against the Welsh Suspensory Bill in a paper written under the *nom de plume* of Hope Carlyon. Archdeacon Chiswell writes agreeably about Madagascar, and Mr. Brocklehurst gives important and useful hints in a paper on "The Organ and Choir, and Church Services."

The Religious Review of Reviews has arrived just before going to press. It is a capital number, with interesting papers on Imperial Federation, Societies for Producing and Circulating Christian Literature, the Clergy Orphan Corporation, the Church Parochial Mission, the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, the Chelsea Hospital for Women, the Gordon Boys' Home, etc. Canon Fleming contributes some musical, devout, and suggestive lines on Jesus in the Temple.

Amongst the writers in the May number of *The Quiver* are the Dean of Canterbury, the Rev. S. A. Alexander (the new Reader at the Temple), the Rev. W. Murdoch Johnston, the Rev. E. J. Hardy, the Rev. J. R. Vernon, and the Rev. John Telford. Mr. Johns writes prettily on "Nature's Colours."

In *Cassell's Family Magazine* are capital papers on "Corresponding with the Planets," "The Art of Keeping Well," "A Walk in Saxon Switzerland," and "Westminster School." The amateur photographic competition is an interesting feature.

Very useful matter for those who have to give addresses in Sunday-schools will be found in Mr. Palmer's sixth paper in *The Church Sunday-school Magazine*. The other continuations proceed favourably. Useful papers are given on "The Permanent Value of the Old Testament," and "The Dangers of Children's Services."

The Thinker contains prize essays on "The Higher Criticism," "The Rights of Criticism," "The Word-Mystery in the New Testament," "Christ and the Problem of Suffering," and "What is the Church?" which are the results of a recent competition. Among many useful papers may be mentioned reviews of Dr. Stade's "Messianic Hope in the Psalter," and Pastor Schepelehn's "Lay-preaching."

The Church Missionary Intelligencer is, as usual, full of valuable information. Attention may be called to Mr. Gray's paper on "Nine Years' Missionary Progress in India," Mr. Hole's on "Early Days, Friends and Localities of the Church Missionary Society," Captain Lugard's "Reply to the French Government," "The Opinions of the Missionaries on the Disputed Topic of the Bombay Decennial Conference," and the welcome letter from Bishop Tucker on his arrival in Uganda.

The Boys' Own Paper touches on "Boy Life in Australia," "The Cambridge Local Examinations," "Coins of the Present Century," "The Boyhood of Charles Darwin," and "Westminster Abbey Choir-school."

In *The Girls' Own Paper* interesting matter will be found in the paper on "Brasses and Brass-rubbing," and in Miss Tytler's continuation of her biography of "Sophia Dorothea of Zell."

We have also received *The Church Missionary Gleaner*, *The Anglican Church Magazine*, *Little Folks*, *The Church Worker*, *The Cottager and Artisan*, *The Parish Magazine*, *New and Old*, *India's Women*, *The Dawn of Day*, *Light in the Home*, *Awake*, *The Child's Pictorial*, *The Child's Companion*, *The Boys' and Girls' Companion*, *Our Little Dots*, *The Children's World*, and *The Quarterly Paper of the Archbishop's Mission to the Syrians*.

