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

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## Short Notices.

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*Hymns, Sonnets, and other Poems for the Bicentenary.* London: Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. 1900. Price 1s. net.

THE sixteen hymns with which this volume begins strike us as being of exceptional merit, and, independently of the interest which the book possesses as a souvenir of the bicentenary of the S.P.G., it deserves a large measure of popularity with lovers of poetry. The Archbishop of Armagh contributes to this volume, as he did to the similar volume published in 1851. The Bishop of Ripon's first hymn, "God's Word went forth in Days of Yore," is sonorous, dignified and devout; and in a different manner the Rev. I. Gregory Smith's hymn, "Safe on the Shore," with music by Sir G. C. Martin, is one of the best religious songs we have seen for some time. We note that the hymns and music can be had separately, as also can the words of the hymns without the music, but we think the Society would be well advised to issue the whole volume bound in boards at a higher price. The book is quite good.

*Leaves from the Golden Legend.* Chosen by H. D. MADGE, LL.M. Westminster: Archibald Constable and Co. 1898. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This is a quite delightful selection of stories from the "Golden Legend," the famous "Historia Longobardica," by Jacobus de Voragine. To write a dissertation on the "Golden Legend" itself would be a pleasant task, but here it must be dismissed, as Mr. Madge dismisses it, with a quotation from the preface to the "Morte d'Arthur":

"For to passe the tyme thys book shal be pleasaunt to rede in, but for to gyve fayth and byleve that al is trewe that is conteyned herin, ye be at your lyberte."

For this short notice it must suffice to say that Mr. Madge's selection is comprehensive, the illustrations by H. M. Watts are becoming both in spirit and execution, and the book, as a whole, is one which will give much pleasure to many people.

*Sunbeams through the War-cloud.* By F. J. HAMILTON, D.D. London: Elliot Stock. 1900.

This is a small volume of "Short poems on special incidents in South Africa." Although marred in passages by crudity of versification, there is a vigour in these poems that is genuinely inspiring. We like best "Canadian Bravery and a Brave Canadian," which by its merit, as well as by its similarity of metre, reminds us of the best of Macaulay's "Lays."

*The Taking of the Flag, and Other Recitations.* By MACKENZIE BELL. London: Thomas Burleigh. 1900.

The public which Mackenzie Bell has won for himself by his poems should be widened by this volume of poems for recitation. They have been selected from his published works by the Rev. J. J. Nesbitt, whose

"Westminster Reciter" is well known; and the book further contains at least two poems which have not previously appeared in volume form.

*The Story of the Religious Tract Society.* By Dr. SAMUEL GREEN. R.T.S. Pp. 212.

This is a well-illustrated history of a most important and useful factor in the Christian civilization of the last hundred years. The Society has had the privilege of doing a glorious work, and it is here modestly and ably recorded.

*Real Pictures of Clerical Life in Ireland.* By J. DUNCAN CRAIG, D.D. Elliot Stock. Pp. 354.

This is a reprint of a book long out of circulation. The seventy chapters give brilliant and interesting sketches of Irish life in various aspects. The author's standpoint is that ultramontanism is Ireland's greatest misfortune, and that the spread of the Gospel of Christ would be its greatest blessing.

*Helps to Faith and Practice.* By Canon SCOTT-HOLLAND. Elliot Stock. Pp. 210.

This is a collection of devotional readings from the writings of Canon Scott-Holland, selected and arranged by J. H. Burn, D.D. These extracts, as might be expected, are full of original thought and vivid expression. They form a very remarkable series.

*The Church Past and Present.* Edited by Professor GWATKYN. Nisbet and Co. Pp. 295. Price 7s. 6d.

The scope of this work is best given by the names and subjects of the various writers: Mr. Llewellyn Davies writes on "The Apostolic Age"; Professor Gwatkin on "The Second Century"; Dr. Bigg on "The School of Alexandria"; Mr. Schneider on "The Age of Councils"; Professor Gwatkin on "The Latin Church"; Professor Collins on "England before the Reformation"; the Bishop of London on "The Reformation"; Dr. Hunt on "The Rise of Dissent"; Professor Gwatkin on "The Origin of Church Government"; Canon Meyrick on "The History of the Lord's Supper"; Professor Gwatkin on "Protestantism"; Chancellor Lias on "Romanism since the Reformation"; and Bishop Barry on "English Christianity To-day." The great value of the book is that it is written from the candid historical standpoint without prejudice or bias, and that each of the writers is master of the subject with which he deals. The result is a powerful vindication of the position of the Church of England, and a correction of many extravagant theories. The work has long been expected, and it ought to fill the most important place in present controversies. The tone is one of liberal and tolerant orthodoxy.

*The Christian Race and other Sermons.* The late Bishop RYLE. Hodder and Stoughton. Pp. 350. Price 7s. 6d.

Bishop Ryle's Commentaries, Tracts, Doctrinal and Historical Essays, gave him enormous influence during his long life. This is the first and only volume of his sermons. They are edited by the Archdeacon (Madden) of Warrington, and are full of common-sense and personal experience.

*Confirmation Lectures: Notes on the Church Catechism.* By the Rev. A. E. BARNES-LAWRENCE. Nisbet and Co. Pp. 58. Price 1s. 6d.

This little work supplies a real want. Clear, faithful, comprehensive lectures for those who are preparing Confirmation candidates have been much needed. These are mainly in outline, to be filled up and illustrated by those who use them.

*A Hundred Devotional Songs.* By the Rev. THOMAS ROWSON. London: Elliot Stock. 1900.

An unpretentious and devout book, containing many admirably simple and direct hymns. The references to well-known tunes greatly increase the practical value of the work.

*The Soul's Inquiries Answered.* By G. WASHINGTON MOON. Longmans, Green and Co. Pp. 127. Various prices.

There are many books of motto texts from Holy Scripture for every day, but in our opinion this is among the very best. It has stood the test of many years. The present is a new and revised edition, demanded by the widening circle of readers who have found this little book a friendly and stimulating spiritual influence.

*Chats with the Children on Temperance Topics.* By Rev. JOHN ISOBELL and J. JOHNSON BAKER. C.E.T.S. Pp. 110. Price 1s.

The temperance primers published nowadays are frequently too scientific for small children. This book will be found useful by teachers of junior Bands of Hope. It is very attractive reading for the youngest in such classes.

*Bible Questions.* By JAMES M. CAMPBELL. Funk and Wagnalls Company. Pp. 267.

Sermons in brief for every Sunday of the year, based on striking, pointed questions from Holy Writ. They are unusually suggestive, giving evidence of considerable reading and the power of sifting thought until it becomes transparent and forcible.

*Mr. Yates' Cricket Club.* By E. D. H. S.P.C.K. Pp. 80.

*The Little Lady.* By M. E. BRADSHAW ISHERWOOD. S.P.C.K. Pp. 96.

*Margaret Graham's Self-conquest.* By Mrs. SEAMER. Sunday-School Union. Pp. 63.

Three excellent short stories for children, bright, pure, helpful. It may not be the most dignified walk of literature, but assuredly those who consecrate their gifts to the service of the young, and succeed in making religion even neither dreary nor dreadful to young hearts, but the best and brightest thing in life, achieve, in a most complete sense, *monumentum are perennius*.

*Why should we Worry?* By J. R. MILLER, D.D. Sunday-School Union. Price 6d.

A booklet of 50 pages, containing the characteristic excellencies of this favourite American devotional writer.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

1. The Cambridge University Press has brought out, with the help of the Bishop of Ely and under the sanction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, an edition of the Form of ordering Deacons and Priests. The publishers lay stress on the fact that the whole of the Ordination Service is here printed, in combination with the Holy Communion Office. This is certainly a great convenience, but we may point out that it is no novelty, for in one diocese (Salisbury) a volume presenting precisely the same advantages has been in use for the last six years. The Salisbury book is further distinguished by directions to the candidates and the congregation as to their share in the service, a feature which everyone who has been present at an ordination will admit to be of very great value.

2. The translation into French of Mr. H. E. Chapman's account of his perversion, under the title of "L'Ame Anglicane," argues a remarkable deficiency in the armoury of weapons at the command of the Roman

Catholic Church in its attack upon the Church of England. The author's motive in writing his life-story is intelligible enough ; that of the translators is naïvely stated in their introduction : " Nous avons essayé de faire ressortir cette nécessité de la prière pour obtenir le retour de l'Angleterre à la foi dans nos deux ouvrages : ' La Crise religieuse en Angleterre ' et ' L'Anglo-Catholicisme.' Mais le récit de M. Chapman, sans y viser, y réussit mieux que nos deux volumes." Comment is needless. The book from which the French hierarchy expects such great results may be interesting psychologically, but we should not think much of the mental balance of anyone who was seriously affected by it.

3. In "The Gospel of Common Sense" Mr. Stephen Claye runs a-tilt against the modern cleric of every denomination—especially "the priest"—in a way that does more credit to his zeal than to his discretion. Our readers will not suspect us of leaning towards sacerdotalism, but we must confess that we are pleased with neither the tone nor the form of this attack. Common-sense is a good thing, but Mr. Claye's common-sense would be more convincing if it were tempered with taste, information or style of a better quality than he here exhibits. The book is both stupid and vulgar.

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## The Month.

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THE news from abroad has been frequently of a sensational character. It has also been extremely painful and disquieting in more than one notable instance. The assassination of the King of Italy, through an anarchist plot, has not only shocked the civilized world, but also shows the dreadful lengths to which the doctrines of "anarchy" lead men. By a most providential turn of events, the Shah missed, though only narrowly, a similar fate.

From China we learn that on August 15 the Allied forces entered Pekin after continuous fighting. We earnestly hope that peace may shortly be restored in the Chinese Empire now that the object of the campaign, the relief of the Legations, is, thank God ! assured.

In South Africa there have been few developments of serious note. General de Wet still eludes the vigilance of Lords Roberts and Kitchener, and is likely to cause much trouble, though the ultimate result is certain. We have been too lenient with the Boers ; now, perhaps, Lord Roberts's decisive proclamation may convince the foe that we do not propose to make it easy for traitors any longer.

There is only too good reason to believe that another horrible massacre of Armenians has taken place. Truly the rule of the Turk is one of the most dreadful anachronisms of these times !

In the Senate Hall in Rome, King Victor Emmanuel III. took the oath of fidelity to the Constitution in the presence of the members of the Senate and Chamber, Queen Elena, the foreign envoys who had attended the funeral of King Humbert, the high State functionaries, and the members of the Diplomatic Body. In his speech from the throne the King said he dedicated himself to his country with all the ardour and strength of which he was capable, with all the force given