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Shakespeare's Predecessors in the English Drama. By the late J. ADDINGTON SYMONDS. New edition. London: Smith, Elder and Co. Price 7s. 6d.

This book was originally issued some seventeen years ago; but unfortunately its accomplished and versatile author never lived to revise it. Yet a revision was needed. Mr. Churton Collins reviewed it on its first appearance in a masterly essay that was subsequently reprinted in "Essays and Studies." He pointed out very clearly its defects—defects, however, that might readily have been remedied with a little care and patience. Yet the book, even as it stands—and the present volume is merely a reprint, so far as we can see, of the original volume—is decidedly valuable. Mr. Symonds was peculiarly well fitted to undertake such a task as a literary history of Shakespeare's predecessors in the English drama. He was not only intimately acquainted with the classical drama of Greece—an acquaintance which is indispensable for a due knowledge of all subsequent dramatic history—but he, beyond all other of his contemporaries, was versed in the literary and artistic developments of the Italian Renaissance. His "Renaissance in Italy" (recently reissued in seven volumes) is a mine of information, and will not soon be superseded. But besides possessing these qualifications, Mr. Symonds had the further advantage of being extremely well read in English literature. As one of our "minor poets," too, he occupied a high position. Such a book, therefore, as the present volume must needs appeal to a wide audience. We feel instinctively we are in the hands of an accomplished writer and of a widely-read man of letters.

The *style* of the writer is, perhaps, overcharged with ornament. In his "Greek Poets" (perhaps his finest work) Mr. Symonds is seen at his best; but in "Shakespeare's Predecessors" there is a surfeit of "fine writing" and an exaggeration of diction which strike one as needless. Fulsomeness, specially in a critic, is always annoying. There are other faults: lapses of good taste are by no means as rare as they should be; possibly the writer, had he lived to revise his book, would have mended this. But the book, taken as a whole, is eminently suggestive, even though, as an effort of literary criticism, it falls far short of the highest place.

E. H. B.

Short Notices.

Talks with my Lads. Preface by Canon SEYMOUR COXE. Elliot Stock, 1900. Pp. 160.

A very useful series of eight addresses to young men on religious principle and practice in daily life, which will be particularly welcome to the many in these days who hold Bible classes and classes of instruction for youths.

and religion called Roman Catholicism. It would be better and more forcible if it were more expanded and references and details given. The warning is addressed to the Ritualist who is pleading for a revival of so-called Catholic teaching, which the author believes goes no further back than the thirteenth century, and is, therefore, not mainly Catholic. A powerful book could be produced by the writer on the foundation of this pamphlet.

Truths New and Old. Sermons preached in the parish church of Rochdale, by the Ven. James M. WILSON, M.A., Westminster. Archibald Constable and Co. Price 6s.

One of the chief dangers of the pulpit to-day is not that it preaches over the heads of the people, but under. We are convinced of this fact if the sermons contained in these volumes were listened to "with interest and profit" by the working-men and women of Lancashire, as the author from experience and judgment believes they were. For this reason alone it would be well to obtain the volume to learn what their standard is. It is undoubtedly a very high one, as far as material is concerned, but they are presented in plain, forcible language, thoroughly in touch with the thought of the day, and moderate in length, so that we can well believe that the plain man would derive much help from them. We admire the preacher's candour in openly stating that he claims no originality, but uses the materials of his reading. If anything will help to vindicate the foundations of the Christian faith, sermons such as these will, and we are assured not only that many who have listened to them will be helped, but many who will carefully read them will be equally helped. We commend them to the clergy as a fine type of the modern sermon, full of wide learning and careful theology.

Assurance. By the Late J. C. RYLE, D.D., Bishop of Liverpool. London: C. J. Thynn, Wycliffe House.

A discourse based upon 2 Timothy iv. 6, 7, 8, endeavouring to show from Scripture that Assurance is a true doctrine. At the same time, the author does not insist that all who will be saved must have assurance of ultimate salvation; he only asserts that it is possible and scriptural, and discusses the means to attain it, and the reasons why many are without it.

The Reformation in Great Britain. By H. O. WAKEMAN, M.A., and the Rev. LEIGHTON PULLAN, M.A. London: Rivingtons.

One of the Oxford Church Text-books. It contains an account of the Reformation in England and Scotland, with special regard to doctrine, with a view to show the thought of the Reformers. Some reference is also made to Calvinism, in order to point by contrast the real character of the English Reformation settlement.

Outlines of Old Testament Theology. By the Rev. C. F. BURNEY, M.A. London: Rivingtons.

The theology outlined in this little book of the Oxford Church Text-Book Series, is based on the views of the Higher Criticism with regard to the composition and dates of the various books. It is interesting as showing how far that position affects the theology of the Old Testament as hitherto accepted.

Lessons on Israel in Egypt. By the late SARAH GERALDINA STOCK. London: Church of England Sunday-School Institute. Price 2s.

A revised edition of these useful lessons, containing splendid notes, carefully revised, with reference to modern discoveries in Egypt.

The Village by the River. By LOUISA BEDFORD. S.P.C.K. Pp. 224.

A pleasant and healthy tale of the varieties of life in a contemporary English village.

The Church-Worker Annual Volume, 1900. Sunday-School Institute. Pp. 192.

This work, chiefly intended for the clergy, lay-workers, Sunday-school teachers, and other helpers, provides a continuous store of information. There are fifty-two lessons on "Signs and Wonders in Egypt" (the Exodus), a series on "Parochial Byways," and the "Outlook" and "Notes and Comments" are continued with renewed interest.

A Penniless Lass. By ANNETTE LYSTER. S.P.C.K. Pp. 157.

A lively and readable tale for girls, illustrating principle and character in modern provincial social life.

Flower Stories. By A. MEADOWS-TAYLOR. S.P.C.K. Pp. 123.

Nine admirable allegories taken from the life and characteristics of well-known flowers.

Lily and Mr. Ginger. By E. LOGAN. S.P.C.K. Pp. 95.

A pleasant little story of the every-day trials of a young girl, and how she surmounted them.

The Temple Treasury. Dent and Co. Pp. 184.

This is the second half of a very pretty and well-chosen Biblical Diary. The passages selected are very beautiful, and are printed as in distichs of poetry.

The Day of Days. Annual Volume, 1900. Home Words Publishing Office. Pp. 240. Price 2s.

A well-illustrated parish magazine. The biographies, with excellent portraits, are a feature; so is the scientific series, "Wonderland in the Bible."

A Door of Hope. By ANNIE L. GEE. S.P.C.K. Pp. 222.

A vigorous and interesting story of the Danish invasion in the reign of King Alfred. The historical surroundings and local colour have been well studied.

The Cape as I found It. By BEATRICE M. HICKS. Elliot Stock. Pp. 198.

The pleasant and interesting impressions of a nurse who spent three years in South Africa, told with spirit and good taste.

The Clerical Visiting List, 1900. Hazell, Watson, and Viney. Pp. 276.

Everything has been combined in this most useful pocket-book that is likely to be useful to a parish clergyman—all kinds of lists, room for addresses, etc., besides the usual stores of information.

Papers for the Parsonage. By Two Clergymen. London: Elliot Stock.

There are fifteen papers in this small book. The writers are in earnest and zealous for their own views. Greater system and reference to authorities would have added to the importance of the work.

Rome and Romanizing; Some Experiences and a Warning. By ARTHUR GALTON. London: Skeffington and Son. Price 1s.

Contains the substance of the three articles published last summer in the *National Review*. It is a strong and serious indictment of the system

"The address presented to the Pope by the Duke of Norfolk on behalf of the Catholic Union, on the occasion of the visit of the English pilgrims to Rome, has come in for a good deal of unfavourable criticism. Mr. Lilly has explained that the address was in no way the individual utterance of the Duke of Norfolk, but was carefully drawn up by the executive of the union, and represents the conviction of its members that the Pope is justified in declaring an effective civil sovereignty to be necessary for the effective discharge of his duties as head of the Church. The address did not use the word 'sovereignty,' but expressed a hope that the twentieth century might 'witness the restoration of the Roman Pontiff to that position of temporal independence which your Holiness has declared necessary for the effective fulfilment of the duties of his worldwide charge.' We do not know the precise terms of the declaration which is referred to. Would the Pope be satisfied with 'independent sovereignty over an island elsewhere than in Italy,' which Lord Herries declares to be a possible interpretation of the 'pious hope' expressed in the address? Independence of any civil government is one thing, restoration of a previously existing sovereignty over Rome and Italian territory is another. To the former there could be little objection, but we doubt whether it is a scheme which would excite any enthusiasm; whereas in many minds the desire that the Pope should be the successor of Constantine rather than of St. Peter, which St. Bernard blamed in writing to Eugenius IV., has still a powerful influence."—*Guardian*.

The number of clerical secessions from the Roman Church in France was lately estimated by the Abbé Charbonnel, one of the seceders, at 348.

A scheme for raising a *two million shilling fund for the Worcester diocese* was brought forward recently at a meeting of the clergy and laity of the Archdeaconry of Birmingham. The Bishop of Coventry presided. To bring all the benefices in the diocese even up to the moderate sum of £200 a year would require an annual sum of £11,000.

The return of Lord Roberts in the first week of January was celebrated with great rejoicings in London. The Queen did but express the unanimous feelings of the nation when she decorated the Field-Marshal with the Order of the Garter, and bestowed on him the earldom he has so justly deserved. The new duties on which Lord Roberts enters at the War Office might well tax the ingenuity and strength of a far younger man; but the reforms and rearrangements must be made, and to whom else could such a task be safely entrusted?

News from the seat of war is distinctly unfavourable. We have suffered no signal reverse, but it is quite clear that even Lord Kitchener's activities are being sorely tried in his endeavours to suppress the guerilla warfare that is so exasperatingly continuous.

The Joint Note of the European Powers has been accepted by the Chinese Plenipotentiaries. Those optimists, however, who, on the strength of this, fancy that the era of negotiation is at an end, and that things will now settle down into the old grooves, will find themselves mistaken.

PAMPHLETS, ETC.

In *Facts about the Memory and its Use* (Partridge), the Rev. J. D. Kilburn writes usefully, though we cannot say we feel as "convinced" as he does of the efficacy of any system of mnemonics. We have received from Elliot Stock a copy of the Rev. Prebendary Harry Jones's *Some Tides of To-day*, a sixpenny booklet of sermons which are quite worth perusal; and from Simpkin Marshall a new brochure by the author of *The Englishman's Brief*. The title of the new publication is *The Coming Disestablishment of the Church of England and the "Free Churches."* It is an excellent half-crown's worth, written from a thoroughly popular point of view. The Rev. T. H. Passmore's *Things beyond the Tomb* (Longmans, 2s. 6d.) is intended to be a manual of instruction, as we are told in the preface; it contains some good things, not unmingled with much that is doubtful and open to criticism. The author believes in prayers for the dead.

 The Month.

THE "great century" is already a memory. Many are the "reviews" and "retrospects" that have appeared, both in the religious and secular press, on this subject—much of it, we fear, of that complacent order to which, of late, we have been growing accustomed. The Bishop of Winchester, in his New Year's pastoral, writes, wisely, thus: "We are tempted to let a complacent and continuous purr of self-satisfaction take the place of sterner and more resolute sounds. We want a larger element of wholesome discontent with the results 'whereunto we have already attained' as the outcome of a hundred years of God-given opportunity." The fact is, the nation, despite the reminders it has had of late touching the folly of boasting, has yet to learn the full significance of Kipling's "Recessional":

"If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
 Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,
 Such boastings as the Gentiles use,
 Or lesser breeds without the law,
 Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
 Lest we forget, lest we forget!"

"For heathen heart that puts her trust
 In reeking tube and iron shard,
 All valiant dust that builds on dust,
 And, guarding, calls not Thee to guard;
 For frantic boast and foolish word,
 Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord!"

The *Daily News* of Thursday, January 10, contained an editorial note to the effect that the editorship of Mr. E. T. Cook, which commenced in February, 1896, came to an end that day. His successor is Mr. R. C. Lehmann, of Trinity College, Cambridge, well known as a coach of the University crews, and a member of the staff of *Punch*. The Liberalism of the paper will be of a more advanced character. In its first leading article on January 11, it took occasion to say that Mr. Gladstone "saved South Africa in 1881 by an act as politic as it was generous, and as magnanimous as it was wise."