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and the glory of Thy great Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WILLIAM SINCLAIR.

THE GRIEF OF NATIONS.

FLAGS half-mast high on many a castle wall,
 Deep-throated cannon booming hoarse and slow,
 A sable pomp, a ceremonial woe.
 Such sombre gauds may mock a tyrant's pall,
 But in the silence of the royal hall,
 And round the quiet bier where She lies low,
 How vain these symbols half our grief to show!
 How true the tears that round her softly fall!
 The Mother of her people lies asleep,
 Her counsels hushed, her labours at an end,
 Her brave heart stilled, her many sorrows o'er.
 As sisters in their grief the nations weep,
 As one in loving rivalry they blend,
 To honour her dear name from shore to shore.

S. J. SMITH.

SANDIACRE RECTORY.

Short Notices.

A Historical Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians. By W. M. RAMSAY, D.C.L. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 12s.

Professor Ramsay has become our foremost interpreter of St. Paul, and his works are essential to every student. In the present volume he first elaborates and defends his theory (now almost unanimously accepted) as to the Galatian churches to which the Epistle was addressed, and in this matter Lightfoot is superseded. In the second part he brings all his wealth of local and antiquarian knowledge to bear upon the text, and all his suggestions are worthy of study and consideration, and in many cases new. His standpoint—that of regarding St. Paul as the first great Christian statesman—is one that throws a new light on the life and work of the great Apostle. The maps which accompany the volume are the best that can be got. We hope that many more volumes of the same order may come from the same learned and fertile brain.

Christ our Example. By CAROLINE FRY. London: C. J. Thynne, 1900. Has deservedly reached its twenty-fifth thousand.

Holy Matrimony. By the Rev. W. J. KNOX-LITTLE. London: Longmans, 1900. Price 5s.

A new volume of the "Oxford Library of Practical Theology." The practical parts of this treatise are very good. Its theological and ecclesiastical sections are disfigured by an unreasoned and unreasoning partisanship.

The Dates of the Pastoral Epistles. Two Essays by the Rev. the Hon. W. E. BOWEN, M.A. London: Nisbet, 1900. Price 2s. 6d. net.

Mr. Bowen has done the Church good service by restating tersely and soundly the arguments in favour of the Pauline authorship of the pastorals. He pleads for an earlier date—A.D. 57 for 1 Timothy—than those commonly assigned. The arguments are worthy of attention.

A History of the Origin and Development of the Creeds. By the Rev. C. CALLOW. London: Elliot Stock, 1900. Cheap edition.

Mr. Callow's scholarship, as shown by his list of authorities, is not quite adequate to his task. He seems to be quite oblivious of the newer light thrown upon the origin of the Athanasian symbol by the researches of Mr. Bowen, and this part of the book, therefore, is out of date. The rest may pass.

Church Discipline and Auricular Confession. By FRANK SLATER. London: A. H. Stockwell, 1900. Price 1s. net.

A fair historical statement of the growth and development of auricular confession.

Design in Nature's Story. By WALTER KIDD, M.D., F.Z.S. London: Nisbet, 1900. Price 3s. 6d. net.

A restatement of the argument from teleology. A little, perhaps, overstated. Dr. Kidd does not appear to remember that John Fiske has said that "evolution replaces quite as much teleology as it displaces." It is only really a question of what the purpose of certain organisms and functions really is.

Our National Church Trouble: Diagnosis and Remedy. By ANDREW SIMON LAMB, Barrister-at-Law. London: Nisbet, 1900. Price 1s.

A moderate and powerful plea for the preservation of the Protestant character of the Church of England.

Different Conceptions of Priesthood and Sacrifice. A report of a Conference held at Oxford, December 13 and 14, 1899. Edited by W. SANDAY. London: Longmans, 1900. Price 7s. 6d.

A work of exceptional value, because of the men who took part in the Conference: Mr. Puller, Dr. Moberly, Canon Gore, Canon Scott Holland, Mr. C. G. Lang, Archdeacon Wilson, President Ryle, Professor Moule, Canon E. R. Bernard, Professor Sanday, Principal Fairbairn, Principal Salmond, Principal Davison, Dr. Barrett, Dr. Forsyth.

The contributions made by some of these, first and most notable, that of Archdeacon Wilson, and then those of Drs. Salmond and Forsyth, are of great value. The only real obscurantist appears to have been Mr. Puller, who contributed the first instalment to each discussion, and said not one word further, implying, apparently, that he had nothing to unlearn or learn from the rest. The other members of the Conference endeavoured to understand each other's standpoint, and to find common ground if possible.

The Primitive Saints and the See of Rome. By F. W. PULLER; with an Introduction by the Bishop of Lincoln. Third edition, revised and enlarged. London: Longmans, 1900. Price 16s.

This is a very much enlarged edition of a work that is very well known. It is a well-written, historically sound treatment of the question of the relation of the See of Rome to other Churches in the early days of Christianity. The only point on which we think Mr. Puller needs to further consider his position is in relation to the residence of St. Peter in Rome. He has not dealt with the archaeological evidence, nor with the changed aspect of the question, if Ramsay and Swete be right, and the martyrdom of the Apostle belong to the Flavian period, and not to that

of Nero. There is then time for the long episcopate. Nor does this matter to the main argument. If St. Peter were Bishop of Rome (sole or coadjutor), it does not follow (1) that his unique position as Apostle descends to his successors; (2) that he was infallible; (3) that he had universal dominion. But so far as it goes Mr. Puller's work is trustworthy.

The Art of Extempore Speaking. By the Rev. HAROLD FORD, M.A., LL.B., B.C.L. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Elliot Stock. Pp. 122.

This treatise on the practice of extempore speaking is well calculated to enable its readers to attain to fluency. The only criticism that we have to offer rather concerns the use of the word "art" where the word "practice" would have been perfectly appropriate. We have no doubt that a certain kind of public talker could be made out of almost any persevering man of average general ability. But we have no sort of doubt that an artist could not be expected with a like frequency and certainty. In fact, an art can only be expressed by one who has some natural love for the art's form of expression. You cannot make a musical or pictorial artist, though, with the requisite application, you can make many fair performers of copies.

From this arises a criticism of Mr. Ford's praise of fluency. Fluency—common fluency—is often lacking in the greatest orators. A practised, even habit of garrulousness is no artistic help.

True facility in oratory is not a tendency to bubble forth words on all occasions, but rather a faculty for connecting an occasion for speech in a becoming way with some sentiment or picture that can claim beautiful and moving language.

It should also be remembered—as a check on dogmatizing counsel—that the speaking art, unlike other arts, brings in an audience, and that to some speakers this factor is most important. Previous writing may be a positive hindrance to a speaker who is liable to be stirred by an audience with a sort of creative enthusiasm.

We readily admit, however, that this criticism is open to the criticism that such peculiar people are a negligible quantity because they are few and unmanageable. We admit the criticism, and cordially recommend this little book as a very useful guide to fluency in extempore speaking.

Confirmation. By the Right Rev. A. C. A. HALL, D.D., Bishop of Vermont. Oxford Library of Practical Theology. Longmans, Green and Co. Pp. 226. Price 5s.

This volume fulfils very well the aim of the series to which it belongs—the aim of translating solid theological learning into the vernacular of everyday practical religion. There is an earnestness and lucidity in Bishop Hall's treatment of his subject that will commend his book to many readers who have no great passion for technical theology.

Oliver Cromwell. By the Right Hon. the Earl of ROSEBERY. Andrew Melrose. Pp. 35. Price 6d.

This address, delivered by Lord Rosebery at the unveiling of the Cromwell statue, is quite worthy of "the brilliant man who comments." No eulogy of Cromwell can be expected to satisfy the mass of the inheritors of Cavalier tradition, and Churchmen may think the words, "Episcopalians were not allowed to practise their faith as freely as they might have desired," a good deal too gently euphemistic. But some pride in him as a very strong man of Imperial instincts, who was dominated, more or less frequently, by a burning zeal for principles that can with difficulty be regarded as contemptible, is in these days universally permitted.

Church of England Sunday-School Notes: The Life of Our Lord. Fifty-two Lessons for Teachers. By a CLERGYMAN. Published by Albert Gait, Grimsby. Pp. 52. Price 2s. net.

These lessons seem well arranged. The outline of each lesson is printed on one side of a single sheet; and in this small space a large amount of useful teaching is ingeniously accommodated.

The Month.

ON February 1 the remains of Her Majesty, the late Queen Victoria, were escorted from Cowes across the Solent by a flotilla of torpedo-destroyers, after having been brought from Osborne House by a party of Her Majesty's Highland servants and of blue-jackets. The track of the funeral procession from Cowes lay through a double line of warships, fifteen of them being battleships, and two first-class cruisers. These vessels, which were all British, composed the northern line. The southern line was made up of torpedo-boats, ocean liners, and foreign men-of-war. The sight was a singularly impressive one, and the majesty of the whole thing was enhanced by the beauty of the day, which was like a piece of summer weather.

On February 2 London witnessed, for the last time, the passage of the Queen through its midst. The coffin lay, as the Queen had willed, on a gun-carriage, and was followed by the royal mourners from Victoria to Paddington. Some 33,000 troops lined the route, and everywhere the crowds were enormous. For the most part, the people behaved with admirable decorum.

From Paddington the coffin was taken to Windsor by train; and in procession from Windsor all the Ambassadors and Envoys of foreign States took part, walking after the Princes. At St. George's Chapel the procession was met by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Winchester and Oxford, and the Dean of Windsor.

After the funeral service in the Chapel the coffin was taken to the Albert Memorial Chapel, where it rested till Monday. On Sunday, however, the King and Queen, with their guests, attended service in St. George's Chapel; the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Oxford.

On Monday, February 4, the actual burial took place at the Mausoleum; this ceremony was a private one, and only an official account is forthcoming, so far.

Such was "the passing of Victoria," the best and most beloved Sovereign that has ever occupied the English throne. The whole world is the poorer since her presence has been removed from it; and though other Kings and Queens will wield the Imperial sceptre over the mightiest world-empire known in history, and we firmly trust, will wield that sceptre well, ages may pass before such another rises

"So sweet, so great, so true."

It was a happy decision that the King made when he declared his intention to be known as Edward VII. Judging by the tributes of the press and the tone of the people, the King will have no need to complain of any lack of heartfelt loyalty in these his realms. The King's own messages to his peoples, both here and over seas, and his speech at his first Privy Council, are excellent examples of that fine tact for which, as Prince of Wales, he has been long famous.

On February 14 the King opened Parliament in person, and the state function was a noteworthy one in every way. Not only was it impressive