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Short Notices.

Clear the Way. Hindrances to Missionary Work considered. By E. T. WHATELY, Author of "Memoirs of Archbishop Whately," &c. Pp. 118. Shaw & Co.

Some chapter-headings of this practical work will explain its character: "Difficulties and Hindrances; Expecting Too Much; How to Begin; Language; Party Spirit; Guidance," &c. A portion of the book refers mainly to evangelistic work in France and other Roman Catholic countries. The old Irish war-cry, "Clear the way," gives the title to this admirable mingling of suggestion and exhortation.

Chronological Tables of English Literature. Compiled by Mrs. F. LANDOLPHE. London: Simpkin, Marshall & Co. Bradford: T. Brear.

In twenty-three pages are clearly arranged, well printed lists of authors and of periods; complete enough, probably, for students generally. It has been desired to give a bird's-eye view of the currents of thought during the great periods of the national life; and the work is well done.

Sevenfold Blessing. Perfect Salvation through the Blood of Christ. By the Rev. JAMES GOSSET TANNER, M.A., Vicar of Emanuel Church, Maida Hill. Pp. 128. Shaw & Co. 1880.

The seven chapters in this book are headed: Peace, Redemption, Forgiveness, Justification, Sanctification, Access to God, and Victory. Several passages here and there we have read with pleasure: there is a warmth and simplicity which can hardly fail to do good. Two or three phrases, however, which have met our eye are open to objection. In the chapter on Sanctification, for example, appears this sentence: "If you long to be holy, and if you want to prevail over your spiritual enemies, *just hand the matter over to Jesus, who died to purchase your ransom, and who lives to bear you on His shoulders.*" (The italics are ours.) It is necessary, surely, to notice such Scriptures as 2 Peter i. 5. And while the author lays stress, as he is bound, on 1 Cor. i. 30, ἐν χ. Ιη. . . . τε καὶ ἀγιασμός, it would have been well to remark that in Heb. xii. 14 Christians are exhorted to *follow* (διώκω) τὸν ἀγιασμόν.

Church Hymnal. By permission of the General Synod of the Church of Ireland. Set to appropriate Tunes under the Musical Editorship of Sir R. P. STEWART, Mus.D., Professor in the University of Dublin. Fifth Edition. Dublin: The Association for Promoting Christian Knowledge. 1880.

Many esteemed critics, we know, have given the Hymnal of the Church of Ireland a very good place in the first rank of hymn books; and, so far as we have examined it, we are able to endorse the warmest praises which have been bestowed upon it, whether in regard to its literary merits, good taste, and sound judgment, or its doctrinal excellences and freedom from sacerdotal errors. As Churchmen, we are glad to know that so admirable a selection is becoming more extensively used within the Church of England. With respect to the musical editing, Dr. Sir Robert Stewart deserves praise. He has done his work with skill. We hear from friends in whose churches the Hymnal has been tried for years, that the tunes have been carefully chosen and ably arranged. The edition before us is cheap and well printed. For use in the family circle we know no better book.

The Daily Round. Meditation, Prayer, and Praise, adapted to the Course of the Christian Year. Pp. 410. J. Whitaker. 1880.

One cannot but like this book, its language is so simple and so unmistakably sincere. The meditations and verses in some respects are a great improvement on dear good old Bogatsky. In tone and temper the whole seems excellent; fervent, spiritual, lowly, and practical; the Word of God is duly honoured. Here and there, however, we have noticed expressions which we ourselves should not employ. For example, on page 307 it is written—"I was cleansed in baptism, Christ has had restoring mercy ready when, through my own fault, I have again and again become unclean." Further, a clearer reference to "the full assurance of hope" is, in some passages, to be desired.

A Familiar History of Birds. By the late EDWARD STANLEY, D.D., F.R.S., Lord Bishop of Norwich. Pp. 420. Longmans, Green & Co. 1880.

A new edition of our old friend the "Familiar History of Birds" is really welcome. From a prefatory note we learn that the present edition has been carefully revised by a practical ornithologist of much experience; and, "where the advance of science has thrown fresh light on any point, the editor has made the necessary alteration." The volume is got up with taste, and is well illustrated: in every way it is attractive. From the chapter on Rooks we quote the following:—

It is scarcely necessary to name the wireworm as one of the greatest scourges to which farmers are exposed; and yet it is to the rooks chiefly, if not entirely, that they can look for a remedy. Cased in its hard shelly coat, it eats its way into the heart of the roots of corn, and is beyond the reach of weather, or the attacks of other insects or small birds, whose short and softer bills cannot penetrate the recesses of its secure retreat, buried some inches below the soil. The rook alone can do so.

A Practical Guide to the Duties of Churchwardens in the Execution of their Office. With Lists of Cases, Statutes, Canons, &c.; an Appendix and Index. Fourteenth edition. By C. G. PRIDEAUX, M.A., Q.C., Recorder of Bristol. Pp. 500. Shaw & Sons, Fetter Lane. 1880.

A work which has reached a fourteenth edition needs but brief notice. Dr. Prideaux's "Directions to Churchwardens," a celebrated book in its day, was made the basis of the present publication, which has had a large circulation, and in ecclesiastical circles is very well known. It contains a great amount of information clearly and concisely set forth. Here and there occurs a passage on which we feel inclined to make a protest. We are especially dissatisfied with the argument on a Churchwarden's duties as to "presenting" in regard to Baptismal Regeneration, and in the statement as to what Mr. Gorham's views really were.

The Sabbath made for Man. The Essay awarded an extra prize by the Adjudicators of the Lord's Day Observance Society. By the Rev. G. A. JACOB, D.D., late Head Master of Christ's Hospital. Pp. 96. S. W. Partridge.

We heartily recommend this essay, ably written, sound, and interesting. A good deal of information is given in a small space. We quote a single section, as follows:—

It is not without a significance worthy of our attention, that in Galatians iv. 10, "Ye observe days and months," &c., the unusual word *παρτηρείθε* is found for "ye observe" in the original. This word, wherever it occurs elsewhere, either in the Septuagint or in the New Testament, is used in a *bad* sense, as when it is employed to describe the malicious watching of Jesus by the Pharisees, in Luke xiv. 1; xx. 20. So that the word being thus appropriated to an evil meaning in all other places in the Greek Scriptures, may with confidence be taken here to signify a *wrong or superstitious* observance—"Ye are superstitiously observing days." See this point well argued in "The Lord's Day in the Light of the New Testament," by the Right Hon. W. Brooke.