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The new railroad from Tunbridge Wells to Polegate Junction, says Mr. Jennings, has opened a large section of this country, but it ceases at some distance from the primitive parts of the Weald, and scarcely touches the Forest Ridge. The highest point of the Ridge is found at Crowborough Beacon :—

On Beachy Head, Fittle, Mount Caburn, Ditchling, Chanctonbury, and other lofty points of the Downs, large piles of wood and other fuel were once kept ready to be set on fire at any moment, and the arrival of the Spanish Armada off our coasts was one of the occasions when the whole line of signals was ablaze, from Land's End to Beachy Head. The last time the Sussex beacon fires were lit was on the 10th March, 1863, in honour of the arrival of the "Sea-King's daughter from over the sea," the ever-popular Princess of Wales."

We may add that this book, well printed on good paper, has a very tasteful cover. There are several choice and interesting illustrations.

Short Notices.

The Church at Home. A Series of Short Sermons, with Collect and Scripture for Sundays, Saints' Days, and Special Occasions. By ROWLEY HILL, D.D., Bishop of Sodor and Man. Pp. 336. Cassell, Petter, Galpin & Co. 1881.

This is likely to prove a very useful book, and we heartily recommend it. "The Collects of our Church," writes the Bishop, "are short, and the prayers, which they contain are very beautiful. The Lectionary is admirably arranged for the daily reading of the Word of God. The course of devotional teaching for the Christian Year keeps the Life of Christ continually before us, and, at the same time, furnishes the most complete system of Christian doctrine. It is in accordance with this arrangement that these Short Sermons are prepared, and they will have answered their purpose if only they are the means of leading some to an appreciation of the fuller services and worship of God's House." We have quoted from the Preface, and its words, with those of the Title-page, clearly show the character of the work, which is ably-written, and supplies a want. The Sermons—some readers may complain—are short, but they are suggestive; the language is clear, pointed, and practical; the amount of doctrinal teaching is by no means small; for a Sunday evening's service in "the Church at home" we know nothing so good. We hope that from the leisure which his lordship must have in so small a diocese, other similar works will come forth for the benefit of the Church.

A Missionary's Dream: being a Discussion upon the Action of the Missionary Societies, the Clergy, the Universities, and the Church of England in the relation to Foreign Missionary. By A MISSIONARY. Pp. 120. Rivingtons. 1880.

Many of the criticisms and suggestions in this little book are well worth studying. The argument in favour of *Church* control over missions, a Board instead of the Church Missionary Society Committee, we may simply pass by; it would be a waste of time to discuss it. A practical question, however, is the revival of the lay-diaconate, and, together with

this, the joining together small contiguous parishes. As to our large towns, the author's remarks upon the practical heathenism of England, are, alas! too true. On many a platform, year after year, the Earl of Shaftesbury has pointed to the condition of the masses, and spoken with power of the importance of lay co-operation. The noble Earl has pleaded for clergymen rather than for churches, the living agent rather than the building. In the towns are needed more men as Christian teachers and preachers, laity as well as clergy, and *working men* as well as doctors, lawyers and tradesmen. As to the country at large, the "Missionary" thinks that if the number of suffragan bishops could be increased great results would follow. We very much doubt it. We are quite at one with him, however, as to the lack of missionary zeal and self-denial in the Church of England. We quote his words in regard to small contiguous country parishes:—

Deacons will cease to be apprentice priests, and will be taken from all ranks of the people. They will retain their secular occupation (if any), and will be under the charge of a priest, who, instead of having under his care merely one parish, will have a circle of parishes—say all the churches of such a town as this, of 20,000 inhabitants, and its suburbs. The deacons, who will, as a rule, belong to their own respective towns or villages, will receive little or no salary, but their working expenses will be defrayed from the church funds. They will not be admitted to the priesthood unless, indeed, like those who are especially trained for the ministry at the universities and theological colleges, they pass the required examinations and are ready to go wherever they may be sent. For the diaconate they will have to pass a bishop's examination, and they will receive as much special training as is compatible with the circumstances of their lives. Deacons *can* do much work,—let them do all they can to lighten the labours of the priest-in-charge. Stern necessity has in the mission field compelled our missionaries to adopt this plan, modified to suit the circumstances of the case. Were clerical power wasted in the mission field in the utterly reckless way that we see here in England, we should never have heard of 350 accessions to Christianity in Tinnevely last year, much less of 35,000.

Pilgrim Lays for the Homeward Bound, and Words of Counsel and Comfort in Sunshine and Shade. Arranged by J. WILLIAMSON. Pp. 230. Hatchards.

An interesting book. Mrs. Williamson's poetical taste is well known.

The Brethren: their Worship and the Word of God at Open Variancee. By ROBERT H. CARSON. Pp. 50. London: Elliot Stock. Dublin: Carson Brothers. 1880.

Of the writer of this interesting pamphlet we have no knowledge, save that he is described on the title-page as "Pastor of the Church of Christ meeting in the Baptist Chapel, Tubbermore, Ireland." We are bound to remark, however, that the pamphlet exhibits research, ability, and an earnest Christian spirit. With the doctrines of the Brethren, we read in the Preface, "the present publication has nothing whatever to do. It deals simply with their Worship, and with this *in contrast* with the teachings of the New Testament. Professing, as they do, a special attachment to the Word, and regard for its precepts, our friends in their services have yet renounced the rule of Scripture, and in its stead accepted their own inspirations. Not what an Apostle commands, or a church of the New Testament observes, but what 'it has been given' the assembled worshippers to do, *that* they do. Thus, outside and beyond itself a 'gathering' has absolutely no guide." To bring this out, and prove it, has been Mr. Carson's aim. His first section is "The meetings of the Brethren are not Churches." A Church, in the sense of Scripture, is an organized body; but "the Brethren" denounce and repudiate

the very idea of organization; they say "you must come out from *system*." Secondly, Mr. Carson shows that their Worship is without law. Brethrenism is either *anarchy* or *tyranny*. Thirdly, "the Brethren are without office-bearers." Fourthly, "Brethrenism, in its Services, is the substitution of a present and personal Inspiration for the Inspiration of Scripture." "In one or two ways, as we think, must the services of the sanctuary be conducted in any assembly—viz., either on the ground of *known and recognized law*, or on that of *immediate divine revelation*. Not to act on one or other of these principles, is to admit a worship at once lawless and irregular; for if guided neither by a written code nor by revelation from Heaven, we must be absolutely without a guide, and consequently without order. Unwilling to admit a state of lawlessness, and having at the same time disallowed the New Testament system, the Brethren have but one resource—*Worship by Revelation*. And this is now their known and acknowledged ground. Proceeding from the position that the church is in ruins and not to be rebuilt, as more than once before remarked, they denounce the adoption of the New Testament order, and rely simply on the presence and presidency (of course extraordinary) of the Spirit of God."

Hours with the Bible. The Scriptures in the Light of Modern Discovery and Knowledge. From Creation to the Patriarchs. By CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D., Rector of Christ Church, Neuilly, Paris. With Illustrations. S. W. Partridge & Co. 1881.

The eminent author of "The Life and Words of Christ," one of the most remarkable works of the period, has done well to bring out "Hours with the Bible," of which the first volume is before us. He desires to supply what Dr. Arnold used to long for, "A people's handbook to the Bible;" not a dry series of papers, but a pleasant, attractive illumination of its pages by the varied lights of modern research and discovery. And this task, we hope, he will be able to accomplish. Dr. Geikie is known as a divine in the highest rank; his writings exhibit profound learning; he has a graphic pen, and considerable literary skill. His "Hours with the Bible," therefore, are likely to be widely read; they are eloquent, vigorous, and attractive. Open this volume where one may, and we have read most of its pages, not a weak or uninteresting passage will be found. The most recent researches have been studied, and the results, if they are worth anything, unfolded. Truly conservative, Dr. Geikie's doctrine is Evangelical, and his tone is thoroughly devout. We may add that the book is well printed, and has many illustrations. Our notice of it in type last month was, by an accident, postponed. We are glad to see that a third edition is now issued.

The Life and Writings of St. John. By JAMES M. MACDONALD, D.D. Edited, with an Introduction, by the Very Rev. J. S. HOWSON, D.D. Second Edition. Pp. 436. Hodder & Stoughton. 1880.

The first edition of this ably written work appeared about four years ago, the author Dr. Macdonald, an American divine, dying while the sheets were passing through the press. The Introduction by the Dean of Chester added much to the interest of the book, which we read at the time with pleasure and satisfaction. Dr. Macdonald's plan was "to present in one view all parts of St. John's life in their connection with one another and with his writings, and also in their connection with the life of Christ and the founding of His church." The book is recommended by the learned Dean as a valuable addition to our religious and theological literature. To the new and cheaper edition, now before us, we gladly invite attention.

Critical and Exegetical Handbook to the Epistle to the Ephesians and the Epistle to Philemon. By H. A. W. MEYER, Th.D.

Critical and Exegetical Handbook to the Epistles to the Thessalonians. By Dr. LÜNNEMANN, Professor of Theology in the University of Göttingen. T. & T. Clark. 1880.

These two volumes complete the Meyer series of translations—sixteen volumes—issued by the eminent Edinburgh publishers; we have here, that is, the last volume of Dr. Meyer's "Commentary" as written by himself, and Dr. Lünemann's work on Thessalonians, which forms part of the "Meyer series." Dr. Dickson, the general editor, has spent no small amount of time and labour on this undertaking during the last eight years. Professor Lünemann's Commentary is translated by Dr. Gloag, who gives it high but qualified praise; he does not forget to write a gentle caveat in regard to doctrine. Lünemann's remarks on the prophecy of the Antichrist—to which we may return—seem to us unsatisfactory in the extreme. To Meyer, in Dr. Gloag's opinion, the first place must be given among modern commentators, considering "his profound learning, his unrivalled knowledge of Hellenistic Greek, his exegetical tact, his philological precision, his clear and almost intuitive insight into the meaning of the passage commented on, and his deep reverential spirit."

The Pulpit Commentary. Edited by the Rev. Canon SPENCE, M.A., and the Rev. JOSEPH S. EXELL, Editor of *The Homiletic Quarterly*.

Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther. Exposition by the Rev. GEORGE RAWLINSON, M.A.

First Book of Samuel. Exposition by the Very Rev. R. PAYNE-SMITH, D.D. C. Kegan Paul & Co. 1880.

The special feature of this new Commentary is the unusual prominence given to Homiletics. "Biblical Exegesis is made the basis of Homiletical teaching." In each volume appears, first the Exposition; then come "Homiletics;" and thirdly we have "Homilies by various Authors." With the exposition by Canon Rawlinson and the Dean of Canterbury we are much pleased. The Homiletics by the Rev. W. S. Lewis are exceedingly good. And wherever we have examined these handsome volumes—about 400 pages each—we have been well satisfied. Judging from the volumes before us, "The Pulpit Commentary" is likely to prove a valuable work. They are well printed and cheap.

In the last two numbers of the *Foreign Church Chronicle* (Rivingtons), appears an article on the Protestant Church in Berlin. Special interest is attached to this article, inasmuch as the autumnal *Edinburgh Review* gave an exceedingly gloomy picture of the religious state of Protestant Germany. The writer in the *Foreign Church Chronicle*, the Rev. G. E. Broade, begins by remarking that in Berlin there are symptoms of awakening activity. "For the last two years the Superior Council has asked for a large subsidy for the relief of the spiritual necessities of Berlin; but owing to the breach between it and the Rationalist party, which is all powerful in two or three of the largest parishes, this subsidy has been refused. The Council has manfully stood its ground; and the reaction of late having been decidedly against the (liberal) aspirations, there is little doubt that the subsidy will soon be procured. Meanwhile, the Berlin religious papers give the freest ventilation to statistics of the Protestant position," and Mr. Broade makes a condensed statement of these deplorable statistics.

Amos Huntingdon. A Tale Illustrative of Moral Courage, with Examples taken from Real Life. By Rev. T. P. WILSON, Vicar of Pavenham. Pp. 920. T. Nelson & Sons. 1881.

This is a really good "story book." It shows what moral courage is, based on Christian principles; the examples are well chosen; and there is enough of incident to keep up the interest of the story. Mr. Wilson is known as the author of "True to his Colours," and other readable Tales. "Amos Huntingdon" has several engravings, and is got up, as are all Messrs. Nelson's gift-books, in an attractive way.

The Importance of Accuracy in the Study of Holy Scripture, illustrated by Stephen's Speech, and by the Divine Names and Titles of the Old and New Testaments, &c. &c. By the Rev. E. W. BULLINGER, Vicar of St. Stephen's, Walthamstow. 1880. Pp. 45.

Mr. Bullinger is known as the author of that laborious and valuable work, "The English Greek Concordance." The pamphlet before us will repay reading.

Church Pastoral Aid Society. Sketch of its Origin and Progress. Pp. 235. Seeleys, 1881.

In a brief Preface, Mr. Speck, the esteemed Clerical Secretary, explains the nature of this publication. Many warm friends of the C. P. A., it appears, have expressed their need of an authentic narrative of the Society's proceedings, from the date of its institution; and Mr. Speck, accordingly, has made a selection from the Minutes and Quarterly Papers of the Society, supplying the thread of narrative necessary for connection and interest. His selection is judicious; and friends and foes, if so admirable a Society has any foes, may find in this little book, without much trouble, what was the design of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, founded forty-five years ago; what has been and still are its difficulties; what results, indirect as well as direct, it has brought about; and what are the grounds on which its ardent well-wishers plead for an increased support. We content ourselves in the present notice with heartily recommending this book. Recently we did ourselves the honour of requesting an eminent member of the Committee to contribute to THE CHURCHMAN some present-day statements as to the work and needs of the Society. We have always looked upon the C. P. A. as a most important Society; the influence for good which it has excited in the Church, particularly with respect to *lay* agency, has been by many churchmen altogether ignored; and even now the claims of the Society are by no means so well known, we think, as they really ought to be.

Index Rerum. A Ready Reference Register. By the Rev. JOHN TODD, author of "The Students' Manual." Edited, with additions, by the Rev. C. NEIL, M.A. C. Higham, 27a, Farringdon Street, E.C. 1881.

Well printed on good paper, with a strong cover, this Ready Reference Register or Common-Place Book will be found by many, probably, very useful.

The Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral: its Architecture, History, and Frescoes. By W. A. SCOTT ROBERTSON, M.A., Hon. Canon of Canterbury. Pp. 122. Mitchell & Hughes, 140, Wardour Street, W.

This ably written and interesting book, which has several illustrations, is designed mainly for the Antiquarian or Archæological student, but a section of the general reader class will not turn away from it. Canon Scott Robertson has done his work with the taste and judgment which might have been expected.

The Christian Leaders of the Last Century: or, England a Hundred Years Ago. By J. C. RYLE, D.D., Lord Bishop of Liverpool. T. Nelson & Sons. 1880.

In referring to the state of religion in this country a hundred years ago, we made mention, in a recent CHURCHMAN, of Dr. Ryle's ably-written work, "The Christian Leaders of the Last Century." It is with much pleasure that we have received a copy of a new edition of this work, and we gladly call to it the attention of our readers. The first edition appeared in the year 1868. The present edition is printed in clear type, on good paper, and is neatly bound. Such a volume should have a very large circulation, and yet we have an impression, somehow, that this, which some will deem Bishop Ryle's most interesting and important work, is by no means well-known, even in Protestant circles, whether Church of England or Nonconformist. The Bishop of Llandaff, a few weeks ago, quoted an anecdote from it, in a Convocation speech. The book has many striking anecdotes, and is very readable. The "Leaders" are Whitefield, John Wesley, Grimshaw, Romaine, Rowland, Berridge, Venn, Walker, Hervey, Toplady, and Fletcher of Madeley.

Common Praise. Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs, for Use in the Church of England. Second edition, revised and corrected. Pp. 822. The Christian Book Society, 11, Adam Street, Strand, W.C. 1881.

The first edition of this book, which contains 822 Hymns, was published about a year and a half ago, and was recommended in THE CHURCHMAN. In bringing out a second five thousand, the first edition "being exhausted," the Compilers state that some verbal alterations have been made, and a few verses omitted; instead of the hymn "Blest be the dear uniting love," appears, "Blest be the tie that binds," and "Yon shining shore" has been substituted for "Yes, 'tis a rough and thorny road."

The Books of Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song, according to the Wycliffite Version. London: H. Frowde, Oxford University Press Warehouse, 7, Paternoster Row. 1881.

We have here a reprint from the Wycliffite Version made by Nicholas de Hereford about A.D. 1381, and revised by John Purvey about A.D. 1388, as edited by the Rev. Josiah Forshall and Sir Frederick Madden. The value of Madden and Forshall's great work, large quarto edition, four volumes, 1850, is well known. Side by side with Professor Lechler's recent exhaustive biography, it supplies all that most students need. The later Wycliffite version, that revised by Purvey, is not so rough or literal as the earlier, and has fewer unusual words; it is better suited therefore for general reading. A comparison with our Authorized Version is full of interest; and the likeness is sometimes very close, as in the following:

Ps. iii. 4. With my vois Y criede to the Lord, and he herde me fro his booli hil.

The 23rd Psalm opens thus:—

The Lord gouerneth me, and no thing schal faile to me; in the place of pasture there he hath set me. He nurschide me on the watir of refreischyng; he conuertide my soule.

In the reprint before us a Glossary, mainly that of Forshall and Madden, explains the obsolete and unusual words; and the learned editor, Mr. Skeat, who has contributed an Introduction, has added an Index to the first and to the later Psalms. The book, it may be remarked, comes from the Clarendon Press.

Wives and their Husbands. By Mrs. GEORGE GLADSTONE. Religious Tract Society.

Printed in large clear type, with some woodcuts, this bright-looking book, with its story-sermons of working-class living, is likely to win its way.

Messrs. Ward, Lock and Co's. *Universal Instructor* keeps up its interest.

We have received the Religious Tract Society's Magazines for March. *Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Boys' Own Paper, The Girls' Own Paper, The Child's Companion*, form in themselves a little library for the family circle. *Friendly Greetings*, or "Illustrated Readings for the People," is exceedingly good. *The Cottager and Artizan* is welcome everywhere, so far as our experience goes, and we have circulated it for several years. From an article on Basutoland in the *Leisure Hour* we take the following:—

In 1875 a census was taken, when the official returns showed a population of 127,000 souls, possessing 217,732 horned cattle, 35,357 horses, 303,080 sheep, 215,485 goats, 299 wagons, 2,749 ploughs, the total value of which was estimated at £1,250,000. The exports of the year were 300,000 bushels of maize and 2,000 bales of wool, valued at £45,000, whilst the revenue was £16,523. No census has since been taken, but in 1878 the revenue had increased to £20,433. Ninety Government schools were in operation; a handsome building, with teacher's residence, to form the nucleus of an industrial institution, had been built; a Superintendent of Education had been appointed at a salary of £600 per annum, and the total expenditure for educational purposes for the year was £5,000. It would be difficult to cite an instance of more rapid progress from semi-barbarism to civilization.

In *Good Words* (Isbister & Co.) appears Part III. of Mr. Froude's interesting "Reminiscences of the High Church Revival." The sketch of John Henry Newman is very able. A common phrase of Oxford was *Credo in Newmannum*, "still unconsciously the faith of nine-tenths of the English converts to Rome."

From the Religious Tract Society we have received *The Story of Easter*, by the author of *The Story of Christmas*, recently recommended in these columns. It seems exceedingly good.

From Messrs. T. Nelson & Sons we have received a charming little book, *History of Good Dog Fanny*, several chatty short stories, "all true," by Mrs. GASKELL. A coloured frontispiece, neatly got up: a pleasing natural history gift-book.

An Elementary Manual for those who visit and nurse the sick poor, *The Nurse's Handbook*, (Elliot Stock) deserves to be made well known. Written by Mrs. H. SELFE LEONARD, Hon. Sec. of the London Bible and Female Missions, it is very simple, and contains a good deal of sensible suggestion.

The Religious Tract Society has issued a packet of charming cards, *Easter Greetings*.

From Messrs. Hatchard we have received a second edition of *Short Sermons*, by the Rev. FRANCIS BOURDILLON, M.A., the second series. Mr. Bourdillon's works are well known: in their way they have few rivals. We most heartily recommend this little book.

From Messrs. George Bell & Sons (York Street, Covent Garden) we have received the second volume of Mr. STEWART's edition of *Plutarch's Lives*, with which we are much pleased. These books are very handy.