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

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

“ health, I could not but suffer much from the extreme heat and exposed situation, and was severely tried, often hesitating whether to return. Frequently we were tantalized with the prospect of being able to ride “through ‘to-morrow,’ but as sure as to-morrow came the river rose “again, till all hope was gone, and we came at last to the conclusion to “cross on a raft. With hard labour we got everything over that frightful “river in less than three days without a single accident. How much have “we to be thankful for! And it was gratifying to find that for all I had “endured I was no worse, but rather better. Perhaps being obliged to “take it easily was in my favour, for it was impossible to be active through “the day for want of shade, and by the time the sun was down my “strength was gone, so that I could not walk, except to the water’s edge “and back.” The whole narrative is full of interest. It shows how this devoted woman—noble wife and mother, truly and thoroughly a Missionary—served the Lord with a quiet mind. It may be compared with her account of a visit to the Livingstones in the year 1846.

In 1844 Moffat, writing to the Directors, said :

I am again seated where I was wont to sit when writing to the Directors in bygone days, and where I spent so many days and months with the most intense anxiety in the translation of the Word of Divine Truth into the Sechwana language. The well-known sound of the church-going bell in the Kuruman vale again salutes the ear. The substantial chapel and the mission-houses, and the tall Babylonian willows waving in the breeze, the swallows skimming aloft, having returned from the warm tropics, the buzz of a hundred infant-school children at this moment pouring out for a minute’s play, some chanting over again what they have just been singing, others romping and running about on the greensward—are sights and sounds pleasant and melodious to eye and ear.

The work of the Lord had indeed struck its roots deep into the hearts of the people; and His servants saw good fruit of their labours.

How the devoted Missionary spent his closing years in England, esteemed and revered, the volume before us tells. It is some years since the present writer had the pleasure of meeting the veteran—genial, shrewd, well-informed, full of agreeable reminiscences—and the interview has always been cherished.

We heartily recommend this book. It is rich in teaching passages, and every lover of Missionary enterprise will find its narratives and letters highly interesting. The editorial work has been done with judgment, and although in the narrative portions there is no pretence at literary grace and effect, the volume is very readable. Upon the earlier passages of the illustrious Missionary’s career we have dwelt at some length, and for two reasons: first, the period 1800-1820 has, in a Missionary point of view, an especial interest; second, the letters of Robert and Mary Moffat at the commencement of their career show the secret of their strength.

Short Notices.

A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Rochester, at his Second Visitation in 1885. By ANTHONY W. THOROLD, D.D., ninety-eighth Bishop. John Murray.

THIS Charge in some respects invites criticism; and we regret that we are unable to give a review of it, or a “short notice” not unworthy. The sections are six, viz., “Four years more,” “Questions and Answers,” “Developments,” “The People,” “Government,” and “Truth.” There

is a lithograph drawing of the Ten Churches. A very valuable passage defending Evening Communion will, no doubt, be largely quoted. The passage on The Pluralities Amendment Act is very welcome. Here is a passage on the Evangelical School :

The *Evangelical* School, which, in the opinion of some gusty critics, is in its decadence, in the judgment of one whose life-ties with it, and deep respect for it, should help him to a careful judgment, is still active with life. But it is domestic life rather than public, and it needs widening ; and, with all the other schools, it owes much to Congress debates. When Convocation was revived, it was unwise in its depreciation of the Church's inherent right to discuss her own affairs ; and even now a few of its most capable and venerated men have no sense of conscience about the Church's corporate activity outside their own parishes. It is of course quite true that it ceased to be on the crest of the wave when it had done its immediate duty of vitalizing the conscience of the Church with zeal for the souls of men, and of disinterring from a deep grave the doctrines of grace. It is also true that, like every other school in turn, it has lately been in a transition state, recasting some of its less essential tenets, felicitously reconstructing its public organs, both in diocesan and rural-decanal gatherings coming into wholesome and invigorating contact with the other schools in the Church ; and, in the person at least of many of its younger men, becoming healthily impregnated with the Cambridge theology. It has been the fruitful and sometimes the audacious parent of admirable innovations. Its great instrument has been preaching. Yet no one can justly say of it that it is indifferent to Sacramental ordinances. Its pastoral activities have been indefatigable. If its adversaries have sometimes, not quite without cause, charged it with an (unconscious) injustice in claiming a monopoly of the Gospel, they have never been slow to confess that they have lit their lamps at its candle, and revived their zeal from its fire. Mr. Beard, in his "Hibbert Lectures" (p. 414), says of this school, that it has shown itself least receptive of the influence of the newer time ; that it is "not greatly in sympathy with learning or science, or speculation of any kind—reading its own literature, absorbed in its own labours, content with its own life." Some of this has been only too true, but is gradually ceasing to be true, and its best men are eager to wipe away the reproach. Were this school to be seriously impaired in its activities, or weakened in its influence, every other school would suffer. Yet those who with Frederick Maurice have so sternly rebuked it for what they have sincerely thought to be its irreverent and artificial theology, have never denied to it its share in stirring the personal religious life of Churchmen generally ; and can there be much greater praise ? It too has its own theological halls at Oxford and Cambridge ; but its greatest and unrivalled achievement is the Church Missionary Society.

A Tangled Web. A Tale of the Fifteenth Century. By EMILY SARAH HOLT, Author of "Mistress Margery," "Red and White," etc. John F. Shaw and Co.

Another Tale by Miss Holt will be welcomed by many thoughtful readers who care very little for works of fiction in general. Miss Holt's Tales have always enough of "thread" to make them readable ; and we happen to know that several young persons who are given to novelettes and stories of various kinds have been greatly pleased with "Red and White," "Lady Sybil's Choice," and other volumes of this charming series. An accomplished historian, Miss Holt has the gift of imparting the information which is the result of laborious research, in a pleasing form, with literary skill, and good judgment. Her pictures are attractive, informing, and ably finished. The best answer to the question, "Was Perkin Warbeck an impostor ?" so far as we know, is given in this Tale. It is curious that in one contemporary document he was called *Wosebeck*. It is probable that Warbeck or *Osbeck* was a son of Edward IV., his mother (wife of Osbeck) being of Jewish blood. The present volume, like its predecessors, is tastefully got up.

Animal Stories, Old and New. Told in Pictures and Prose. By HARRISON WEIR.

The Vanished Diamond. A Tale of South Africa. By JULES VERNE. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle, and Rivington.

These are two handsome volumes ; they will take high rank among the "Christmas Books" of this year. With the stories about dogs we are greatly pleased ; all are good : and the "pictures"—of which there are many—are delightful. The Tale is an attractive specimen of Jules Verne's work. He carries the reader along, always animated and graphic; in spite of improbabilities and so forth, one is interested and pleased, not without instruction.

Studies in the CL. Psalms. Their undesigned coincidences with the independent Scripture Histories confirming and illustrating Both. By the Rev. A. R. FAUSSET, M.A., editor of Bengel's "Gnomon" in English, author of "An Expository Commentary on the Book of Judges," etc. Pp. 290. Second Edition. Nisbet and Co.

That a second edition of *Horae Psalmicae* has been called for will surprise nobody who has read the work, which is one of considerable erudition and ability. The line of *Horae Paulinae*, as everybody admits, is of high value. The same argument from undesigned coincidences holds good, of course, in comparing David's Psalms with the independent histories in "Kings" and "Chronicles." Mr. Fausset has done his work with judgment. His book should stand on the Biblical student's shelf by the side of Paley and Blunt and Birks and Howson.

Pearls of Wisdom from the Parables of Christ. By A. L. O. E., author of "Rescued from Egypt," "The Young Pilgrim," etc. Pp. 240. Morgan and Scott.

The value of the books of "A. L. O. E." has long been well known. The book before us—one token of her Missionary labours in Hindostan—has been written from an Oriental standpoint, addressing Hindoos and Mahometans, and for English students of the Parables, therefore, it has a peculiar interest. The volume, we may add, has some good illustrations.

The City of God. A series of discussions on religion. By A. M. FAIRBAIRN, D.D., Principal of Airedale College, Bradford, author of "Studies in the Life of Christ," etc. Second edition. Pp. 360. Hodder and Stoughton.

Dr. Fairbairn is a thinker and writer of no mean grade. This is the second edition of a work which is known probably to some of our readers. It has much that is clear, strong, and attractive; and will repay a careful, discriminating perusal.

Your Sundays. Fifty-one Short Readings, especially intended for schoolboys. By the Rev. GEORGE EVERARD, M.A., author of "Your Innings," etc., etc. Pp. 240. Nisbet.

The title-page of this book sufficiently well explains its aim and character. Mr. Everard's writings have been warmly recommended and largely circulated, so that it is hardly necessary to say of the volume before us anything more than that many will be greatly pleased with it. To other readers, besides schoolboys, it may be useful ; and indeed, as the esteemed author suggests, with slight alterations it may afford Sunday Readings for the family.

Nature and her Servants. Sketches of the Animal Kingdom. By THEODORE WOOD, F.E.S. Author of our "Insect Enemies," "Our Insect Allies," etc. Pp. 470. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

This is an excellent work. Intended for the use of the young, its few scientific terms are carefully and simply explained. Zoology "Made Easy," in fact, is not a bad explanatory title. Cats, seals, monkeys, rats, opossums, and so forth: birds, reptiles, fishes, insects. Not a chapter is dry, or a bit too long. A large number of illustrations increases the attractiveness of the work. We should add that the book is printed in large clear type, and forms a prize or present of a thoroughly good sort.

Epitome of the Laws Affecting Health now in Force in this Country. By J. V. VESEY FITZGERALD, Barrister-at-Law. Waterlow Bros. and Layton, 24, Birch Lane, E.C.

This book was written for the use of the general public, and it will probably be found very helpful. Water Supply, Nuisances, River Pollution, and Burial Grounds, are some of its chapters.

"*A Glad Service,*" intended to be used as Bible Lessons for Young Women's Classes, and as a gift-book to Girls. By ELINOR LEWIS. S.P.C.K.

There is much in this little book which we like, and which is sure to do good. The tone is winning, and the style simple. One friendly criticism may be made; the word "show" in 1 Cor. xi. 26 is (as in R.V.) "proclaim."

Seeking a Country. "The Home of the Pilgrims." By the Rev. E. N. HOARE, M.A., Rector of Acrise, Kent. T. Nelson and Sons.

We have had the pleasure of commending, in previous years, Tales by Mr. Hoare; and the book before us is very readable and interesting. The story of the Pilgrim Fathers, as he remarks, is full of abiding interest, and his rendering has freshness.

Faith's Rock of Rest. By the Rev. CHAS. BULLOCK, B.D. *Home Words* Office.

A simple, practical little work on the Christian Evidences; likely to be of use to many who would not "look at" a lengthy controversial treatise. Like the esteemed author's book on the Gospel of the Holy Ghost, it ought to have a very large circulation.

St. Austin's Lodge. By AGNES GIBERNE. Pp. 375. Nisbet and Co.

This is a story of Mr. Berkeley and his nieces, Violet and her half-sister, Una, Saidie and Zoe. Dr. Beverley marries Violet, we may say, and Captain Beverley Una. That the story is Miss Giberne's, guarantees refinement and Christian principle.

"Dawn of Creation and of Worship" is the subject of an article contributed by the ex-Premier to the *Nineteenth Century*. His remarks are so exceedingly apposite that I feel sure readers of the *CHURCHMAN* will thank me for calling their attention to them.

Dr. Réville, who has published a work on that subject, had *inter alia* called attention (1) to the Book of Genesis, (2) to the mythology of Homer. On the latter, as we all know, Mr. Gladstone is pre-eminently at home; and he very powerfully and conclusively proves that the learned doctor has only skimmed the surface and not thoroughly mastered the materials which were at his command.

I have, however, no intention of pursuing this branch of the inquiry, but would rather refer to the valuable remarks which have been made on the Book of Genesis. Here, as in the Homeric investigations, Mr. Gladstone shows that Dr. Réville speaks entirely without adequate acquaintance with the original text. He specifies three scientific errors (1)

heaven is regarded as a solid *vault*, (2) the stars are stated to be created after the earth, (3) the vegetable kingdom had an existence prior to its being influenced by solar light. These charges of error are met by the reviewer with a strong denial of their existence. (1) The Hebrew word for firmament does not, as he truly states, signify *solid vault*, but rather *expanses*. The Greek translators did indeed render it by "stereōma," thereby reflecting the knowledge of their own times, which has been rendered by the Latin *firmamentum*. And it may suit a writer, like one in the now forgotten "Essays and Reviews," to make merry on this subject. Nevertheless, it is plain to all men that we must come back to the meaning of the original word; and when we find Dr. Kalisch (the learned Jewish authority) rendering it by *expanses* in his translation, we will say nothing further but that Mr. Gladstone's contention is well supported. (2) The assertion of the creation of the stars after the earth is apparently more forcible, but only to those who have no acquaintance with the original text. The reviewer most conclusively shows, what we should have supposed Dr. Réville would have known, that there are two distinct Hebrew words used in the first chapter, and which are very carefully distinguished in our version as *create* and *make*. Had it been affirmed that the stars had been *created* after the earth it would have been a more serious matter, as here it is simply stated "He made the stars also," the true interpretation evidently being, that in the first verse we have the original creation of the heavenly bodies and the earth, whilst on the fourth day we have, as Mr. Gladstone maintains, "the location in the firmament of the sun and moon" and necessarily of the stars also. Before this time they were not visible, probably owing to the watery mist which encompassed the earth, but which had lifted and brought them into due prominence. (3) The absence of solar light in the vegetable kingdom is disposed of by the remarks which we have just made; and we will only add the apt remarks of the reviewer: "There was soil, there was atmosphere, there was moisture, there was light. What more could be required? "Need we go beyond our constant experience to be aware that the process "of vegetation, though it may be suspended is not arrested, when through "the presence of cloud and vapour, the sun's globe becomes to us invisible?" Were we inclined to indulge in any criticism of the above we should venture to object to the use of the word *suspended*, for surely in a hot steamy day growth is not retarded but quickened, even though the sun's rays may not be visible.

We have now, we think, said enough to prove that the whole article will repay careful perusal; and tendering Mr. Gladstone our special thanks for his vigorous defence of "the old-fashioned belief that there is a revelation in the Book of Genesis," we will conclude with the following extract: "I contend that Evolution in its highest form has not been a thing heretofore unknown to history, to philosophy or to theology. I contend that it was before the mind of Saint Paul, when he taught that in the fulness of time God sent forth His Son. And of Eusebius when he wrote the *Preparation for the Gospel*, and of Augustine when he composed the *City of God*; and, beautiful and splendid as are the lessons taught by natural objects, they are, for Christendom, at least, indefinitely beneath the sublime unfolding of the great drama of human action, in which, through long ages, Greece was making ready a language and an intellectual type, and Rome a framework and idea of law, such that in them were to be shaped and fashioned the destinies of a regenerated world."

W. E. RICHARDSON.

Under the title of *Kate: a Daughter of the People* (E. Stock), are several stories of working-class life, of sins and sorrows, and Christian sympathy; they are told with a good deal of power.

That Aggravating School-girl (Nisbet) is a well-written story by GRACE STEBBING, whose "Only a Tramp" and "Winning an Empire" have been commended in these pages. The "aggravating" pupil in Crofton House was a queer mixture of girl, woman, baby, and tomboy—wilful, but generous and lovable. An imperious young governess is well drawn. The story is bright and lively—likely to teach.—We may also recommend for younger readers, boys as well as girls, *Michael's Treasures*, a simple, homely story by Mrs. MARSHALL. Michael's best treasure was a little girl rescued from a wreck off Cromer.—*Mrs. Lester's Girls* is written by the author of "Miss Marston's Girls and their Confirmation," and, like that book, merits praise.

A cheap and good little book, with an interest of its own, may be earnestly commended—*Dust Ho!* (S.P.C.K.) "Pictures from Troubled Lives": Prisoners, Blind, Cripples, etc.—*Sick-bed Services* will be found useful by District Visitors and others; selections from the Bible and Prayer Book, with hymns, in large type.—*The True Vine*, by the author of "The Schönberg Cotta Family," is another good and very cheap little volume.

We heartily recommend *I did Try*, the life of Raikes, and *The Temperance Witness-Box*, two of the many valuable little publications (one penny) for which we are indebted to Mr. BULLOCK (Home Words Office). Also *How to get Good by coming to Church*—reprinted from *The Fireside News*—twenty copies for fourpence; admirable. Also, *A Lady of Property*: Short Tales by Mr. SHERLOCK.

A cordial word of commendation must be given to the annuals of the *Tract Magazine*, *Child's Companion*, and *Cottager and Artizan* (R. T. S.) Many youthful readers will be pleased with *The King's Service*, a Tale of the Thirty Years' War; a good school prize for those who like bits of history. The book has several illustrations and a tasteful cover.—*One Day at a Time* is a capital story, suggestive, high-toned. Colonel Dacres marries Gladys after ten years. Girls of culture will like this book very much, and it will do them good.

We have received from Messrs. Nelson and Sons *Archie Digby*, an interesting and instructive story, about an Eton boy's holidays. Many boy readers will be glad "Sam" didn't die.—*At the Pastor's*, by the author of "The Swedish Twins," is another pleasing Tale.—One of the excellent "Hymn series" of this firm is *Jesus, lover of my Soul*; illustrated, tasteful and cheap.—Four coloured Cards, Princes Street, Edinburgh from Craigmellar, Brighton, and Lake of Killarney, are admirably executed.

Blessings for the Little Ones (illustrated), by the author of "Walking with Jesus," is issued by the Religious Tract Society.—*Our Darlings*, the annual volume of this magazine, edited by Dr. BARNARDO (J. F. Shaw and Co.), has several coloured pictures, and, as usual, a large number of illustrations. It is a very cheap volume.

Our Anniversaries, a dainty little volume, is published by the Religious Tract Society; a selection of Texts and Hymns for every day in the year, by ALICE LANG. A very pleasing and tasteful gift-book.—From the R. T. S., we have also received six packets of Cards. They are all good and cheap, suitable for Sunday-school children. The landscape Christmas and New Year's Cards are gilt-edged; and the flower packet, "Heart Cheer," is very pretty.—A new edition of *Watts' Songs* is a tasteful little book.

Through the Meadows, a book of poems, with coloured illustrations, and *The White Swan and other Tales*, with illustrations in colour and monotint, are two very choice gift-books, published by Messrs. Hildesheimer and Faulkner (41, Jewin Street, E.C.). From these eminent artistic publishers

we have received, as usual at this time of the year, a selection of their Cards. They are really excellent, both in design and execution. Our notice is unavoidably deferred. For Christmas and New Year Cards, and for children's books, this firm's reputation is of the highest.

Two charming volumes in the autumnal issue of Messrs. Seeley and Co. are *Chapters on Flowers* and *Border Lances*. The first is a new edition of the well-known work of CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH—or rather, it consists of selections from her papers on "Flowers," and from "Glimpses of the Past." On its excellences it is needless to dwell. Would that such books as "Judah's Lion" were largely read! We may remark that as to type, cover, illustrations (coloured), this is a tasteful volume.—*Border Lances*, by the author of "Belt and Spur," is a readable romance of the Northern Marches in the reign of Edward III. The story, told with much skill, is highly informing. The coloured illustrations add much to the attractiveness of this high-class gift-book.

A thoroughly wholesome story, with a good deal of incident, is *The Mistress of Lydgate Priory*, by EVELYN EVERETT GREEN (R. T. S.). Miss Lovel, the heiress of Lydgate Priory, does not marry the handsome, wicked Colonel Scrope, but Mr. Baskerville. Through a long life—taught and trained—she traced the guiding hand of God.—Another good and readable tale by the same writer, who is coming to the front, is *Her Husband's Home*, published by Messrs. J. F. Shaw and Co. Lady Durley is admirably drawn, and there are pleasing sketches of home life.

From Messrs. John F. Shaw and Co. we have received, as usual, a parcel of books, well suited for prizes and Christmas presents. In all the Tales of this firm, as is well known, there is a distinctively evangelical element. The volumes have an attractive cover; the type is good and clear. Our notice must be brief. *On the Cliff*, by CATHARINE SHAW (several of whose Tales are much valued), has many pleasing pictures of domestic life, sweetened by the Beatitudes.—*Five Minutes Too Late*, by EMILY BRODIE, another well-known writer, is a good story of school life. Leslie Harcourt is effectively drawn.—*Sent to Coventry; or, the Boys of Highbeech School*, by M. L. RIDLEY (whose books have also been commended in these pages), is another Tale of the same class. Brown, as "a draper's son," was "sent to Coventry"; but his character stood the strain.—*Worth the Winning* is a "love story," very readable. It has some sketches of Quaker simplicity and shrewdness, and shows the power of religion in common duties, as well as in larger matters.—*Afloat* is suitable for parochial libraries, for the bigger boys and girls and their parents, also for sailor lads.—*Us Three* will be read with interest by working-class firesides.—*The River Waif* is rather a melancholy book. Tim and Midge (something after "the Mill on the Floss") are drowned together. Midge is the "waif"; and the plot rather lacks realness.—*David Elliott*, a Cornish story, is bright and stirring.

We have received some choice New Year and Christmas Cards from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode; also, some coloured Cards ("The Life of our Lord") from the National Society's Depository.

From the Sunday School Union we have received several good gift-books. Our notice must appear in the following CHURCHMAN.

Blackwood has, as usual, some admirable papers. We had marked two or three passages; but the pressure on our space this month prevents us from quoting them.

The *National Review*, a very good number, contains a timely and vigorous article on the Church, by Mr. PHILIP VERNON SMITH.