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# At the Literary Table.

## THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

### Homiletic.

THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY GHOST. BY THE REV. JOHN MORGAN. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 323. 5s.)

THE great book on the Holy Spirit must be coming, for here is another small one. It is small in comparison with the grandeur of its subject; it is by no means small in itself. It makes no effort or pretence to grasp the doctrine of the Spirit all around. It touches it here and there. But it touches with a well-trying and sympathetic hand. Every sermon throws light on some one point, or presses some small truth more surely home: And then the whole volume is lifted out of the superfluity of adding another to our shelves of sermons, just because it makes so great a subject its persistent theme, and touches it truly where it touches it at all.

SERMONS PREACHED IN ETON COLLEGE CHAPEL. BY F. ST. JOHN THACKERAY, M.A., F.S.A. (*Bell*. Crown 8vo, pp. vi, 218. 5s.)

How eloquent one might be in a college chapel, and be the laughter of the listeners: how intelligible, and send them all to sleep! Mr. Thackeray was never blusteringly eloquent, and never irritatingly plain. But he held the boys' attention; you know he held it, for he holds yours. Every sentence has its own thought, is its own contribution to the thought of the whole; every sentence is a real presence. There are men who seem to speak without any language; while they are speaking you do not think of the language they are using. Mr. Thackeray spoke, and the Eton lads who listened thought of themselves and God.

UNIVERSITY AND OTHER SERMONS. BY C. J. VAUGHAN, D.D. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv, 356. 6s.)

In uniformity with the latest and best edition of the late Dean of Llandaff's sermons, this posthumous volume is edited and issued by 'an old friend and pupil.' The sermons are partly old and partly new. They are all evangelical and conscientiously true. A very successful photogravure stands as frontispiece. And altogether it is a finer memento of a most Christian gentleman than the average biography would have been.

SMALL BOOKS ON GREAT SUBJECTS. CHAPTERS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. BY W. M. SINCLAIR, D.D. (*Clarke*. Small 8vo, pp. 130. 1s. 6d.)

Archdeacon Sinclair's sermons recall the lines about the love of God being broader than the measure of man's mind. Not that he is of the broad school (save the word!), but that he has discovered that there are more things in the doctrine of the Atonement than were dreamt of in the old theologians' philosophy. He is the lineal descendant of the rigidly orthodox; he is orthodox without the rigidity. Here are nine short sermons about a God who will by no means clear the guilty and is yet most wonderfully kind.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS. BY GEORGE JACKSON, B.A. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. 191. 2s. 6d.)

To the Ten Commandments we all must come.

And we cannot come too soon if we set them in their proper order. If we do not say, This do and thou shalt live; but, Thus live and thou shalt do. And then, when we come to the Ten Commandments it must be to do them, not to repeat them, study them, or even write commentaries on them. You must do them, says Mr. Jackson. And so we find Moses in close contact here with James Matthew Barrie and other modern instances. For you must do them, says Mr. Jackson, and leave the Jews alone. And when you ask him what he means by saying that *you* must not kill, he answers, When, *e.g.*, a man in a fit of intoxication commits some terrible crime, the person who sold him the drink shares in the consequence—in God's consequence assuredly, and he ought to share in man's.

PREACHERS OF TO-DAY. SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES. BY THE VERY REV. F. W. FARRAR, D.D., F.R.S. THE ENDLESS CHOICE. BY W. J. DAWSON. (*Nisbet*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 112, 126. 1s. 6d. each.)

There is strong individuality in both these volumes. The men have convictions, both of them, and both have the courage to express them. There is the gospel, of course, with its three R's unmistakable. But the gospel is here with the special emphasis where each preacher feels it

must be placed. In a word, Mr. Dawson insists on the free play of the intellect, Dean Farrar insists on the curbed action of the will. Both are modern, impressive.

THE GOSPEL IN THE EPISTLES. BY J. GUINNESS ROGERS, B.A., D.D. (*Sampson Low*. Crown 8vo, pp. ix, 228. 3s. 6d.)

The 'Preachers of the Age' seemed to have come to an end. But here is another, a preacher, and a preacher both of the age and to it. 'The Gospel in the Epistles,' says Dr. Rogers bravely, while all around he hears the cry, 'Back to Christ and leave the Epistles alone.' The gospel in the Epistles, he says, and all around he hears the cry that the gospel is in the Gospels, it is theology you find in the Epistles. And then, to show us unmistakably that the gospel is in the Epistles, he takes his first two texts from the Gospels themselves, that we may see what their gospel is; he takes his third from the very first verse of the very first Epistle; and, working his way through-out, offers abundant and most grateful evidence that the gospel is one, and able to save to the uttermost, wherever you go to find it.

SUNDAY TALKS WITH MY BAIRNS. BY THE REV. J. MELDRUM DRYERRE, F.R.G.S. (*Stoneman*. Crown 8vo, pp. 94. 1s.)

The 'bairns' are the very youngest; the 'talks' are the very simplest; the Bible stories are the staple.

THE SINNER'S SEVEN GREATS. BY THE REV. P. B. POWER, M.A. (*R.T.S.* Small 8vo, pp. 127. 1s. 6d.)

The sinner's seven 'Greats' are these: A great salvation from a great destruction for a great sinner by a great God through a great Saviour at a great price for a great end. In short, it is the whole round of doctrine, in order, in brief pointed chapter, with clear evangelical insistence.

THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL. BY C. H. SPURGEON. (*Passmore & Alabaster*. 8vo, pp. 424. 3s. 6d.)

A selection from the exhaustless repertory of Spurgeon's sermons, made by the late Sir Robert Phayre, and all close touching the centre of the gospel message. A manual for the evangelist.

LECTURES AND SERMONS OF PETER MACKENZIE. ARRANGED BY THE REV. JOSEPH DAWSON. (*Kelly*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv, 288. 3s. 6d.)

Unconventional enough, but of most manifest power even on the printed page, these sermons

and lectures furnish very easy reading and very fruitful thought. There is something in the direct open vision that reminds one of Bunyan. And if there is scant respect for quality or degree, it comes of an excellent reason. For Peter Mackenzie never forgot that *all* have sinned and come short.

THE TREASURES OF THE SNOW. BY THE REV. THOMAS HIND. (*Kelly*. Crown 8vo, pp. 159. 1s. 6d.)

For all his lessons Mr. Hind has gone to the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. So there is a fine fresh naturalness in all his words. And he has so illustrated his sermons, that, pleasant as it may have been to hear them, it will be quite as pleasant for the children who can only read them here.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE AND RESPONSIBILITY. BY SIR ARTHUR BLACKWOOD, K.C.B. (*Marshall Brothers*. Crown 8vo, pp. 1282.)

Sir Arthur Blackwood's addresses were themselves notes of addresses, for they were mostly a brief contribution at the close of a meeting; and so these notes of addresses are addresses ready made. Words that seem picked at random, though really chosen with patience, are made the vehicle of thought that charms with unexpectedness. And the thought is exegetically correct, so that it carries the comfort of the Scripture. Take this on Ro 8<sup>28</sup>: The words are often misquoted, as if 'We know that all things *shall* work together for good.' They work, are working. But what is 'good'? Not comfort, prosperity, nor even eternal pleasures, but *conformity to Christ*. All things work for that good—shipwreck, the viper, the prisoner's chain. Then a higher note in Ph 1<sup>12</sup>: 'The things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel.' Not to *my* good merely. I and my good are identified with the prosperity of the kingdom of God.

TRUE AND FALSE AIMS. BY THE LATE REV. E. HERBER EVANS, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 318. 5s.)

The editor fears that these sermons will appear very cold and tame in print. We have tried them. They are warm and vigorous. The sermons that have true eloquence suffer nothing from the printing-press. Merciless as it is to the eloquence that is all in the turn of the hand or the trick of the voice, the printing-press only immortalizes the eloquence that is of thought and passion. You never heard this eloquent preacher? Read the

sermon on the words, 'But we see Jesus' (which is perhaps the best example of the author's liberal and triumphant Christianity), and you will hear him now. He spoke to thousands, says his brother the editor. He may speak to thousands upon thousands now.

LESSONS FROM LIFE. With an Introduction By THE REV. HUGH MACMILLAN, LL.D. (*Elliot Stock*. 8vo, pp. xiv, 529. 7s. 6d.)

Dr. Macmillan is not the compiler of this Cyclopædia of animal illustrations; but he writes a very sympathetic preface, and his name will give the book a good entrance. The compiler gives only his initials at the end of the preface; but as these are 'R. T.,' no one will miss the identity or be displeased with the discovery. For Mr. Tuck has done work of this kind before, and always conscientiously.

The illustrations are wholly from animal life, including (sparingly) the animal man. They are quoted from recent literature, scientifically reliable as well as recent, and the authors have the credit of their own workmanship. Then the editor adds three indexes—Subjects, Truths, and Texts—and offers the book for the discreet handling of the preacher and the silent delight of the congregation.

WE ENDEAVOUR. BY C. H. SPURGEON. (*Passmore & Alabaster*. Crown 8vo, pp. 160. 2s.)

'Helping Words for Christian Endeavour Societies.' Whether Spurgeon had the C.E.S. in view we cannot positively say, but it seems to be unlikely. Nevertheless, he is so directly practical and so absorbingly evangelical that his words will find a home in the Society without demur.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND INCIDENTS. BY J. ELLIS. (*Allenson*. Small 8vo, pp. 94. 1s.)

A diligent course of reading, and a persistent habit of 'when found make a note of,' have got together this dainty volume. Like good words, it is worth much and costs little.

THE PREACHER'S MAGAZINE. EDITED BY MARK GUY PEARSE and ARTHUR E. GREGORY. (*Kelly*. Vol. VIII. 8vo, pp. 580. 5s.)

Every preacher must keep life in with a Preacher's Magazine of some kind. No preacher could choose a better magazine for immediate consumption than this. It has things for the person as well as for the pulpit. In particular, a well-informed and brightly-written series of papers

by the Rev. J. A. Clapperton, M.A., on 'Pitfalls in Bible English.'

THE GUIDE, 1897. (Glasgow: *Love*. 4to, pp. 232.)

The *Guide* knows the way—and that is something in these times. The *Guide* walks in it—and that is something more. The course is upward as the Alpine climber's; yet the *Guide* is never so 'far up the height' that he has lost his hold of the traveller.

### Science.

THE RUINS AND EXCAVATIONS OF ANCIENT ROME. BY RODOLFO LANCIANI, D.C.L., LL.D. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. xxi, 631, with Maps, Plans, and Illustrations. 16s.)

The title of this most important book very feebly describes its contents. To give some more adequate account of it in as brief a form, let us call it, 'Rome as it is to-day in the light of all it has been.' For it is a guide to Rome as the traveller will find it now, and at every step the traveller is told the history of how it came to be as he finds it. Now, this can be done only by a man who has dug down into the mass of the ruins of Rome, and has knowledge to discern one period from another. Professor Lanciani has excavated Rome, and has knowledge to discern, perhaps beyond any man living. His previous volumes are the constant companion of the student of Rome; his authority as well as his information. And this volume comes as the latest, the fullest, the most convenient, the most reliable work on the ruins of Rome in any tongue.

In accord with the writer's unchallenged position, everything has been done by the publishers to make the work useful and attractive. The letterpress is very clean, the maps, the plans, and the illustrations are very numerous and of the most artistic workmanship. Here, by a mere turn of the page, one can catch the fever of Roman burrowing, one can appreciate the wealth that the recent burrowing has brought forth. But the book is not for the idle and the merely curious. It is a student's serious friend. And at every turn it is a stepping-stone to higher things. As corner or cranny is described, its literature is recorded, so that one may make it a life's study if one will, setting it in the light of the history of Rome and the poetry of the world.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOCIAL REFORM.  
EDITED BY WILLIAM D. P. BLISS. (*Funk & Wagnalls*. Large 8vo, pp. 1439. 30s.)

Social Science is like Nature—

So careful of the type it seems,  
So careless of the single life.

Whatever has to do with the individual is rigidly excluded from this work; the type, the social something, is all in all. It is true that subjects like religion have an interest for the individual person; we used to think the individual person had nearly everything to do with religion indeed; and yet there is something on religion here. But it is 'Religion in the Public Schools.' And it is probable that there is no place on the face of the earth where the individual is less and the social something more than just in our public schools.

It is an encyclopedia (as the word is spelt) on things social, then. And there is enough left after the individual is left out. The editor admits that, after all, 'almost any subject might have been included here.' But from regard to the reader rather than the subject, he has left some out. What the work still covers may be caught from the list on the title-page. There, without counting the etc., which gets a line all to itself at the end, we find: Political Economy, Political Science, Sociology, and Statistics, covering Anarchism, Charities, Civil Service, Currency, Land and Legislation Reform, Penology, Socialism, Social Purity, Trades Unions, Woman's Suffrage.

Although the book was conceived and brought forth in America, British interests have a reasonable share of attention. There is, for example, a short but sufficient article on the 'Christian Social Union,' as well as on its daughter, the 'Church Social Union' of America (of which, by the way, the editor is preacher and organizing agent). The articles are unsigned, and at first sight, with their numerous quotations, give the appearance of being somewhat second-hand. But that appearance gives place, on further acquaintance, to a belief in the thorough grasp of the subject the editor possesses, and the thoroughly honest and able work he has got his collaborateurs to do.

So if anyone has been denying the signs of the coming of the days of Sociology, this great volume is the answer. Encyclopedias are not written on subjects that have not yet arrived.

A HISTORY OF ENGLAND. BY H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER. (*Cassell*. Crown 8vo, pp. xvi, 816, with Maps and Illustrations. 5s.)

A History of England for the home, that may be read aloud if you like; a History of England for the school, that may be 'ground' and never forgotten—that is what Mr. Arnold-Forster has written this time. The language is simple without being childish; the chapters are short and catchingly headed; at intervals come tables and lists for the student; on every other page stands the illustration of person or of scene to give the story liveliness. It is a complete history from the landing of Julius Cæsar to the jubilee of Queen Victoria, and there are chapters on Literature and on Trade; for it is not a small volume though its price is small.

LONDON RIVERSIDE CHURCHES. BY A. E. DANIELL. (*Constable*. Imp. 16mo, pp. xii, 318. 6s.)

Mr. Daniell has followed up his charming volume on the *London City Churches* with an equally charming volume on the *London Riverside Churches*. The same wealth of ecclesiastical lore, set in the same appropriate wording, is embellished with the same exquisiteness of line illustration. Some of the River 'bits' are particularly happy. And the frontispiece etching of the Huguenot Cemetery at Wandsworth has an interest to the student of religion as keen as even to the student of so delightful art.

OLD SAMOA. BY THE REV. JOHN B. STAIR. (*R.T.S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 296. 5s.)

Samoa has caught the eye of the British public for the moment through the personality of the late Mr. Stevenson. This is Samoa before Mr. Stevenson's day, however. It is Samoa before the natural Samoan was smoothed down and smothered by contact with the polished European. Mr. Stair lived in Samoa from 1838 to 1845, and has a most retentive memory for the habits of that time. The volume is of considerable ethnological and other scientific interest—an interest not a little enhanced by the illustrations it contains.

VILLAGE LIFE IN PALESTINE. BY THE REV. G. ROBINSON LEE, B.A., F.R.G.S. (*Elliot Stock*. Crown 8vo, pp. 138. 2s.)

A reliable and manageable, if somewhat matter-of-fact, account of the ways of the land and its people to-day. The illustrations are chosen to illustrate, and they do it.