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Short Notices.

The Official Year-Book of the Church of England. 1889. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

THE present volume of this most useful register has some new features of interest; it shows the same editorial ability and judgment, the same research and hearty co-operation. An article based upon its statistics and suggestions will appear, probably, in the next CHURCHMAN.

The Epistle to the Philippians, with Introduction and Notes, by the Rev. H. C. G. MOULE, M.A., Principal of Ridley Hall, and late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Cambridge University Press.

This is a volume of the "Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges" series, edited by the Dean of Peterborough, and among the ablest and most suggestive of that excellent series it will take high rank. We have long admired Mr. Moule's precise and delicate scholarship, but more and more we value the sound judgment and spirituality of his expositions. Not a word in this Commentary is needless or out of place; and Bible students who are in no sense "specialists" will find it readable throughout.

Easter Bells is a very pretty little volume (Griffith, Farran, Okeden and Welsh), with selected verses and tasteful illustrations.

Professor Sayce's interesting little volume, *The Hittites, or, The Story of a Forgotten Empire* (R.T.S.), will prove of great service. Many of our readers will remember the admirable article on the Hittites, in a recent CHURCHMAN, by Canon Tristram. This is a well-told "Story."

In a sermon entitled *The Trial of the Bishop of Lincoln*, by the Rev. J. W. Marshall, appears this paragraph: "I, and the large majority of "Evangelical Churchmen, do not approve of religious prosecutions. We "have done nothing to bring them about, and would do nothing to support "them. We think that such things are carnal weapons; and we feel that "the prosecutions that have already been concluded, and made to issue in "the imprisonment of clergymen, have done more to promote the cause "of error than the cause of truth. But because we feel this, and have "taken, and will take, no part in the prosecution of the Bishop of Lincoln, "it by no means follows that we do not think that either he, or any other "Bishop, or Presbyter, or Deacon, should be made to answer for acts and "teaching that are contrary to the articles and formularies of our Church. "On the contrary, we are of decided opinion that lawlessness in a Bishop "is a most grievous scandal, from which, in some way or other, our "Church ought to be delivered."

Atalanta (Hatchards) is—as always—bright and interesting.—The *Child's Pictorial* (S.P.C.K.) has its usual attractions.

In *Blackwood*, a very good number, appears a review of Mr. Wilfrid Blunt's *In Vinculis*. "Even such impassioned prose as that in which Mr. "O'Brien and his friends bewail the rape of his small-clothes (says *Black-* "wood) is insufficient to relieve the feelings of Mr. Wilfrid Scawen "Blunt, who sees in himself at once a Bayard and a Wallace. Poetry at "its highest strain is needed to do justice to the martyr, the heroic "defender of honour and freedom, who, out of the depths of his dungeon, "where all the images of the great are within him, lifts up his plaintive "yet exalted song. It is unfortunate for us that we are not in a state of "happy ignorance as to the antecedents of the sufferer."

In the *Homiletic Magazine* (Nisbet and Co.) appears an interesting paper on the Prophets, by Archdeacon Farrar.

In *Murray's Magazine* appears a timely paper on the Work of County Councils, by Viscount Lymington, M.P. "A Blind Deaf-Mute" has a special interest; the lady who proved so interesting a study to Dr. Whewell, it appears, still resides at Cambridge. The first article in *Murray's Magazine* is "What is the Salvation Army?" written by General Booth. Here is an extract. The "General" says: "Quite recently men of the highest intelligence have been exhibiting in the London Press their idea that those who attend no place of worship and the lowest and most degraded classes were convertible terms, apparently in utter unconsciousness of the fact that out of our metropolitan population of five millions, only two millions are to be seen in all the churches, chapels, and meeting-rooms on any given Sunday, there being no less than three millions who take no more notice of the national religion than do Chinese or Mahomedan visitors to this city. How many village squires, I wonder, are still unconscious of the absolute irreligion prevailing around them? A dreamy half-realization that the Church is not exactly in touch with the crowd has been produced by the unwonted activity of many of the clergy during the last decade or two; but who really distresses himself because the village tap-rooms are full and the village church almost empty from Sunday to Sunday?"

"*Compel them to come in*" (S. W. Partridge and Co.) is a little tract which ought to be well made known. The profits are to be given, it appears, to the Scripture Readers' Society for Ireland. We may take this opportunity of quoting from another tract before us, as follows: "The Scripture Readers' Society for Ireland was established in 1822, chiefly through the instrumentality of the late Lord Chief Justice Lefroy, the late Earl of Roden, the late Lord Powerscourt, the late Master Brooke and others, for the purpose of employing humble Christian men, well versed in the Scriptures, to visit and read the Bible from house to house throughout the country. The Scripture Readers are invariably placed under carefully selected Christian Superintendents, and are also employed by the Society in the large towns and cities, such as Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford, etc., as *City Missionaries*, and visit all classes and denominations, where permitted so to do. Irish-speaking Readers are sent to Irish-speaking districts when required, but are now seldom or ever asked for. The Scripture Readers also visit amongst the sailors in seaports, and hold Bethel meetings on board ships, at hours not to interfere with the usual Public Services. The Society is supported by voluntary contributions."

Nothing New is a little pamphlet, published by Messrs. Nisbet, by Canon Bell, the Rector of Cheltenham, which we heartily recommend. Lately, says Canon Bell, the *novel* has been employed to undermine the old creed of Christendom, and to build up in its stead a Christianity without Christ. "Robert Elsmere," he proceeds, "a book written with a purpose, in which a new Christianity has been presented to us by a gifted lady, has been received with eager interest, and has attained a phenomenal success. It has been so much read, partly, no doubt, through its own literary merits, which are great, and partly because, I venture to think, of its sceptical character, many being curious to know the fresh arguments that may be brought forward to undermine the Christian faith. Not that here we have anything new, and indeed argument there is none."