

“ the three-fold ministry is the completeness of the Apostolic ordinance, and the historical backbone of the Church. And if you press me still further for my *opinion* about the validity of Presbyterian orders—though I must repeat that *this is not to my mind the main question*—I do not hesitate to say that, though, in the light of those words of Bishop Lightfoot, I cannot hold them to be *regular*, I hold them to be *valid* for great and manifold spiritual good ; or to express what I think in the language used by the late Bishop of Cape Town, and approved by his South African colleague, Dr. Cotterill, now Bishop of Edinburgh, in addressing the Presbyterian ministers of the Dutch Reformed Church : “ We do not dispute that your members receive through the Sacraments administered by you that which your Church leads them to expect they will receive ; nor do we doubt that the Holy Spirit works in the conversion of souls to God in and through your ministry. It would, in our judgment, be *sinful to doubt this*. Wherever there is godliness, there must be grace, and the Author of it.’ These words I also quoted with approval more than five years ago in an article ‘ On the Law of Christian Unity,’ in the *Nineteenth Century* (May, 1878).”

Short Notices.

Conditional Immortality Tested by Scripture. The substance of Addresses given at Clifton and Tunbridge Wells, 1882 and 1883. By Rev. R. B. GIRDLESTONE, M.A. Hamilton, Adams and Co.

This ably-written pamphlet of only twenty pages, large print, a real *multum in parvo*, will repay a very careful perusal ; it merits, indeed, serious study ; and in the case of readers not biased by publications which appeal to sentiment, it will generally, perhaps, be thoroughly accepted as conclusive. The pamphlet, as we have said, is strong and full ; it gives the result of patient thought and inquiry within a very small compass. But it is in the calmness of its tone, its critical candour, or fairness, as regards assertion and inference as well as reply, and the close connection of the whole argument with its title-page profession—*tested by Scripture*—that its persuasion has power.

If we quote two or three passages from some of its leading sections we shall show the author's method and excite the interest of our readers. To give such extracts as may make it seem unnecessary to purchase the pamphlet is by no means our intention. On the contrary, we desire to recommend the pamphlet, which, it may be said in passing, is cheap and may well be lent or given away, as well as bought.

First of all, having referred to the teaching of Scripture as to the believer's spiritual life, Mr. Girdlestone says :

Thus far there is a general agreement. There is “immortality” for the true Christian, and it is “conditional” on his being what he professes to be. Of any other immortality (excepting always that which God has by virtue of His own nature), Scripture knows nothing.

Secondly, on “The Judgment to Come :” it is appointed unto men once to die, but after that the *Judgment*. And we are led to this important conclusion :

In all the passages of the Bible which speak of men *dying, perishing, or being destroyed*, these words must be understood with reference to the physical or mundane side of their existence. They are not extinguished, obliterated, annihilated, when they die, perish, or are destroyed ; for they are all to be judged according to their works.

In his third section—"Man's Continued Existence after Death"—Canon Girdlestone gives a needed warning in regard to teaching the "natural immortality of the soul." The words "natural" and "necessary," not seldom, are badly used.

Fourthly, Daniel xii. 2—"shame and everlasting contempt"—is expounded.

Fifthly, the teaching of the New Testament on the destiny of the ungodly is brought out. The concluding paragraph of this section runs thus :

There are other passages bearing on the principles, the nature, and the method of the judgment of the ungodly, but they do not directly point to its duration.

What shall we say then to these things? The case seems to be this: that there are some who will find on the Day of Judgment that through rejecting the Grace of God, they have not only judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life, but have woven for themselves a destiny like that of the devil and his agents, a continued and—so far as we can see—a conscious existence under the blaze of God's displeasure. They have sown the wind; they will reap the whirlwind. Their curse is that no fruit shall grow on them for ever. Nor is there revealed in the New Testament any termination to the permanent state of being which they shall enter at the Judgment.

In the sixth section the Principal of Wycliffe Hall examines certain expressions which are supposed to teach annihilation; and he then proceeds to make some comments—very brief, we are inclined to say *too* brief—on Mr. White's "Life in Christ," particularly with regard to Hellenistic Greek. It is as regards the leading Greek words that Mr. White's book, we fancy, has peculiar power with thoughtful persons who are well educated, but not *scholars*.

Mr. Girdlestone's concluding words are wise and weighty. A harsh tone and over-positive assertions in dealing with so solemn a subject make many stumble.

Wearyholme. A Tale of the Restoration of Charles the Second. By EMILY SARAH HOLT, Author of "Mistress Margery," "The Maiden's Lodge," etc. John F. Shaw and Co.

We heartily recommend this book—a charming gift-book. It is undoubtedly one of the best of the many excellent tales for which a large circle of readers are indebted to Miss Holt. It is thoroughly readable from beginning to end, and gives a great deal of curious information, social and religious, of the time in which the scene is laid. The principal character-pictures are drawn with care and skill. Dr. Middleton, Vicar of St. Michael's, Bath; Mr. Hunter, Lecturer at St. James's; Miss Olivia Hunter, and Deb, for example, are admirable; but all the work—never a bit scamped or slovened—is worthy of the esteemed author's high literary reputation. The description of the little chapel-meeting called to censure the Minister, whose daughter once wore a pink gown cut of a worldly fashion, with the speech of Hosea Wilson, the bellman, and the remarks of "Sister Mehetabel," Lornhamah Atkins (helpmeet of Saved-by-Grace Atkins, bricklayer and Elder), is full of interest. To the various small sects¹ of that seething day a brief allusion appears here and there. A bit from the letter of Madam Warrender (wife of the Squire of Winterslow) may well be quoted, adding the remark that her education was a fairly representative one for a gentlewoman of her day :

This letter comes hoping to finde you well, as it leves us boath at present. It will alwayes give me greate plesure to doe anie thing you requier, & I have

¹ Those persons are greatly mistaken who suppose "Anglo-Israelism" to be a production of the nineteenth century. It was one of the principal tenets of the Fifth Monarchy Men.

ax'd my husband to find out what you wissh. He tells me there is three meeting-houses withinn five mile of Wintarsloe: one of the presbiters, one of the ana-bapptiss, and one of the quaykars, or adamitse.¹ I kno not well wh. are the warst of all these people.

Heralds of the Cross. By F. E. ARNOLD-FORSTER. Second edition. Hatchards.

We gladly invite the attention of our readers, specially of those who are interested in juvenile Missionary meetings and books about Missions for parish libraries, to the second edition of Miss Arnold-Forster's excellent work. As soon as it appeared, the book was strongly recommended in *THE CHURCHMAN*; and we are by no means surprised to observe that the first edition was speedily exhausted. By far the best book of the kind, it cannot fail to win its way. India and Burmah; China and Japan; Africa; the South Seas; America, North and South, are the chief chapters. It is a good sign of the times that so honoured a name should appear on the title-page of so thoroughly *Missionary* a book.

Two Old Maids. By ANNETTE LYSTER. Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

The author of "A Leal Light Heart," "My Lovely Lassie," and other books which have been noticed in *THE CHURCHMAN*, has a high reputation among the rising writers of pure and wholesome fiction. In the present tale—which has the same quiet and graceful style—the chief characters—Margaret and Phyllis Arden, and Rosalind, their young sister—are drawn with taste and judgment. There are many pretty pictures of life in an old-fashioned Yorkshire country house; and the value of real religion as contrasted with worldliness (Rosalind having been trained solely by a selfish and thoroughly worldly father) is well brought out. The description of Rosalind's marriage is a very clever bit; but the whole narrative shows literary skill. In the remarks about Lord Fayningham's ascetic gloom and narrowness a party hit at "Puritanism" can hardly be intended. As a gift-book for girls of culture, this volume, which has some tasteful illustrations, will take a good place.

"*The Master's Call.*" A Sermon. Preached on the occasion of the death of the Rev. John Blake Honnywill, for twenty years vicar of Sompting, who entered into rest, Tuesday, August 28, 1883, Sunday afternoon, September 9th, 1883, at Sompting Church; by the Rev. GORDON CALTHROP, Vicar of St. Augustine's, Highbury. Nisbet.

We copy the title-page of this sermon in full. It is an admirable exposition of John xi. 28, "The Master is come, and calleth for thee," with an application to an old and dear friend of the preacher, J. B. Honnywill, who frequently spoke of the Lord Jesus as "the Master." We respectfully pay our own tribute to the memory of a loyal and loving Minister; hard-working in his parish, quiet, faithful, and consistent, with great abilities, and a dislike of "pushing." Patronage in the Church of England is miserably managed; but J. B. Honnywill was quite content with his post as the Vicar of a small and unnoticed parish.

Merv. A story of adventures and captivity, epitomized from "The Merv Oasis." By E. O'DONOVAN, Special Correspondent of the *Daily News*. With a Portrait. Pp. 340. Smith, Elder, and Co.

The account of Mr. O'Donovan's Travels East of the Caspian, with his five months' residence among the Tekkés of Merv, was reviewed, not

¹ The Adamites were among the most extravagant of all the sects then flourishing, and conducted their services in the attire of Adam before his adoption of fig-leaves.

long after it appeared, in *THE CHURCHMAN* of last February. Published in two volumes, the work did not come within the reach of many readers; and we are glad to see the present cheap edition, "Merv," an epitome of "the Merv Oasis." Political matter having been omitted, we have now the marvellous story of Mr. O'Donovan's adventures and captivity in a concise and popular form. A more graphic book of travels we have never seen.

Spiritual Gleanings from Creation and Daily Life. By the Rev. W. H. WHEELER, late Vicar of Barrow, Somerset. Pp. 300. Jarrold and Sons.

This is a book which a reviewer who places Gospel truth above all other claims may confidently commend. The tone is quiet, earnest, and thoroughly spiritual; not a passage but is sweetened and sanctified by reverent aspiration, and submission to the revelation and will of God. In the first part appear sections on the sun, water, hills, trees, etc.; the second part treats of books, meals, dress, friends, and government. The treatment is at once thoughtful and truly practical.

Lectures on Pastoral Work. By the Right Rev. W. How, D.D., Bishop of Bedford, Suffragan of East London. Pp. 156. Wells Gardner, Darton, and Co.

These lectures were delivered in the Divinity School, Cambridge, during the present year. The subjects are the equipment, dangers and difficulties, pastoral visitation, dealing with infidelity, preaching, and the pastoral epistles. The lectures—deeply devout and suggestive—are just what one might expect from Bishop Walsham How.

Self-Effort. The True Method of attaining Success in Life. By J. JOHNSON, author of "Living in Earnest," etc. Pp. 400. T. Nelson and Sons.

Emphatically a good book. Something like Mr. Smiles's "Self-Help," it takes its own line; decidedly religious in both tone and treatment. A young man, willing to learn, cannot fail to read it with interest and profit. It is a neat volume, well printed, as are all Messrs. Nelson's books.

Kathleen. The Story of a Home. By AGNES GIBERNE. Pp. 324. Nisbet.

Miss Giberne's merits as a writer, whether of tales or graver books, are tolerably well known. The "Story of a Home," now before us, is very readable, and it teaches the true lessons of patient and full-of-peace trust. Kathleen is sensitive, and has many trials; one very severe. At length her father marries again. Dr. Ritchie and Lady Catharine are true friends. Kathleen is happily married when the story closes.

Peasblossom. By the Author of "Honor Bright." Illustrated by H. J. Miles. Wells Gardner, Darton, and Co.

This is a clever, cheery and wholesome story, such as school-boys, or, for the matter of that, school-girls, will read with interest. It has its pathos, too. Piccola's bringing to the old grandfather the message of the Prodigal Son, "I have sinned . . ." is very touching. A tasteful volume.

Town Life in Australia. By R. E. TWOPENNY. Pp. 250. Elliot Stock.

This is a very readable book, and one which persons who have friends or relations in Australia may be glad to hear of. Melbourne, Sydney, and Adelaide are the towns described; and there are special chapters on Furniture, Servants, Religion, Politics, etc. The work was originally written as a series of letters. The author was Secretary to the Royal Commission for South Australia at the Paris, Sydney, and Melbourne Exhibitions.

St. Augustine: his Life and Times. By Rev. R. W. BUSH, M.A., F.R.G.S., Rector of St. Alphage, sometime Select Preacher at Oxford. Pp. 212. The Religious Tract Society.

In the last CHURCHMAN we recommended an "Introduction to the Pentateuch," by Mr. Bush. The book before us is readable and informing; it shows good judgment.

Stephen, M.D. By the Author of "The Wide, Wide World." Pp. 480. Nisbet and Co.

The present writer must confess, if asked, that he never liked "The Wide, Wide World." A great many people, however, on this side the Atlantic, as well as on the other, liked it, and thought highly of it; they will probably be quite as well pleased with "Stephen, M.D."

The Leading Hand. By MARY INMAN. Pp. 130. Manchester: John Heywood, 1883.

A story of Amy and Sybil, in a dressmaking establishment; simple and interesting, it teaches trust.

A volume of the "Golden Treasury Series" (Macmillan and Co.) lately published is, *Selections from Cowper's Poems*, with a preface by Mrs. OLIPHANT. In a literary point of view, this tasteful volume takes a high place. The selections are full of interest. But with the introduction, in regard to religious matters, we are not satisfied. At present, however, we may quote, without comment, two or three of the accomplished editor's sentences:

Even were the faith of the Evangelical party to return again—as perhaps, after the long reign of freethinking and over-liberality, it may do—the pious sentiment of Keble would still keep him afloat. But Cowper has little chance of gaining toleration either from the High Church or the indifferent world. . . . Everything has been relaxed: doctrine and statement, and the requirements of orthodoxy, and the practice of the devout. . . . We are not so earnest in anything nowadays as they were in their determination not to bate a word, not to soften a threat, to warn every man that his soul was forfeit, and that we must not lose a moment in fleeing from the wrath to come.

Dolly's Own Story—a story told in Dolly's own words—is a pleasing, tasteful little book, by C. L. SKEY, author of "Sunday Talks with my Boys;" just the thing for the nursery.—*Outline Pictures for Little Painters*, is another of the excellent books which are so much appreciated; the outlines are even better than usual.—A dainty little volume, with coloured pictures, is *From Do-nothing Hall to Happy-day House*, illustrated by Miss H. F. Miles. The running comment on the plates is very good: altogether it is a gem. These three gift-books are published by Messrs. Gardner, Darton, and Co., Paternoster Buildings.

In the *Quarterly Review*, which reached us too late for a worthy notice in the November CHURCHMAN, few readers are likely to be in doubt as to the author of the article on "Provost Hawkins," or on "Sister Teresa;" and the article on "Disintegration" is perhaps as justly ascribed to a noble Marquis, as the others are to a Dean and a distinguished historian. The article on the "Ecclesiastical Commissioners' Report" deserves all the praise which has been bestowed on it. By the Bishop of Liverpool, and by several speakers at Diocesan Conferences, it has been quoted. For ourselves, we may say that we thoroughly agree with the able writer. His concluding words, as to the influence of the laity, are most important.

The November *Quiver* begins a new volume, and begins it very well. It is a capital number. Dr. Maguire writes on Luther's hymns; Canon

Boyd Carpenter, in "Preachers of the Past," writes on William Howells of Long Acre; Mr. G. Weatherly's verses on that great hero of the faith, Martin Luther, run thus:

Burning with zeal, and full of honest rage
 At priestly craft and specious false pretence,
 At superstition and indifference,
 Luther stood bravely forth and cast his gage
 Right at the feet of Rome, and dared to wage
 Persistent war against its cruel power,
 And towered forth a giant in that hour,
 The grandest figure of the Middle Age.
 Four hundred years have swiftly passed away
 Since Luther saw the light; and we rejoice
 In Luther's work, and now again to-day
 We seem to hear the monk's strong, earnest voice
 Preaching that truth which shook the papal throne—
 Salvation by the power of Christ alone.

In the November *National Review* (W. H. Allen and Co.) appears an article on "Labourers' and Artizans' Dwellings," by the Marquis of SALISBURY. It has, of course, been talked about a great deal in every quarter, and it can hardly fail to make the magazine well known. To ourselves the subject has long seemed of the highest importance, and we are delighted to see an article on it such as this. Among articles in the *Review* is one by Mr. GILBERT VENABLES on "Civil and Religious Marriage;" curious, startling. "The separation of civil from religious marriages" would not only "lessen the number of marriages solemnized in church," but would "weaken the Church's position" really as well as "apparently" in our judgment.

From Messrs. Hildersheimer and Faulkner (41, Jewin Street, E.C.) we have received, as usual, a delightful packet of their Cards. It is difficult, as one opens the various envelopes, to apportion praise, as it is, indeed, to find due terms and phrases of admiration. We must content ourselves with brief allusions. No. 232, four designs, "Roses," by Kate Sadler, are splendid—four charming pictures, in fact, worthy of framing. No. 81, four designs, "Sprays of Flowers," by E. Wilson, words by H. M. Burnside, deserve special praise. No. 225, four flower studies; No. 7208, miniature screens, are excellent. No. 199, four flower studies; No. 156, four "Cats," from original paintings; No. 136, "Bric-à-brac," berries, etc., are beautifully designed and done. So interesting a selection of well-finished, high-class designs, is seldom seen. Not a single card in the parcel is commonplace or poor.

Paths in Great Waters, a clever and instructive Tale by the Rev. E. N. HOARE, shows Virginia's early troubles, with the true history of the Bermudas.—*Lia*, is a Tale of Nuremberg, by ESME STUART, whose "Isabeau's Hero" we commended last year. In *Lia* are some striking pictures of life in the day before the Reformation; there is life and stir with dramatic power. The heroine, Lia, is a Jewess.—*We Little Ones* is a charming book, printed in large, clear type. Jerks is excellent; but all are good. Little folks will enjoy this story.—*Home and School* is a story—pleasant and suggestive—for schoolgirls.—*The Pirate's Creek* is an interesting story of treasure-quest, by Mr. S. W. SADLER, R.N., whose "The Good Ship Barbara" we commended last year. These well-written books, published by the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, are neatly got up, illustrated, and in every way suitable for Christmas-prizes. The covers are specially pretty.

The work done by Mr. GEORGE SMITH, of Coalville, a noble work on behalf of our canal population, children in brickyards, and the gipsies, is very well known. We are greatly pleased with his latest book, *I've Been a Gipsying*, "Rambles among our Gipsies and their Children in their Tents and Vans" (T. Fisher Unwin). The book (pp. 340) is not a bit too big, not a bit dry. By no means a daisy-bank, sentimental, twaddling gipsy-writer, Mr. Smith has sought after reality, and he tells matter-of-fact in homely fashion. We heartily pay our tribute of admiration and respect.

The Annual of the "Boys' Own Paper" (R. T. S.) is a volume of the highest attractiveness. Soon after that admirable magazine was started, and proved such a success, there were several rivals; but the original periodical for boys is now, we fancy, the only one left. To the contents in 1883 allusion has been made now and then in our monthly magazine-paragraphs: and we need only heartily recommend the handsome volume before us. It contains a mass of instructive as well as interesting matter. Much the same, *mutatis mutandis*, may be said of the *Girls' Own Paper*.

Dr. UHLHORN did a right good work in writing his *Christian Charity in the Ancient Church*; and the eminent Edinburgh publishers, to whom the Christian public of Greater Britain is indebted for so many excellent translations from the German, did well in publishing the book before us, a very good translation, having the author's sanction. (T. and T. Clark.) The book is full of curious facts.

A very interesting little book, just published by Messrs. John F. Shaw and Co. (a firm which has provided many of our best and most useful gift-books), we have pleasure in recommending; viz., Miss HOLT'S *The Way of the Cross, and other Tales*. The outlines of the story of the second century, so far as they relate to Bishop Symeon, the last of the House of David, are historically true.

What praises warm enough would a certain little reviewer we wot of find for the volume now before us, *The Snow Queen*, by HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN, illustrated by T. PYM? It is indeed a charming work—so dainty, so tasteful. Readers of fairy tales will enjoy it amazingly: a coloured picture on every page. Among the best of pretty Christmas Books, this from the well-known firm, Messrs. Gardner, Darton, and Co., will take a high place.

Our old friend the *Christian Remembrancer* (published by Messrs. Suttaby and Co.) is always welcome: a capital pocket-book, tasteful, thoroughly good.—From Messrs. Suttaby we have also received a timely gift-book, *The Fate of Castle Löwengard*, "a story of the days of Luther," by ESME STUART (some of whose tales have been recommended in THE CHURCHMAN). This is an interesting book.

From Messrs. John Smith and Co., 52, Long Acre, we have received *The Clergyman's and Church Workers' Visiting List for 1884*. This very carefully prepared pocket-book has been more than once recommended in THE CHURCHMAN. It is an excellent publication: we have found it very useful. It is strong, and will stand wear and tear. *The Curates' Visiting List* is smaller and cheaper.

Sunday is with little boys and girls a well-known magazine, always much enjoyed. The Annual for 1883 (Wells Gardner, Darton, and Co.) is a delightful volume, very tasteful, and in every way attractive; there are two hundred original illustrations by Seymour, Pym, and others.

A good Temperance Tale is *Heroism in Humble Life*, "the Story of Ben Pritchard and Charlie Campion," by the Rev. E. N. HOARE, M.A., Rector of Acrise (T. Nelson and Sons).

When *The Teachers' Prayer Book* was published (Eyre and Spottiswoode) a notice appeared in *THE CHURCHMAN*. The cheaper editions, in small type, were at that time sent to our reviewer. A very handsome copy, now before us, merits warm praise. Canon BARRY (we may call him *Bishop*) will go forth to his great work in Australia with the hearty good wishes of many Churchmen who do not on all points see with him eye to eye. We gladly recommend his latest literary work, "The Prayer Book for Teachers and Students, and for Home and School Use, being the Book of Common Prayer with Introductions, Analysis, and Notes"

The good work done by Mr. BULLOCK in relation to the press is possibly not as well known as it should be. The *Fireside News* is an excellent penny paper; and we earnestly commend it to the due consideration of our readers, whether clerical or lay. No less than 200,000 copies of the first number are printed. It is a capital number, with well-varied contents; a good, sound Church newspaper.

A well-written and wholesome story is *Lady Temple's Grandchildren*, by Miss EVERETT-GREEN (Nisbet and Co.); young people are likely to vote it "very good." The story—of "Indian" children in England under Grandmother's care—is sweetened with thoughts of Divine love.

From the Artistic Stationery Company (Dyer's Buildings, Holborn, E.C.) we have received several very tasteful Christmas and New Year's Cards, Etchings, etc., all showing skill and finish. Some of the Flower Cards are especially graceful, and the words on the back or by the side are not unworthy. The menus and programmes are well executed.

The author of "Consecrated Women" has done well to publish a companion volume, *Christian Womanhood* (Hodder and Stoughton). Mary Fletcher, Anna Backhouse, Elizabeth Duchess of Gordon, and Harriet Perfect, are some of the devoted Women whose life and work are sketched.

A charming gift-book, with illustrations, and tastefully got up, is *Five Little Birdies*, by Miss GIBERNE, Author of "Readings for the Little Ones" (Religious Tract Society). The Birdies were orphans—Indian children, whose real name was Bird.

A gem of a text-book is Dr. MACDUFF'S *Voices of the Good Shepherd, and Shadows of the great Rock* (Nisbet and Co.). On one page are the "voices;" on the other are the Scriptures which speak of "the shadow of a great rock" (Isa. xxxii. 2).

From Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode we have received, as usual at this time of the year, a packet of really tasteful Cards. Many of them are simple and cheap; all are attractive, and, of the higher-priced ones, some are specially artistic. The Plate Calendar is pretty.

Little Queen Mab (Cassell and Co.) is a very pleasing little book for the younger boys and girls. Mabel and Percy "lost" in the hut at night is very good. Miss SILKE tells a story well, and teaches good lessons.

Delight in the Lord, by a well-known London layman, zealous in good works, Mr. HENRY MORRIS, may be strongly recommended; a short, simple, and deeply spiritual manual of private devotion (W. Hunt & Co.).

Luther and the Cardinal (Religious Tract Society) is an historic-biographical tale, an adaptation from the German. It will be read with special interest at the present time.

By Uphill Paths (Nelson and Sons), a story of everyday life, of Christian sympathy and the doing of duty, is very readable. One of the illustrations is a soldier being turned away by a pew-opener.—"An American Bag of Stories"—chiefly Missionary—has for title *Mother's Queer Things* (Nisbet and Co.); an earnest little book.—*Fighting an Omen* is a story of the good Religious Tract Society Series, "Shilling-

books for Adults."—We are pleased to recommend *Miss Marston's Girls and their Confirmation*; a really good gift-book. Rose Collins, Eliza Thompson, and two others, are the "girls" of the Bible-class. The story is very practical; its keynote is that beautiful prayer, "Defend, O Lord, these Thy servants . . ."—*Angel Meadow*, by ALICE LANG (Religious Tract Society), is a well-written story of work and duty in the East-end: simple, affectionate, and likely to do good. It is illustrated.

The Diaconate, an Ancient Remedy for Modern Needs, two Sermons, by the Rev. A. C. DOWNER, M.A., Vicar of Ilkley (Church of England Book Society), is well worth reading.—In the November *Church Missionary Intelligencer* appear some deeply interesting extracts from the journal kept by the Bishop of LAHORE during his recent visit to Persia; also some comments on the honoured Bishop's Congress paper.—A good little book for Mothers' Meetings is *Messages for Mothers*, Lessons from the Lives of Women of the Old Testament, by LUCY MARSHALL (Religious Tract Society).—In the *Church Sunday School Magazine* we are pleased to see, with several good papers, the paper read by Mr. GOE at Reading on "Sunday Teaching for Children;" we hope it will do much good. Why do so many of our Sunday scholars, when grown youths and maidens, forsake the school and the Church? This is a most serious question. We heartily wish the *Church Sunday School Magazine* a prosperous year, rich in spiritual results.—*Witnesses to Truth*, by the Rev. Canon HOARE, an excellent little work (Church of England Book Society, 11, Adam Street, Strand), has five chapters: "Difficulties," "The Races," "The Jews," "Palestine," and "The Sacraments;" simple enough for general circulation, clear, and interesting. A valuable tractate, also written by Canon HOARE, and published by the same Society, is *Conformity to the World*. We are pleased to see a third edition of so suggestive and deeply spiritual a writing.—We cordially commend a new book by Mr. EVERARD, *His Steps, traced from the Great Biography*. Mr. Everard's writings are widely known as sound and useful; well adapted for parochial reading, lending, or giving away. *His Steps*, "Practical Readings in the Life of our Lord" (pp. 128), is an excellent little book.—*Stray Leaves from Cousin Mabel's Sketch-Book*, by Miss E. J. WHATELY (Religious Tract Society), a sort of sequel to "Cousin Mabel's Sketch-Book, warmly commended in THE CHURCHMAN a year ago, gives some thoroughly practical lessons about intolerance. Complaints of *sensationally* religious persons, who gad about from Bible-reading meeting to service and prayer-meeting night after night, are fairly criticized in this tiny volume.

THE MONTH.

AT the Guildhall banquet the Prime Minister made no reference to the programme of the coming session. He stated that a portion of the British troops would at once be withdrawn from Egypt. His references to France have been gratefully acknowledged by the Paris newspapers. The French ambassador, M. Waddington, made a very telling speech.

A not very satisfactory apology, with the offer of pecuniary compensation, has been tendered to Mr. Shaw. The French, it is said, are preparing to march upon Antananarivo.