

BOOK NOTICES.

CHARACTERISTICS OF TRUE DEVOTION. by the author of "Hidden Life of the Soul," "Spiritual Maxims" etc. Translated from the French. New York: Whittaker, 2 and 3 Biele House. McGregor & Knight, Halifax. Price 75 cents.

This is a peculiarly excellent translation of a little work by a writer already most favourably known. As the translator very truly says in her preface, "In all Pere Grou's writings there is a remarkable simplicity and directness; and they are so saturated with the mind and heart of Christ that no one can read them without feeling that the Christian life is a very real and a very great thing, and by no means an easy thing, and that love and humility are its foundation stones."

"Characteristics of True Devotion" breathes a spirit of living faith and fervour which at times irresistibly reminds one of Thomas A. Kempis, although in no sense an imitation of the "Life of Christ." We most earnestly recommend it to the Christian reader as an aid to true and high devotion.

A GRAMMAR OF THEOLOGY, being a manual of instruction in Churchmanship for adults and the more intelligent youths: to be used either before or after their Confirmation, by the Rev. F. C. Ewer, S. T. D. Third edition. New York: E. & J. B. Young & Co. Price 25c. net.

Dr. Ewer is one of the very highest of American Ritualists, and yet one who has done good service as an able controversialist in opposition to Roman Catholic writers and Romish errors. We may, therefore, expect to find the doctrine of the very advanced school set forth in this little work, while at the same time where occasion demands an exact statement of the differences which distinguish the Anglican from the Roman belief. An examination of this extremely valuable little work has led to the discovery that great moderation and care have been exercised in its preparation, and that it is almost altogether free from anything that would be classed as objectionable even by so-called "Evangelical" Churchmen. We do not mean to convey the idea that it will be acceptable to "Low" Churchmen, or even be indiscriminately circulated by a higher type, but we venture to say that judged on its merits it will be highly prized as containing, in a small compass, more theology plainly stated and made comprehensible even to older children than any work hitherto published, and that as a manual of instruction in Churchmanship it will be generally admitted to be a very valuable addition to our literature.

"THE EARLY DAYS OF CHRISTIANITY," by F. W. Farrar, D. D., F. R. S., etc. Cassel, Petter, Galpin & Co., London, New York and Paris. McGregor & Knight, Halifax. Cloth 75c, Paper 40c.

We have here what is in many respects the most valuable of Canon Farrar's historical works, if, indeed, for the most part, a series of brilliant treatises upon subjects connected with the New Testament can be called a history. Others have written accounts of the days before and after the Advent of the Redeemer, and the influences which affected the world at that august and yet most depraved period of the world's history, but while this has lent the learned author material for some splendid passages, they are but the introduction to the design of the volume, viz., "an attempt to set forth, in their distinctive characteristics, the work and the writings of St. Peter, St. James, St. Jude, St. John, and the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews." And Canon Farrar adds, "if my effort has been in any degree successful, the reader should carry away from these pages some conception of the varieties of religious thought which prevailed in the schools of Jerusalem and Alexandria, and also of those phases of Theology which are represented by the writings of the two greatest of the twelve Apostles."

No one can read this volume without being struck with the vast amount of information possessed by its author, and with the happy faculty he displays of conveying his knowledge in the most pleasing way to others. The work will prove of the utmost value to the student of God's Word, giving, as it does, the latest criticism on the sacred text, by one of the best Greek scholars of the day. The ordinary reader, however, must not suppose

that the gifted author in any way represents the accurate Theological scholarship of the Anglican Church; he lays no claim, we take it, to speak for the Church of which he is so brilliant a minister, but for himself alone.

The only surprise the reader will experience after reading the work and seeing how admirably the author has fulfilled his purpose, and how full the volume is of research and thought, will be how Canon Farrar is able to say as he does not that the preparation of this work has absorbed his attention for a very long time, as one would reasonably have supposed, but that it has been a work of "such leisure as could be spared from many and onerous duties during the last twelve years."

We heartily commend this important work to our readers, the want of space alone preventing us from giving it that extended notice which its merits so well deserve. We are glad to find the price of the book so low that it is within the reach of all.

We again take pleasure in calling attention to the excellent arrangement of the Quebec Catechisms, and warmly recommend them to Rectors and S. S. Superintendents for use in Sunday Schools. They are to our mind the very best published, and should have a large sale. See advertisement elsewhere.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.—The numbers of the *Living Age* for the weeks ending Feb. 17th and 24th contain Sir Archibald Alison's Autobiography, Quarterly; Charity in the Early Church, London Quarterly; Panislamism and the Caliphate, and England, France and Madagascar, Contemporary; Thomas Carlyle, Macmillan; Sketches in the Malay Peninsula. Leisure Hour; Anthony Trollope, Good Words; Dawn of the Spring, St. James's; The Sponge Trade of the Bahamas, Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter; Escapes and Imprisonments of Latude; with instalments of "A Singular Case," and "For Himself Alone," and Selections of Poetry. A new volume began with the first number of January. For fifty two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,300 pages a year) the subscription price (\$8) is low; while for \$10 50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American \$4.00 monthlies or weeklies with *The Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.

The "American Church Review" for February is the second number of this really valuable magazine since it became a monthly. It is also No. 2 of Vol. 41, so that it has reached quite a respectable age, and has, we believe, grown in favor with increased years.

In the present number Bishop Young's second paper on Liturgical Enrichment appears, and is well worthy the consideration of Churchmen outside as well as within the American Church. There seems to be a growing desire for some optional services; but how far such a movement is wise and to be favored is a question requiring very serious thought indeed. Hasty and unwise legislation in such a direction would only bring upon us evils of a much more aggravated form than the promoters now depict in the existing—to their minds—limited Prayer Book use.

Hebrew, Greek and Latin Christianity, by the Rev. Thomas Richey, D. D., is a review of several recent works bearing upon the subject. The reviewer has done much more than simply review the book which he places at the head of his article, he has written a very able and well considered paper which will be of great service at the present time. His criticism of Mr. Hatch's Bampton Lectures is especially valuable, and is what we should expect from a man of Prof. Richey's position and well known attainments. We cannot forbear reproducing the following, which will be warmly endorsed by every sound Churchman: "Mr. Hatch is a pedant, not a scholar. He is everywhere wanting in philosophical breadth, and proper knowledge of his subject. The man who, in treating of the Early Constitution of the Christian Church, will search among Greek inscriptions and ignore the Gospels and Epistles of the New Testament is a pedant, not a scholar. He who sets out seriously to prove that because the Greeks had Guilds and Societies for charitable purposes, with

an overseer to take charge of the funds, the Christian Church, therefore, is to be regarded as nothing more than a charitable organization, and its Bishop a mere distributor of alms, is surely wanting in knowledge of the thing to be proved, and can with difficulty be regarded as gifted with ordinary powers of discernment. Had the book been written by a German professor as a tentative essay, one would not be surprised at it, but that a subject so serious should receive such treatment at the hands of an English scholar and a Bampton lecturer, is calculated to fill us with wonder and amazement."

The other contents of the number are: Some unfinished business of the House of Bishops, by the Rev. R. J. Nevin, D.D.; The Periods, by Rev. John McDowell Leavitt, D.D.; Miracles and Science, by John Wood, Esq.; Literary Notices; Notes and Queries.

We direct our readers' attention to Buckley & Allen's advertisement of Easter Cards, etc., to be found in another column.

The March Number of *HARPER'S MAGAZINE* is a beautiful and entertaining Number. The frontispiece engraving is from George H. Boughton's picture, "The Burgomaster's Daughter." William Henry Bishop contributes a paper entitled "Across Arizona," which is attractively illustrated. George H. Boughton continues his Holland papers with a fresh and quaint description of Friesland, illustrated by his own drawings and those of E. A. Abbey. Colonel Higginson's fifth paper on his American History series is entitled "The French Voyagers," and treats of the early attempts made by the French to establish colonies in this country. The paper is effectively illustrated—Howard Pyle contributing several important pictures. The other contents are all of special interest.

Buckley & Allen, Halifax,

Marriages.

BLOUNT—HANDY.—At the Church of the Advent, Bowdoin street, Boston, Mass., by the Rev. Mr. Gardner, Frank M. Blount, to Mary Emma, eldest daughter of W. F. Handy, of Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass.

MAGUIRE—LYLE.—At the residence of the bride's father, Middle Melford, on Tuesday, January 23rd, by Rev. Edward Ansell, B. A., Mr. William O. Maguire, of Steep Creek, to Lydia C., daughter of James Lyle.

LANG—ELLIS.—On the 9th inst., by the Rev. J. C. Cox, Incumbent, Walter Lang, to Catherine Ellis, both of Shubenacadie, Colchester County.

DICKSON—TOWNSEND.—By banns, at S. Bartholomew's Church, Louisburg, C. B., Jan. 21st, by the Rev. T. Fraser Draper, Deacon-in-charge, William Dickson, to Elizabeth Townsend, both of Louisburg.

REID—CANN.—By banns, at S. Bartholomew's Church, Louisburg, C. B., Jan. 22, Charles Reid, of Gabarus, C. B., to Margaret Ann Cann, of Louisburg.

TUTTY—TUTTY.—At S. Bartholomew's Church, Louisburg, C. B., Jan. 31st, by the same, Wallace Tutty, to Ruth Tutty, both of Louisburg.

FORBES—MCLEAN.—By banns, at S. Bartholomew's Church, Louisburg, C. B., by the same, William Forbes, of Lorraine, to Mary McLean, of the same place.

Birth.

SARGENT.—At Rapid City, Manitoba, on the 25th January, the wife of the Rev. J. P. Sargent, of a daughter.

Baptisms.

LEY.—On Quinquagesima Sunday, in S. James' Church, Main-a-Dieu, by the Rev. T. Fraser Draper, Deacon-in-charge, Rachel Louisa, daughter of John and Alice Ley.

DOWNING.—At St. John's Church, River John, 14th Feb., by the Rev. A. C. Macdonald, James Selwin Sinclair, son of Rev. James L. Downing, and Margaret, his wife.

Deaths.

NICKERSON.—Safe folded, on Jan. 27th, Harry Botsford, aged 7 years, eldest child of J. H. Nickerson.

CODY.—Entered into rest, on the 19th February, at Johnston, Queens County, James W. Cody, Jr., in the 55th year of his age, in sure and certain hope of the Resurrection to Eternal Life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.