

campaign, Bright protested earnestly against what he believed a wicked war:—"You profess to be a Christian nation," he said in Parliament, "and worship Him who is the 'Prince of Peace!' Is this a reality? Is your Christianity a romance?" And he went on to appeal to the country—to "labour earnestly for the fulfilment of the prophecy of the time—the blessed time—when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." But he was overwhelmed with obloquy. He was burned in effigy and defeated at Manchester. But soon the dread tragedy of the Crimea opened the eyes of the nation to the impolicy as well as injustice of the war, and the tide turned greatly in his favour. In a House, three-fourths of whose members wore mourning, he said: "I am a plain and simple citizen, and if mine were a solitary voice raised amid the din of arms, I have the priceless consolation that no word of mine has tended to promote the spilling of a single drop of my country's blood." His words had much weight in securing peace. What gave them weight was their intense sincerity—their moral earnestness. The speaker lived "as ever in the Great Taskmaster's eye." He "feared God and feared only Him." He rose above party politics "to the purer air and brighter skies of patriotism and philanthropy." In the great questions of the last forty years—the questions of Free Trade, India, Ireland, Russia, the American War, the *Alabama* case, Parliamentary Reform, Disestablishment, he was often on the unpopular side—in advance of his times. But in almost all of these the nation has come round to his view. It is marvellous to find how familiar this man—who left school at fifteen—is with the great classics of all languages, and how apt are his quotations from Shakespeare, Milton, and Dante, the great poets of the past, and especially from the English Bible, which most of all has formed his noble style. The life of Bright is the story of English civilization for the forty grandest years of its history, with

the added interest of a personal human sympathy. "He takes rank," says his biographer in his closing words, "with the Pym, the Hampdens, the Miltons, and other incorruptible great men of the past, who in times of difficulty and peril have unswervingly fought the battle of freedom and asserted the liberties of England."

Toward the Sunrise. Being Sketches of travel in Europe and the East, with a memorial sketch of the Rev. William Morley Punshon, LL.D.
By HUGH JOHNSTON, M.A., B.D.
Pp. 459. With Illustrations. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

The readers of the *Guardian* have all been greatly delighted with the admirable letters of travel with which the Rev. Hugh Johnston, during the early part of this year, enriched its pages, and Methodist hearts throughout the world have been deeply touched by the story from his pen of the last hours of his honoured friend, the Rev. Dr. Punshon, to whom in his last journey he was permitted to minister cheer and comfort. At the request of many friends, Mr. Johnston has been induced to greatly enlarge those letters, adding much new matter descriptive of his visit to England, his travels through Europe, and his journeyings in Egypt and Palestine. And he has added a more full and adequate memorial of Dr. Punshon, than any which has elsewhere appeared.

Mr. Johnston is one of the most vivacious and attractive of writers. He has a keen sense of the beautiful in nature and in art, and he describes his emotions with a poet's pen. He throws such a living interest into his narrative that we become his companions in travel and gaze upon the wondrous scenes of the orient through his sympathetic eyes. We can bear personal testimony to the photographic fidelity of his descriptions. And his well-stored mind brings up the manifold associations, sacred and secular, which add such a wondrous interest to those old historic lands. The book is copiously illustrated and will form a very admirable Christmas gift.