

Miscellaneous. *Pictorial Sketches from Bible Lands* (1) is the fourth volume of the Holiday Rambles Series. The three preceding works, the issuing Committee informs us, have been well received, and we may expect that the present volume will find a favourable reception. The pictures are fairly well done, some of them are very pretty, but those with regard to the Temple seem to us to give too great an idea of space; the Garden of Gethsemane is quite different from the usual representations of it, but it may be none the less true for that. The pictures are not arranged in any particular order apparently, so we are taken from Jordan to Ephesus, from there to Beyrout, then back to Hebron; from Bethlehem to Iconium, thence to Rephidim, and so on. The descriptions appended to the pictures are said on the title page to be "racy and interesting." We are willing to admit they are interesting, but we do not know why they are called "racy." There is still room for works of this kind, and there is no reason to resort to the questionable expedient of a silly sensationalism in describing their merits. The volume makes a nice present for a Sunday scholar, or other young student of the Bible.

The Church-Standing of Children (2) is a little work in which the doctrine and practice of Infant Baptism is stated and defended in a forcible manner. It is eminently a sensible tract, which everybody may read with advantage, especially in these days when the fundamental principles and initiatory ceremonies are not so strongly enforced as they used to be.

The same Publishers also send us *An Exposition of the Shorter Catechism* (3), part second, containing the summary of Christian duty, one of the Bible-class primers edited by Professor Salmond, of Aberdeen. We need hardly say that it is a good exposition. The question and answer are given, then Scriptural proof, and after that, an explanation in plain and simple terms.

Pegs for Preachers (4) has for its object "to help those who seek to speak for the Lord Jesus, and yet have little time at their disposal for the preparation of their message;" and the author hopes that it may be the means of stirring up some to search the Word of God. We trust it will be effective in this latter object, and that it will be very rightly of less use in the former. There is no royal road to preaching. Preaching without knowledge is presumption, and without preparation it will be a certain failure; and this failure will not be prevented by *Pegs for Preachers*, which, however, has one