

have followed with intense interest the story of the voyage of the yacht *Sunbeam* around the world. In the present volume the accomplished writer of that fascinating narrative gives an account of another 14,000 miles' journey, made in the year 1883. Its interest is no less absorbing than that of her previous volume. It records varied incidents of travel and adventure in Spain, Madeira, Trinidad, Venezuela, Jamaica, Cuba, and through the Bahamas, the Bermudas, and the Azores. Everywhere Lady Brassey was enabled to see, as most travellers are not able, whatever is worth seeing in those "Summer isles of Eden, lying in dark purple spheres of seas." She describes with keenest zest their marvellous flora and fauna and scenery, and the *grotesqueries* of their many-coloured inhabitants. The illustrations are the most sumptuous we have ever seen in a book of travel. For delicacy of engraving and poetry of conception they are exquisite. The very texture of foliage, flowers, plumage, shells and the like is wonderfully rendered, while the moonlight, sunset, sunrise, and night effects on land and sea we have never seen equalled by the engraver's burin.

*Students' Ecclesiastical History.*

*Part I. The History of the Christian Church during the First Ten Centuries.* By PHILIP SMITH, B.A., pp. 618, with 79 illustrations. New York: Harper & Brothers; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price, \$1.50.

There is no more important and instructive history than that which records the growth and development of the Christian Church, its overthrow of paganism, the enthronement of a Christian emperor on the seat of the Cæsars, and the sad sequel of the corruption of the primitive purity, and eclipse of faith during the dark ages. All this Mr. Smith has told with succinctness and clearness in this volume. For those who have not time to read the large and expensive works of Mosheim,

Neander, Milman, and Schaff, it furnishes an admirable compendium. The sketches of the early persecutions, of the Christian Fathers and Christian literature, of the early heresies and controversies, of the planting and decline of the Eastern Church, and of the conversion of Europe and founding of the Papacy and of the Holy Roman Empire, will be found sufficiently full for all except specialist students. This and its companion volume, bringing the record down to the Reformation, are the best apparatus for the popular study of ecclesiastical history that we know.

*After London; or, Wild England.*

By RICHARD JEFFERIES, pp. 442. New York: Cassell & Co. (Limited). Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

This is a most extraordinary book. It purports to describe the relapse of England into barbarism, after the destruction of London and all the large towns and cities, and the flight of their inhabitants. The tramps and gipsies, and a few scattered country-folk who could not escape, form the new population. The tramps become a race of wild Bushmen. The country becomes a wild thicket. A few tribal families gather into stockaded villages, and preserve some faint trace of refinement, civilization, and religion. A great lake occupies the centre of the country, caused by the obstruction of the Thames through the utter demolition of the world-metropolis, London, whose festering emanations breathe a malaria which makes the whole region a desolation. Warlike bands of wild Welsh and Scotch, and incursions of Irish pirates, terrorize the whole region. The first part of the book, describing the relapse into barbarism, is much better than the second part, describing certain adventures which take place in Wild England. The story ends quite too abruptly. A Defoe-like imagination is exhibited in many of the descriptions. It is a pleasure to read a book so admirably printed as this.