

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

SCENES THROUGH THE BATTLE SMOKE. By the Rev. Arthur Mole. London: Dean and Son.

This is a narrative of the experiences of the author, an army chaplain in the Afghanistan War and the Egyptian Campaign of 1882. It is a most enjoyable volume, and sustains the interest of the reader as much as the best novel. The writer has a pleasant way of expressing himself, and a good command of language. The book is not a history of the War, nor does it pretend to accurately describe the details of the operations in these campaigns, and is possibly more interesting to the general reader on that account. Among other graphic descriptions he gives an account of his visit to the spot—a round-topped hill near Gundamuch—where the miserable remnant of the 16,000 souls who were engaged in the Afghan War of 1841 made their final stand, all perishing except one—Dr. Brydon, an army surgeon. The bones of these warriors were still whitening the mound when visited by Mr. Mole. Subsequently the remains were buried decently, and an obelisk erected above them. The author describes the part he took in the Egyptian War of 1882—the battles of Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir—and how well General Wolseley's feint on Aboukir Bay succeeded in deceiving not only the enemy but his own staff as to his real objective point, thus allowing the British forces to capture and occupy "Port Said," "Kantara," and "Ismailia," almost without a struggle. The letter press, paper, and illustrations are good. Any one can read this work with much interest.

MEN OF THE BIBLE: THE MINOR PROPHETS. By Archdeacon Farrar. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Company.

This volume is an interesting and useful addition to the very valuable series to which it belongs. When we remember that Isaiah has been treated by Professor Driver, and Jeremiah by Professor Cheyne, our two greatest English Hebrew scholars, it is much to say that the present volume is not at all unworthy of a place beside those two. Archdeacon Farrar would not pretend to the critical scholarship of those eminent Hebraists, but he is a good scholar and a man of wide reading, and he has a very comprehensive grasp of the books which he undertakes in this volume to illustrate. The task is, indeed, no easy one. The writer has to adopt or reject the conclusions of modern criticism with respect to the origin and composition of the prophetic books, he has to ascertain as well as he can their chronological position, and their relation to the history of Israel, and he has further to elucidate the contents of the books themselves. All these things Dr. Farrar has accomplished with a considerable degree of success and with his accustomed literary ability. We confess that we like his later a great deal better than his earlier. As an illustration of the influence of modern criticism, we may mention that the writer assigns chapters nine to eleven of the prophecies of Zechariah to an "anonymous writer," just as Kuenen and others assign the latter half of the prophecies of Isaiah to a "great unknown." We are convinced that there are very few students of the Old Testament who will not be helped by the perusal of this excellent volume.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL LAYMAN'S HANDBOOK. Toronto: Hart and Company.

Earnestness is always worthy of a certain amount of respect, but, in order to be useful, it must be under the direction of a consistent purpose. It is not quite easy to reduce the work before us to a principle, but the aim of the writer is tolerably clear. He is vehemently bent on putting down what is called High-Churchism in the Anglican communion. Now this might be done in either of two ways. One might object to any customs or practices that were not sanctioned by the Church, or he might initiate or forward a movement for the revision of the prayer-book. Either of these courses would be intelligent and consistent; but the two cannot be successfully united; and they are not successfully united in the volume before us. On the title page the author professes to explain "the innovations of the last half-century." But it is not long before he falls foul of the contents of the prayer-book itself. This is a very illogical position to take. In the one department of his work he quotes the prayer-book against his opponents; in the other he assails the very book which he had just quoted as an authority. This will never do. Although, however, the book has no value as a controversial treatise, doubtless it may be found edifying to some persons who agree with its contents; and a good deal of it will be amusing reading to those who do not. Some of the stories about the Bishops are entertaining, but some of them have a very legendary look about them. Some of the proofs given of the dreadful state of things in the Anglican communion in Canada are decidedly curious. For example, an Irish lady had never bowed at the name of Jesus in the Creed, but was informed, when she came to this country, that one of the canons in force in Canada required that ceremony. Has the author ever heard of the canons of James I.? Controversial writers should be acquainted with the authoritative documents by which the controversy has to be settled. Does the Layman know that these very canons furnish some of the strongest arguments against the ritualists? We repeat, some parts of the book are amusing; and it is admirably printed and prettily bound.

HISTORY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN IRELAND. By Rev. William Cleland. Toronto: Hart and Company.

We have only one criticism to offer as to the manner of the getting up of the books published by Messrs. Hart. Generally speaking, they are well printed, even beautifully printed and tastefully bound; but they frequently are undated. The best English publishers seldom adopt this practice, and it is objectionable for obvious reasons. In the case of the volume before us there is no excuse, that we can imagine, for this omission. The Preface is dated, Toronto, 1890, and the contents of the book are not of a character so ephemeral as to be depreciated by a considerable lapse of time between their publication and the reading of the book. Mr. Cleland has chosen a very interesting subject, and he has treated it with ample knowledge and with adequate literary skill. The book will be interesting not only to Presbyterians, but to all who study the progress of religion and civilization among the race to which we belong. The position of the Presbyterian body is a very important one, lying as it does between the Church of England on the one side and the Congregationalists and other bodies which have dissented more widely from the Mother Church on the other. The writer speaks with justifiable pride of the importance of the work done by the Irish Presbyterian Church. Whilst itself a very Bethlehem Ephratah among the smallest of the religious communities, it has been, to a large extent, the parent of the great American Presbyterian Church, the largest religious communion in the United States. The book begins with a brief sketch of the Civil and Ecclesiastical History of Ireland, and then passes on to the Reformation and to the Ulster Plantation, which was substantially the beginning of the history of Irish Presbyterianism. The author writes from the clear point of view of a convinced and undoubting Presbyterian; but his book is not worse reading for that reason, and may be confidently recommended.

Outing for November is full of interest for men of sporting proclivities. It contains some capital illustrations. Among the articles is "The Royal Canadian Yacht Club" with a view of the club-house by Repard C. Knarff. This will be of interest to Toronto people. Walter Camp writes on "Foot-ball Studies for Captain and Coach." Chas. Howard Shinn treats of "California on Horseback." Mrs. E. Kennedy gives a vivid picture of "My First Salmon in Norway." On the whole this number is an excellent one.

THE *Andover Review* for November contains a number of thoughtful articles. Principal Alfred Cave, D.D., takes the lead with a paper on "The Conflict between Religion and Science." "The Reorganization of Congregational Churches" is a subject from the pen of Dr. A. E. Dunning, in which he proposes new orders in the ministry; a new arrangement of parishes and a general adaptation to the changing conditions of society. Rev. Edward Hungerford discusses "Prayers Subjective and Objective," and Professor Smith "Dogma in Religion." Mr. Robert A. Woods commends General Booth's plans "In Darkest England." "Thomas Erskine" is the first of "Leaders of Widening Religious Thought and Life," treated by Miss Agnes Maule Machar.

In the *Methodist Magazine* for November, the Rev. Geo. Bond describes the ruined city of Baalbec. Lady Brassey recounts her closing experiences in Australia. The Rev. Hugh Johnston gives a graphic account of the famous big trees and Yosemite Valley of California. The Editor describes the old historic city of Constance with its martyr memories. These articles are all finely illustrated. An article of much interest by the distinguished Canadian litterateur J. Macdonald Oxley discusses the North-West Indian question, and describes the treaty system. "Samuel Budgett, the Successful Merchant," is by Peter Bayne, LL.D. "James Blackie's Revenge" and "Hoppety Bob" are two character sketches. The announcement for 1891 presents novelties in the way of out-of-the-way travel, popular science and Methodist topics.

In the *Cosmopolitan* for November, a very interesting description of "The Army of Japan" is given by Arthur Sherbourne Hardy. "The American Amateur Stage" is written by Charles Carey Waddle. P. T. Barnum comes to the front with a brief and capital article on "College Education in Relation to Business." George Grantham Bain has a most instructive contribution on "The Executive Departments of the U. S. Government." "The Pursuit of the Martyns" is a story begun in this number by Richard Malcolm Johnston. A very pretty little poem is "Absent" by Ellen Burroughs. And there is also a commendable sonnet "At Eventide" by S. Edgar Benet. The great astrologer, Camille Flammarion, in "Another World," writes of the star Mercury, which he pronounces, astronomically speaking, so close to the earth that a telegram or telephonic message could reach it in five minutes. This number is well illustrated and the frontispiece "A Sister's Charge" is a very touching picture.

The *Forum* for November opens with a masculine article by Francis A. Walker on "Democracy and Wealth." He disbelieves in the modern doctrine that the democracy can do no wrong. W. S. Lilly in "The Shibboleth of Public Opinion" strongly advocates a reformation of journalism in the interests of truth. The Rev. Dr. C. A. Bartol reviews the "Kreutzer Sonata" and asserts that Tolstoi lacks the Anglo-Saxon common-sense, and is too sensational. "The Six New States" is by Senator Cullom and gives

some useful information. "Formative Influences," by the Rev. Dr. Eggleston, is the autobiography of one who surmounted many difficulties in early life. It shows the marvellous value of good parental influence. C. Wood Davis in "The Probabilities of Agriculture" thinks that in 1895 the production of the States will not exceed the consumption of its then estimated population of 72 millions. "Recent Views about Glaciers," by Prof. A. Winchell, treats of the influence of glaciers upon the climate and configuration of the earth. "The Embattled Farmers," by the Rev. Dr. W. Gladden, is an account of "The Farmers' Alliance" and its aims. Discontented Canadian farmers should read his account of the depressed condition of farmers in the States. In "French Canada and the Dominion," W. B. Harte severely criticizes the arguments of M. Honoré Beaugrand in a former article. "The Progress of the Negro" by the Rev. Amory Mayo shows the progress of the coloured population since Emancipation. D. R. Goodloe on "Western Farm Mortgages" gives valuable information as to the indebtedness of the farmers in five of the States. He concludes with an illustrative comparison from a financial and independent stand-point between the condition of the American and Irish farmers (having fair-sized farms) to the disadvantage of the former.

THE *Century Magazine* celebrates its twentieth anniversary with the November number. In the editorial on the event the editor claims for *The Century* "a sane and earnest Americanism." An illustrated article by Theodore L. De Vinne of the De Vinne Press describes the advance of the art of printing. The great feature of *The Century's* new year, the series on the Gold Hunters, is begun with John Bidwell's paper, fully illustrated, on "The First Emigrant Train to California." A series of papers begun is Mr. Rockhill's illustrated account of his journey through an unknown part of Tibet. A timely contribution to Dr. Shaw's series on municipal government is his account of the government of London. A pictorial series begins, "Pictures by American Artists;" the example is Will H. Low's "The Portrait." An article on the naval fights of the war of 1812 appears. The fiction of the number has the beginning of a story by the artist-author, F. Hopkinson Smith; "Colonel Carter of Cartersville," and pictures by Kemble. Mrs. Anna Eichberg King has a story of old New York, with designs by G. W. Edwards, and F. P. Humphrey has a ghost story, "The Courageous Action of Lucia Richmond." The frontispiece is from a photograph of Lincoln and his son "Tad," accompanied by an article by Col. John Hay, on "Life in the White House in the Time of Lincoln." In the prison series is a paper, "On the Andersonville Circuit." W. C. Brownell notes the work of two French sculptors, Rodin and Dallou. The poetry is by Edgar Fawcett, the late James T. McKay, James Whitcomb Riley, G. P. Lathrop, R. W. Gilder, Thomas A. Janvier, John Vance Cheney, and Arlo Bates, besides a full brick-a-brac department of lighter verse. The editorial department discusses forestry, international copyright, etc., and W. W. Ellsworth protests in open letters against "The Spoiling of the Egyptians."

THE November number of *The North American Review* opens with a review of the work of the first session of the Fifty-first Congress, on which three representatives of each party in the House of Representatives express their opinions. The spokesmen of the Republicans are Mr. McKinley, of Ohio, the author of the McKinley Tariff Bill; Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, the author of the Lodge Election Bill, and Mr. Dalzell, of Pennsylvania. The Democratic side is presented by Mr. Fitch, of New York; Mr. McAdoo, of New Jersey, and Mr. Clements, of Georgia. "Scottish Politics" is by the Marquis of Lorne. Gail Hamilton gives a graphic picture of "The Ladies of the Last Caesars." Ex-United States Senator Warner Miller pleads for "Business Men in Politics." Mr. George P. A. Healy, the distinguished artist, contributes "Reminiscences of a Portrait-Painter," and tells how he came to paint his famous "Webster Replying to Hayne." This is followed by a brace of articles on Southern politics—one by Robert Smalls, who discusses from personal experience "Election Methods in the South;" the other by A. W. Shaffer, whose article, "A Southern Republican on the Lodge Bill," sets forth serious objections to the Bill entertained by Southern Republicans. A characteristic contribution from Walt Whitman on "Old Poets," gives his opinion of Longfellow, Whittier, Emerson, Bryant, Browning, and others. An account of "The London Police" is furnished by James Monro, C.B., late Commissioner of Police for that metropolis. In the notes and comments Oscar Fay Adams writes of "The Ruthless Sex," Edward Stanwood of "The Clamour for 'More Money,'" Dr. Felix L. Oswald of "A Fatal Synonym," Dr. Cyrus Edson of "Premonitions and Warnings," and John H. Hopkins of "The Army of Mercenaries."

VIRGIL was the son of a porter. Homer was the son of a farmer. Pope was the son of a merchant. Cervantes was a common soldier. Horace was the son of a shop-keeper. Demosthenes was the son of a cutler. Milton was the son of a money scrivener. Shakespeare was the son of a woolstapler. Oliver Cromwell was the son of a brewer. Claude Lorraine was bred a pastry cook. Lucian was the son of a maker of statuary. Cardinal Wolsey was the son of a butcher. Daniel Defoe was a hosier and son of a butcher. Robert Burns was the son of a plowman. Christopher Columbus was the son of a weaver, and also a weaver himself. Franklin was a journeyman printer and son of a tallow-chandler and soap-maker.