

antee of his thorough adequacy to the task he has undertaken. The remarkable success of his books is a proof of the ability with which that task has been accomplished. Over 20,000 copies of each book have been sold in three years, and the first mentioned has been translated into French, German, Polish and Tamil, and is known wherever the English language is spoken. The Canadian copyright editions are very neat and serviceably bound books, and we heartily commend them to the classes for whom they are designed.

Biblical Things not Generally Known. 12mo, pp. 379. New York: Dick and Fitzgerald.

During the last quarter of a century much fresh information on the land and literature of the Bible, and on the Oriental customs and institutions which so remarkably illustrate its teachings, has been rendered accessible. In this book is gathered a numerous collection of facts concerning much that is rare, quaint, curious, and obscure in relation to Biblical subjects. They are the result of a wide range of reading in fields which have been only very partially explored. There is no special classification of subjects, and the names of the authorities quoted are not always given. But there is a copious index of the 539 subjects treated, and of the texts which are illustrated. It is a book to occupy leisure moments rather than for consecutive study; but hardly a page can be read without learning some curious and instructive fact.

CHRISTMAS BOOKS.

One of the grandest features of the age is the loving care, the wise thoughtfulness, that is manifested in ministering to the delight and profit of little children. There lie upon our table a pile of Christmas books such as in our childhood it had not entered into the mind of man to conceive as possible. The best skill of the artist and engraver; the best thoughts of the poet and prose writer; the most attractive resources

of the bookbinder's art are lavished upon these dainty volumes. The educative mission of such books on the little folk who become their happy possessors must be very salutary. Their taste will be refined, their minds informed, and their little hearts taught sweet lessons of goodness and truth through their delightful ministry.

One of the most charming of these books is "*Light for Little Ones*," by MARTHA VAN MARTAR, small 4to, pp. 344. New York: Phillips and Hunt; price \$1.25. Anything more dainty than its illuminated cover we have not yet seen. The selections in prose and verse, from grave to gay, and the beautiful pictures by which they are illustrated, make up a volume worthy of the elegant exterior. The floral vignettes especially are very artistic, and the press-work, on which so much of the beauty of cuts depends, is admirably done.

Even more attractive for the very little folk will be found "*The Blossom Books*," same publishers; ten thin quartos in a box, with illuminated covers, price \$3.00. The type is larger, the reading simpler and more easy to master, and the cuts more juvenile in character. Some of these illustrate Kindergarten play-studies in drawing and making simple designs and the like. The educative value of such books in developing the infantile powers is much greater than we are apt to think.

For older children one of the most charming of Christmas books is "*Little Folks*," from the celebrated press of Cassell, Petter and Galpin; price \$1.50. Its Bible illustrations are very beautiful, and it has a story of immigrant life in Canada that will increase its interest to Canadian readers.

The queen of all the juvenile magazines, however, is *St. Nicholas*, which is really a marvel of artistic execution. It is now republished in England and in France, and a translation of a part will be made into Arabic for the delight of the Moslem children in the far East. It is permanently enlarged, and is ad-