

might be!" Has vice become its own excuse, and lawless passion its own justification?

The alarming extent of this reign of brutality and passion would seem to be clearly indicated by the fact that *The Herald* not long since devoted large space to the description of the Trilby Party, or Ankle Social, described in the article on "Church Amusements" in the December *Forum*; and even more clearly by the possibility of having such a church social. It gives us pleasure to acknowledge the fact, that while some of the secular papers gloat over and make the most of such events as the late disreputable dinners, some of them—especially *The Journal*—were found uttering their editorial protests against them.

A generation ago, when a notorious railway speculator and wrecker made the woman whose feet take hold on hell a special feature of a national convention of railroad magnates in New York city the people were horrified, and felt as if it was a special retribution when a little later God's thunderbolt struck down the wretch in his

licentious career. It is high time that the religious press, and the pulpit, and all decent society should make effective protest against this crying evil, if we are to escape the corruption and the fate of Sodom and Pompeii.

A Parallel.

Nor long ago the higher critics tore the works of Homer into fragments, and assigned the fragments to various imaginary authors. They declared it as settled beyond dispute—in fact, scientifically settled—that there were several Homers. Recent investigation of Schliemann and others have unearthed the Troy of Homer, and have punctured their theoretical bubbles, and restored to the world the one matchless Homer. The same thing has more recently been attempted with Moses and Isaiah by the Biblical critics, and archeology has already assured the same results in the case of these Bible worthies. We have just received an article from that distinguished archeologist, Professor Sayce of Oxford, showing the recent contributions of Egyptology in this direction.

NOTICES OF BOOKS OF HOMILETIC VALUE.

RECENT RESEARCH IN BIBLE LANDS: Its Progress and Results. By Prof. J. F. McCurdy, Ph.D., LL.D., Frederick Jones Bliss, Ph.D., Prof. Herman V. Hilprecht, Ph.D., D.D., Prof. A. H. Sayce, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L., Prof. Fritz Hommel, Ph.D., William Hayes Ward, D.D., LL.D., Prof. J. P. Mahaffy, D.D., D.C.L., and Prof. W. M. Ramsay, LL.D., D.C.L. Edited by Herman V. Hilprecht. Philadelphia: John D. Wattles & Co., 1896. Price, \$1.50.

The publishers have rendered invaluable service to busy ministers by inducing these leading experts and authorities in archeology to gather up and present in condensed form

the results of all the latest researches in Bible lands. The mechanical make-up and the illustrations of the work are in keeping with its high character.

A DAILY THOUGHT FOR DAILY ENDEAVOR: A Christian Year-Book of Courage and Good Cheer. Compiled by Eleanor Amerman Sutphen and Eliza Polhemus Sutphen. New York: Baker & Taylor Co. Price, \$1.25.

This Year-Book furnishes a "brief message of helpful and uplifting thought for the morning of each day." It is full of inspiration for the Christian worker.

HELPFUL DATA IN CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE FORUM for December has several articles that have special interests to the ministry—among them "Princeton in the Nation's Service," being the address of Prof. Woodrow Wilson at the Princeton Sesquicentennial; "Drawbacks of a College Education," by President Charles F. Thwing, of Western Reserve University; and "American Women and American Literature," by Hon. Hugh H. Lusk, ex-member of the New Zealand Legislature. The one article of supreme interest, however, is that of Rev. William Bayard Hale, entitled "Another Year of Church Entertainments." Dr. Hale prepared for *The*

Forum of January, 1896, "A Study of Church Entertainments." The present paper is an analysis and exhibition of the more than five hundred of these church occasions of which the writer obtained record during the year just closed. Any one who has any desire to understand at once the mental lunacy and the moral idiocy that seem to have broken loose in these entertainments—from "Violet in Fairyland" and "The Man who Ticked His Wives to Death," to the "Mock Marriage" and "Trilby Party" or "Ankle Auction"—will find what he wants in this article.