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The Clerical Library: Anecdotes illustrative of Old Testament Texts. 8vo, pp. 332. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.50.

Much of the success of the most famous living preachers arises from their happy art of illustration. An apposite anecdote or a striking simile will arrest the attention and impress the mind when an elaborate argument will be forgotten. This explains in part the success of such preachers as Sam Jones, Talmage, Moody, and many others. Of the Great Preacher it is said that without a parable spake He not unto the people, which is perhaps one reason why the common people heard Him gladly. One should draw his illustrations from the whole range of his reading and observation. But often one can find in his personal *repertoire* nothing appropriate to the subject under discussion. Hence the value of collections like the present of striking anecdotes illustrating numerous passages of Scripture and for the most part those frequently preached from. Many of these short stories are very striking and furnish interesting reading. But when they can be used to enforce some holy lesson we may well say, "A word fitly spoken, how good it is. It is like apples of gold in pictures of silver."

Famous Women Series: Susanna Wesley. By ELIZA CLARKE. Pp. 301. Boston: Roberts' Brothers, and Methodist Book Rooms, To-

ronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price \$1.25.

The projectors of this series of character studies of the most famous women of the century did well to include one of Susanna Wesley. In all the elements of real greatness she will not fall behind any of those distinguished women, George Eliot, Harriet Martineau, Elizabeth Fry, Madame Roland, or any others previously included in the series. Hitherto, studies of her character have been regarded chiefly or solely her connection with Methodism. Here she is regarded from an independent, though sympathetic, point of view. The writer claims that in her veins runs Wesley blood, and she has had the assistance of a Mr. John Wesley, a later kinsman of his illustrious namesake. She has also had access to original Wesley papers. We get charming glimpses into that Epworth Rectory. Little Charles Wesley, we learn, was a plucky boy and remarkably ready with his fists. The letters of Mrs. Wesley to her son, "Dear Jacky," are very interesting. A remarkable account of the Epworth midnight knocking and apparition of Old Jeffery is given.

Living Words; or, Sam P. Jones' Own Book. Sermons and sayings of the noted Evangelist, delivered in Toronto and elsewhere; with a full account of his life, written by himself. 8vo, pp. 595. Sole authorized edition. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Sold only by agents.

No preacher has ever visited Canada who in so short a time has captured so many hearts as the Rev. Sam P. Jones. Thousands who hung upon his lips at those wonderful services will be glad to have these memorials of the preacher—these *verbatim* reports of his pungent utterances, of his pithy proverbs and aphorisms, which pierce the conscience like barbed arrows that will not be shaken out. This book is enriched by an introduction by the Rev. Dr. Potts, Chairman of the Sam Jones Meetings in Toronto, and by a striking autobiography of the evangelist. His has been a strangely