

pounded by "the great unnamed whose writings are bound up with Isaiah's," and the establishment of the completed legal system under Ezra and his successors.

We commend this chapter to the attention of those who, on the one hand, think that the result of criticism is to introduce confusion into our conceptions of the Old Testament, and on the other that the Old Testament is, to use recent extraordinary phrase, "Christianity's Millstone." In respect of epigrammatic phrases we heartily endorse Dr. Grant's words, wherein, speaking of the expressions "the night of legalism" and "the dark ages," he says, "General phrases like these not only give no information, as it is impossible to sum up great periods of history in single sentences, but they are essentially inaccurate."

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### Recent Fiction.\*

"THE HERONS," by Helen Shipton, is a story of two brothers who belong to the north of England. The father is of a stern, harsh disposition, and one of the sons in early youth has disgraced the family and leaves home. The other son remains with his father and is brought up in ignorance of his brother's crime. The plot turns on the sacrifice made by the younger brother for the elder. A pathetic and well told incident towards the end of the book is the reconciliation of the father and mother of the two sons. There is a fair attempt at the delineation of character, but the incidents are trivial and the book as a whole cannot be described as a success.

"The Crooked Stick" is written by a well known Australian writer whose earlier stories have won for him deserved reputation. This work will not add to it. There is an attempt to give the book local flavour, but the characters might as well have acted in the midland countries of England or anywhere else for that matter as where they are placed. The book is disappointing coming from where it does.

"Winifred Mount" is a pretty story of a young girl who loses her father, but finds fashionable friends who introduce her into good London society. Henley and houseboats are brought into the story. This book we are glad to speak of with praise. It will do what novels are meant for, kill an idle hour pleasantly. Only one objectionable passage may be noted which occurs in the description of a house-boating experience. A young man of the party tells a story which is evidently *risqué* because it is described by one of the characters as "fit for married women." The heroine and a friend are described as not understanding it, but as laughing at it. If the book reaches another edition the passage should be cut out. It jars on the reader as being a false struck note. Ladies do not allow *risqué* stories to be told in their presence. Except for this slip the book is consistently well done.

"A Pair of Blue Eyes," by Hardy, is one of Hardy's earlier books. It is the forerunner of the sad strain which appears so powerfully in "Tess of the D'Urbervilles." It is not nearly as powerful as "Tess," but is not disfigured by the coarseness of Mr. Hardy's last book. Why did the author not continue in the strain of "The Trumpet Major?" That book was an exquisite picture of homely life. The heroine of "A Pair of Blue Eyes," Elfrida Swanscourt, is an example of the sad effects of a timid, unthinking girl innocently pledging herself to a man whom she subsequently

finds she does not care for. When the real man appears, by a series of unfortunate incidents, for which she is partly to blame and partly not to blame, she loses him. As in all Mr. Hardy's books there are some vivid descriptions of scenery. The episode in which Elfrida saves Knight's life is most romantically told. We run no risk in saying that the book will repay reading, although we cannot say we enjoyed it nearly as much as others of Mr. Hardy's books.

In "Maelcho" the Hon. Emily Lawless has drawn on the materials accumulated by her for her History of Ireland in the History of the Nations Series to draw a gruesome picture of Ireland at the end of the sixteenth century. Horror on horror's head accumulates in a way that would please Froude himself. The book is decidedly worth reading but is positively painful in its description of Irish savagery and English brutality. Not much good is done by disinterring these long dead crimes. There is no pleasure in reading about them, but, all the same, the book is original and strongly written.

"Red Rowans" is a charming Highland story. Unfortunately, it is a sad one. There is so much sadness in life itself that one shrinks from it in fiction. But we most strongly recommend this book to any person who wishes to read descriptions of lonely Highland scenery, alas! so far away—and to make the acquaintance of a good, true girl. There is a vein of comedy running through the work in the character of the old Highland woman who asks the young lady visitor to air her grave clothes before the fire for her. We are very happy to recommend this book most cordially.

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### Children's Books.\*

"THE Carved Lions," by Mrs. Molesworth, will be found a very acceptable present for any little girl, if there are any little girls left, of any age between ten and fifteen years. Older readers, who remember "Carrots" and "The Little Waifs," will be glad to recognize in this new book of Mrs. Molesworth, a worthy companion of these two former favourites. The plot of this story turns on the unhappiness of a little girl left by her father and mother at a boarding-school. The happy home life with her mother is feelingly contrasted with her wretchedness at school. The book is prettily illustrated and will doubtless have quite as great a success as Mrs. Molesworth's other so well known children's story.

"Ruby's Vacation" is the fourth of a series but is quite complete of itself. It is the work of an American writer, and very nicely done. It is intended for older children as well as for younger, but it is a child's book. One fault we have to notice which is seen in many American books of the same class, the characters use bad grammar, phrases such as "real good" grate upon the reader. It almost seems as if the writers thought that children used bad grammar when young, and that when they grew older they lost their vulgarisms. We are glad to say that this book is not so disfigured by such mistakes as others we have met. On the contrary, the grown up people speak very nicely. The book will be found to be a very nice present indeed for little girls.

"Two Little Pilgrims' Progress," by the author of "Little Lord Faunteloy," is an account of the visit of two children, twelve years old, to the Chicago Fair. But our readers must not imagine that this statement of the nature of the book is all that there is to be said for it. How the children came to go there, and what they did when they got

\* "The Carved Lions." By Mrs. Molesworth. Illustrated by L. Leslie Brooke. London: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.

"Ruby's Vacation." The fourth volume of the Ruby series. By Minnie E. Paull, author of "Ruby and Ruthy," "Ruby's Ups and Downs," "Ruby at School," etc. Boston: Estes & Lauriat. 1895.

"Two Little Pilgrims' Progress: A Story of the City Beautiful." By Frances Hodgson Burnett. (Illustrated) New York: Charles Scribner's Sons Toronto: Wm. Briggs. 1895.

"Jerry's Family: A Story of a Street Waif of New York." By James Otis, author of "Toby Tyler," "Jenny Wren's Boarding House," "The Boy's Revolt," etc. Illustrated by George Foster Barnes. Boston: Estes & Lauriat.

"Melody." By Laura E. Richards. Illustrations by Frank T. Merrill. Boston: Estes & Lauriat. 1895.

"Hildegarde's Neighbours." By Laura E. Richards, author of "Queen Hildegarde," "Hildegarde's Holiday," "Captain January," etc. Illustrated. Boston: Estes & Lauriat.

\* "The Herons." By Helen Shipton. Macmillan's Colonial Series. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.

"The Crooked Stick or Polly's Probation." By Rolf Bolderwood, author of "Robbery Under Arms," "The Miner's Right," "Nevermore," etc. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.

"Winifred Mount." By Richard Bryce, author of "Miss Maxwell's Affections," "The Burden of a Woman," etc. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.

"A Pair of Blue Eyes" By Thomas Hardy. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.

"Maelcho: A Sixteenth Century Narrative." By the Hon. Emily Lawless. (Colonial Library). London: Methuen & Co., 36 Essex St., W.C. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.

"Red Rowans." By Mrs. F. A. Steel, author of "Miss Stuart's Legacy," etc. London and New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd. 1895.