

walks of life. It makes up a wonderful setting forth of the power of the Christian faith, an ideal commentary on 1 Cor. xv. 55, etc. The illustrations are chiefly portraits of the world's Christian worthies. A book of comfort for old people. N. B.

Travels in Three Continents—Europe, Asia and Africa. By J. M. BUCKLY, LL.D. New York: Hunt & Eaton. \$3.50.

Still another of these marvellously beautiful productions. To those who delight in travel here is a perfect treasure-house. The most interesting countries in the world are visited, including the complete circle of the Mediterranean. Here we have the ancient and the modern, the Pagan and the Christian and the Moslem, the European, the African and the Asiatic, the Egyptian and the Hebrew, the Greek and the Roman, with the more modern Spaniard, Moor, Italian, Arab and Turk, all portrayed by the gifted and racy pen and keen wit of Dr. Buckly. Scores of gems of the engraver's art fill in the pages, and young and old may find profit and delight from these beautiful pages. N. B.

The Condition of Labor; An Open Letter to Pope Leo XIII. By HENRY GEORGE. New York: Sterling Publishing Co. 30 cents.

This is a defence and exposition by Henry George of his single tax theory. The spirit of the work is admirable, and many of its principles are unexceptionable. But the final practical outcome—the single tax—still remains questionable. (1) Can it be equitably applied? (2) If equitably applied, will it to any appreciable extent relieve the tax upon labor? (3) Will it at all help to solve the problem of the distribution of the wealth produced by the country? Mr. George seems to take for granted: (1) That the exact amount of the unearned increment of value in land can be easily ascertained. (2) That being so ascertained it can be justly appropriated for public use. (3) That if so appropriated it would be amply sufficient to meet all public expenses. (4) That in consequence labor would be so much richer. Now it seems to us that each of these positions admits of very serious question. Take No. 4. If the present economic conditions result in the reduction of the labor wage to a bare subsistence, will the lessening of the cost of subsistence improve matters? Take No. 2. The present holder of land may have bought it last year at full market price, which includes unearned increment. If the Government take possession of that increment, they rob him, and his neighbor who invests in the savings bank escapes. But, after all, what is this unearned increment? So far as the farm lands of this country are concerned it is simply *nil*. Nine-tenths of them to-day would not sell for as much as it has cost to bring them to their present state of cultivation—clearing, draining, fencing, breaking and removing stumps and stones, and erecting necessary buildings. The whole apparent strength of the argument arises from the contemplation of land prices in the city, and especially in cases where the owner is not the user. In all other cases the increment of value is due not so much to general causes as to the enterprising and intelligent expenditure of capital to build up business. N. B.

Present-Day Primers. London: The Religious Tract Society.

The publishers say in their announcement: "Under this general title the Committee of the Religious Tract Society propose to issue a series of educational books, suited as far as possible for ministers, teachers of Bible classes, and for all general readers who take an intelligent interest in subjects connected with biblical study and with religious life and work."