

gist. He possesses also the rare faculty of making the dead past live again, lit up with a thousand natural touches which we seek in vain from books of archæology or history. In the volumes under review he selects for illustration the transition period of the seventh century of our era, when Egypt was snatched from the failing grasp of the Byzantine Empire by the fiery vigour of the Khalif Omar. The conflict between Christianity and the spreading Moslem superstition or rather fanaticism, and of the complications arising therefrom, are set forth with all the skill of the accomplished author of "Uarda." Jew and Greek, Christian and Moslem, meet and mingle in these crowded pages as they did in the thronging streets of Memphis in those early centuries so long ago. Like all Ebers' writings, these volumes give much historical information in a very entertaining form.

Aphrodite: A Romance of Ancient Hellas. By ERNST ECKSTEIN. From the German by MARY J. SAFFORD. New York: William Gottsberger. Toronto: Williamson & Co.

This is an idyl of ancient Greece, with, towards its close, some tragic episodes. It is, we judge, of inferior interest to Ebers' graphic pages, noticed above, and inferior, too, to Eckstein's stirring stories of the Roman period. The period, religious ideas, etc., are so remote from our sympathies that it is hard to awaken an interest in the subject. The pictures of artist life in Hellas, are, however, vivid and of classic grace.

Organic Union of Canadian Churches, with a Comparison of Authorized Standards. By the Very Rev. JAMES CARMICHAEL, M.A., D.C.L., Dean of Montreal.

This is a beautiful irenic work of the Canadian Churches. It breathes a spirit of ardent longing for the union of the three leading religious bodies of this country, and points out the special facilities for such union existing among us and the advantages certain to accrue therefrom. It

enumerates the many and vital points of agreement between these Churches as compared with the points of difference. We heartily concur in the devout prayer with which the treatise closes: "May God grant that as points of agreement are more clearly recognized and their value realized, a spirit may be born which may lead us to approach our differences as the long-parted brothers of the one household of faith, anxious at least to do what is best for the glory of God."

Curiosities of the Bible. By a New York Sunday-school Superintendent, with an introduction by Rev. J. H. VINCENT, D.D. Sixtieth Thousand; 8vo. Pp. 606. New York: E. B. Treat. Toronto: W. Briggs. Price \$2.00.

This book is the summary of a large experience in devising methods and incentives to interest children and those of older growth in Bible study. It contains such questions or exercises as will excite in the mind of Bible readers and seekers after truth a curiosity to know how, when, where, and under what circumstances the facts contained in this volume occurred. To secure these, and other kindred matter, a vast range of Biblical literature has been searched. The maps are of much value, some of the blackboard diagrams are suggestive, but the smaller illustrations are inferior to the rest of the book.

Some Aspects of the Blessed Life. By MARK GUY PEARSE. New York: Phillips & Hunt. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$2.00.

The visit to Canada of the genial and accomplished author of "Daniel Quorm" has been a means of blessing to thousands. His fervid piety, his deep spirituality, his practical methods of Christian work, have greatly aroused the churches which have enjoyed his ministrations. A new interest in his writings has been created. None will read those writings without great spiritual profit. These papers on the "Blessed Life" will be a means of grace to all who thoroughly peruse them.