

At the siege of Curzola the cunning people arrayed all the women and children in armour, and made such a brave showing on the walls that the Turkish corsair, thinking the garrison too strong, sailed away.

Few things impress one more than the omnipresent records of battles and sieges and war. The Adriatic is bordered with very small towns with immense fortifications, as, e.g., Ragusa, once a powerful port, from which is said to come the word "Argosy." Even to-day the women are the workers and tillers of the soil, staggering up and down the steep mountain paths under enormous burdens, while the men swagger around the streets talking of war and rumours of war.

"Montenegro," says Mr. Gladstone, "has a heroic history whose traditions surpass those of Marathon." Yet its agriculture is conducted much as it was in the time of the Trojan wars. Each man is compelled by law to carry a loaded revolver, and a whole arsenal of other weapons—even the waiters in the inns. Its capital is the smallest, and one of the most impregnable, in Europe. One can stand in its centre and throw stones into its suburbs.

The visit to Stamboul, Smyrna and Salonica, Beyrout and Damascus, and the old land of the Nile, are a series of graphic sketches. Our author made his own kodak pictures, and very clever and clear-cut ones they are.

Syria From the Saddle. By ALBERT PAYSON TERHUNE. New York: Silver, Burdett & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

There is a perennial interest about travel in the Lord's Land. Most books of Syrian travel have been written by ministers. This is one by a wide-awake layman who is apparently a physician. He writes in a very fresh and unconventional manner, more in the humorous style of Mark Twain or Dudley Warner than of clerical authors. He gives a graphic account from a eye-witness of the massacre of Damascus, strikingly analogous to the more recent massacres in Armenia. He makes short work with some of the legends and traditions as to the sacred sites. He enjoyed with peculiar advantage the Bedouins' life, sharing their tents and enjoying their hospitality. He is somewhat severe on the so-called "cranks" of Palestine and Jerusalem, but, we think, scarcely just to some whose character has been vindicated by an American court.

The book is cleverly written and well illustrated, but rather lacks sympathy with the sacred associations of the land of the Bible.

Queen Victoria; Her Life and Reign. A Study of British Monarchical Institutions and the Queen's Personal Career, Foreign Policy, and Imperial Influence. By J. CASTELL HOPKINS. Toronto: The Bradley-Garretson Company. Quarto, pp. 500. Fifty-six illustrations. Cloth. Price, \$3.00.

There can be no better preparation for the intelligent celebration of the sixtieth anniversary of her Majesty's accession to the throne than the study of the great events of her reign. It is only by contrasting the achievements of its close with the promise of its beginning that we can realize the vast stride which has been made in Christian civilization. This progress has been, in very large degree, due to the personal influence of our gracious sovereign.

Of the many lives of Queen Victoria, we know of none which for range and scope equals that prepared by our own fellow citizen, Mr. J. Castell Hopkins. His avowed purpose is to treat at the same time the domestic details of her Majesty's life, the historic environment of her career, and the imperial influence of her personality and work. The latter conception is only now emerging into due prominence, and is but another illustration of the unity and solidarity of the British Empire throughout the world.

This book is, in some important respects, really a history of Great Britain and the Empire for the last sixty years, with the added interest of being the life-story of the sovereign whose benign rule embraces more dependents than any other, except the Emperor of China. All readers of Mr. Hopkins' "Life of Mr. Gladstone," will recognize his conspicuous qualifications for preparing this work. He is at once thoroughly loyal to Canada and to the Empire, and to those principles of popular liberty, which, during the Queen's reign, "have broadened down from precedent to precedent." There is much of romance, of mingled joy and sorrow, of happy wedded life, of long and lonely widowhood in this life; much of marvellous growth of the Empire, development of its resources, and of the social, intellectual and industrial progress of humanity.

A feature of much interest is Lord