

HOURS WITH THE BIBLE. By Cunningham Geikie, D.D. New York: John B. Alden.

Had Mr. Alden's enterprise been confined to the re-publication of the works of this eminent divine alone, at forty cents apiece, it would have deserved general public recognition and support. No one who has read "The Life and Words of Christ,"—and its readers are many in Canada—will require information as to the character of Dr. Geikie's work. In six volumes of "Hours with the Bible" he covers the whole of Old Testament history. In the author's own words, his aim has been "to bring all that can be gathered from every available source to bear upon the illustration of the Scriptures," to supply "a People's Hand-book to the Bible," a pleasant, attractive illumination of its pages by the varied lights of modern research and discovery."

This means that Dr. Geikie has brought to bear upon his work the resources of a wide Oriental scholarship, a notable ability to draw and establish deductions from obscure data, and a literary style that has won for its possessor a distinguished position among writers of distinction. To Dr. Geikie, as much as to any man, do we owe the broadened, deepened, and elevated tone that Bible study has taken during recent years. It is not irreverent to say that the consecration of such signal literary ability as his not only sheds a new interest over the Biblio-historic page, but invests its study with a dignity in the eyes of the people which possibly might not have been as perceptible before. "Hours with the Bible" is the most successful attempt we have seen to connect the utterances of the prophets with the historical events that were happening about them, and with which these deliverances had necessarily an important connection. For fulness and pertinence of information we prefer Dr. Geikie's work to any commentary now in existence.

TORONTO "CALLED BACK" FROM 1886 TO 1850. By Conyngham Crawford Taylor, H. M. Customs. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

This volume, as we learn from the introductory chapter, was written partly for recreation and partly for personal and family gratification, which circumstance indicates its probable literary character so accurately that we need do little more than add that a considerable portion of its three hundred and fifty pages are occupied by somewhat irrelevant excursions made by the author to see Dublin, Donnybrook Fair, a Naval Review at Portsmouth, an Art Treasure Exhibition at Manchester, the Opening of Parliament by the Queen in 1856, the Treaty of Paris Peace Rejoicings, and the like, together with a consideration of Fenianism in Manchester, and the Death of Prince Albert. Nevertheless, when our author settles down to business, and talks about Toronto during the past thirty-six years, he gives us, in a gossiping way, much information of interest, with a backbone of statistics and some account of the various institutions of the city and its commercial progress. Altogether a useful compilation of the newspaper variety of literature with a strong personal element in it, that must be most interesting to the author's relatives, and may not be without its uses to posterity.

The following are the books mentioned in the editorial note "On Some Recent Novels":—

"My Friend Jim," by W. E. Norris. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. "Pepita Ximenez," from the Spanish of Juan Valera. New York: D. Appleton and Company. "Irene," by the Princess Olga Cantacuzène-Altieri. London: F. Warne and Company. "The Secret of Her Life," by Edward Jenkins, author of "Ginx's Baby," etc.

MUSIC.

Toronto: Published by the Anglo-Canadian Music Publishers' Association. "FLOW, STREAM, FLOW." (Song.) By Milton Wellings. This song has a very popular "Flow" about it, after the usual manner of its well-known composer.

"CALVARY." (Sacred Song.) By Paul Rodney. A fine song in one part, with a strong resemblance to Gounod's "Nazareth," to be had in three keys.

"HESPERUS." (Waltz.) By Luke Wheeler. A pleasing addition to the dance music repertoire.

We have also received the following publications:

- ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. November. New York: Macmillan and Company.
- BOOK BUYER. November. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.
- OVERLAND MONTHLY. November. San Francisco: Overland Monthly Company.
- COSMOPOLITAN. November. Rochester: Slight and Fiddes.
- ART AMATEUR. November. New York: 23 Union Square.
- ANDOVER REVIEW. November. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, and Company.
- MUSICAL HERALD. November. Boston: Musical Herald Company.
- QUERIES. November. Buffalo: C. L. Sherrill and Company.
- MACMILLAN'S MAGAZINE. November. London and New York: Macmillan and Company.

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