

## THE BOOK PAGE

*Books for review to be sent to the Editor, TEACHERS MONTHLY, Room 87, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.*

The price of *PIONEER LIFE IN ZORRA*, by Rev. W. A. MacKay, D.D. (William Briggs, Toronto) is \$1.50, not \$1.75, as mentioned through inadvertence in the October *TEACHERS MONTHLY*. We understand that the book is selling rapidly.

*BIBLE CHARACTERS, Ahithophel to Nehemiah*, by Rev. Alexander Whyte, D.D., 241 pages, cloth, gilt top, \$1.25. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto.

No living preacher has sounded the depths of the human heart as has the minister of Free St. George's, Edinburgh. "He knew what was in man"—John testifies of the Divine Teacher of Nazareth, and because He knew, his arrows went straight to the mark and sank deep. Dr. Whyte's chief characteristic is his marvellous insight into human nature, and especially those hidden chambers where a man communes alone with himself—and with the devil or God. When one adds to this a wide sweep of the fields of literature, a vivid imagination, and a command of strong speech, there is a rare combination. Dr. Whyte's "*Bible Characters*" are real men and women.

"I am not going to whitewash and rehabilitate Ahithophel. I am neither to extenuate nor am I to denounce Ahithophel. I shall put myself back into Ahithophel's place and I shall speak of Ahithophel as I see and feel Ahithophel to have been. I shall do my best to put myself first into Ahithophel's place, and then into David's place, and then I shall tell you exactly and honestly what I see and feel, first as to Ahithophel and then as to David." The twenty-two Bible characters of this volume include such as Mephibosheth, Elijah, Job, Jonah, Isaiah, Belshazzar, Esther. It is indeed a series of mountain-top studies.

*OUR LIVING GENERALS. Twelve Biographical Sketches of Distinguished Soldiers.* By Arthur Temple (with twelve full page half-tone portraits), 198 pages, gilt top, \$1.25. Andrew Melrose, London. (From Copp, Clark Co., Toronto.)

"If a limber's slipped a trace,

'Ook on Bobs;

If a marker's lost 'is place,

Dress by Bobs.

For 'e's eyes all up 'is coat,

An' a bugle in 'is throat,

An' you will not play the goat

'Under Bobs."

So "Tommy Atkins" thinks and speaks of Lord Roberts, "the most popular soldier

in the British army, a little wiry Irishman, as brave as a lion, a born leader of men, and, at the same time, as kind and considerate towards those who serve under him as Irish gentlemen generally are." The sketches of Lord Roberts, Lord Wolseley, the Commander-in-Chief, Sir Donald Martin Stewart, Lord Kitchener, and the rest, are done in a brisk and lively fashion. There is nothing tedious. The pace all through is the "Quick March," and it will make our boys prouder Britons to look into the faces of these "soldiers of the Queen," and to read of their exploits. Perhaps they will take fire, too, from Lord Wolseley's wit and wisdom, when he says:—"Every young soldier who wants to get on should try hard to be killed whenever there is an opportunity."

*KIT KENNEDY, COUNTRY BOY*, by S. R. Crockett, 384 pages. Paper, 75c., cloth, \$1.25. William Briggs, Toronto. Kit was from Galloway, fresh in Edinburgh, a raw student. He is rushing up the common stairway to his humble lodgings—it is his very first day. A pretty girl, whose home was on one of the landings, steps aside to let him pass. "Now the Galloway code of manners demands a salutation from wayfarer to wayfarer as each crosses each in the tranquil travel of life. So Kit smiled broadly upon the pretty girl. 'It's a fine day!' he said, 'but I wadna wunner gin it cam' on a wee saft!' A faint smile flickered on the girl's face. She finished buttoning her glove with as much care as if that were her only object in life. She did not reply, and as soon as Kit had passed she began to descend. 'That's curious,' said Kit to himself; 'she never answered me!' He thought the matter over in his mind. It troubled him not a little. 'Maybe the puir lassie's deaf!' he concluded within himself."

This is in Crockett's characteristic style. Kit is the brilliant, eager country boy, fighting his way to high honors in school and University, his heaviest weight an inheritance of weakness and wilfulness, and of shame, too, from a brilliant but scapegrace father, who deserted his young wife before Kit was born. "The Taking of the Buik," is one of the strongest bits in a strong book, the old Covenanting Elder "keeping warship," with the sheriff's officer in the house. The "Orra Man," too, Kit's wayward father, who re-appears as a tramp and manages in devious ways and in stolen hours to coach the unsuspecting boy in his classics for a bursary, is well drawn. But Mary Bisset, the pretty Edinburgh infant-school mistress, who, from love of Kit and from inborn righteouness, fights him into a solid manhood, is the most charming of all. The book will be read right through.