

study of the Maronites of Lebanon, among whom we have travelled, and whose churches we have visited, the Syrians of Kurdistan, Malabar and Urumiah, and describes the monasteries of the Nitrian desert and their rich "ûnd" of Syriac manuscripts.

The record of the early manuscripts and translations of the Syriac New Testament are full of illustrations of the special providence of God in preserving His own word. What gives an absorbing interest to this version is the fact that the words of Jesus therein recorded are the very words which fell from the blessed lips of Christ Himself, for this Syrian tongue, there is strong reason to believe, was the one in common use in Palestine in the time of our Lord. It is, in the words of Mr. Hastings: "This venerable and valuable version of the New Testament, so widely diffused, so long preserved, and so highly prized, which, through the patient efforts and accurate scholarship of the learned translator, is here laid before the reader in an English dress."

There is, the translator remarks, "an artless simplicity, directness and transparency of style—the propriety and beauty of the conceptions of Christ and His followers—that serve to chain attention and hold the mind spell-bound to the book." It is important as an aid in determining the exact reading of the Greek text, and as a memorial of the early Christian churches, says Mr. Hastings, it deserves to be held in everlasting remembrance.

An interesting sketch is also given of the Rev. Dr. Murdock, of New Haven, the accomplished scholar by whom this translation was made.

The translation is, as becomes the theme, dignified and simple in style, adopting the stately and somewhat Archaic diction of the authorized version, to which it is closely parallel. The colophons or tail-pieces of the several books are interesting as indicating the ancient traditions, as e.g.: "Completion of the Holy Gospel as published by Matthew, and which he published in Hebrew in the land of the Palestineans;" "The announcement of Mark,

which he uttered and proclaimed in Latin at Rome;" "Completion of the Holy Gospel—the announcement of John the Evangelist, which he uttered in Greek at Ephesus," and so on. Dr. I. H. Hall contributes a valuable appendix on the Syriac translations of the New Testament, which will be of much interest to Biblical scholars.

Songs of the Common Day, and Are!
an Ode for the Shelley Centenary.
By CHARLES G. D. ROBERTS. Toronto: William Briggs. Methodist Book Rooms, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$1.25.

The many friends of that accomplished Canadian poet, Professor Roberts, of King's College, Windsor, N.S., will welcome another volume of his poems. The familiar description of Canadian landscape and incident will come home to the hearts of his readers with still greater power than the beautiful classic themes of many of his earlier songs. In a series of exquisite sonnets, each clear-cut as a cameo, Professor Roberts, illustrates the varied aspects of Canadian life. The themes are sometimes homely, as befit "Songs of the Common Day," but the treatment elevates them to a realm of poetic beauty. The scenery of his beloved Tantramar is reproduced with photographic fidelity. We have space to cite but one of these beautiful sonnets, that on "The Salt Flats."

Here clove the keels of centuries ago
Where now unvisited the flats lie bare.
Here seethed the sweep of journeying
waters, where
No more the tumbling floods of Fundy
flow,
And only in the samphire pipes creep slow
The salty currents of the sap. The air
Hums desolately with wings that seaward fare,
Over the lonely reaches beating low.
The wastes of hard and meagre weeds are
thronged
With murmurs of a past that time has
wronged:
And ghosts of many an ancient memory
Dwell by the brackish pools and ditches
blind,
In these low-lying pastures of the wind.
These marches pale, and meadows by
the sea.

We have also been specially pleased with "The Tides," "The Rain,"