

## THE BOOK PAGE

*"That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit."*

JESUS CHRIST AND HIS SURROUNDINGS. By Rev. Norman L. Walker, D.D. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. Pp. 240. Price, \$1.25.

Very modestly Dr. Walker says, "The object aimed at is not to add another to the many lives of Christ. It is simply to describe His environments."

The promise is cautious, the performance surprisingly excellent. "Things new" are brought forth from "the treasury" in the way of a vivid description of our Lord's earthly surroundings, and how these shaped and moulded both the Christ Himself and His teachings. The facts are the familiar ones. It is the new method of arranging them that gives us, as by a readjustment of lights and shades, a fresh and original picture of the "Teacher sent from God."

The facts of the Gospel are brought out not chronologically, but grouped under such chapter-headings as "The Natural World," "The World of Spirits," "The Outlying Races," "His Kinsfolk and Friends," "Among the Poor," "With the Rich," "The Children," "Sin," "Sorrow," "Death."

If we mistake not, this book has in it something of the germinating force of Bruce's "The Training of the Twelve." It will give the start to many a sermon, and Sabbath School teachers and Bible students generally will find in it rich veins hitherto unwrought and now opened up.

CHARLES KINGSLEY, AND THE CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST MOVEMENT. By C. W. Stubbs, D.D., Dean of Ely. London: Blackie & Sons, (Toronto: The Copp, Clark Company.) Pp. 199. Price 90c.

Charles Kingsley is still a name to conjure by. There is a breezy out-of-dooriness about him that holds even thoughtless boys through such stories as "Yeast" and "Alton Locke," which, but for the saving grace of that same out-dooriness, would be mere pamphlets on social and political topics.

The man rings out in his well-known song:

"Three fishers went sailing away to the west,  
Away to the west as the sun went down."

He loves the open air, the fens, his wild Devonshire coast, the sea; but, because he is through and through so human, he loves men even better. A veritable prophet and apostle of manliness Kingsley was, and one who made the poor man's woes his own.

This book, which is the latest issue in The Victorian Era Series, whilst written by a personal friend and admirer of Kingsley, and

giving bright glimpses of the man, treats chiefly of his relation to Christian Socialism, that movement in which Maurice, his "Dear Master" and Kingsley took so forward a part and which, rising upon the ruins of Chartist a half-century ago, proved to be the forerunner of the great co-operative movements of the present time. The battles of the village parson, for such Kingsley was, with the rich and sometimes with the poor themselves for more cleanly abodes and better wages and fuller liberty for working people, form an interesting chapter in the progress of social reform, and the story is here well told.

OUR SISTERS IN INDIA. By Rev. E. Storrow. Pp. 251. Price \$1.25. IN AFRICA'S FOREST AND JUNGLE, or Six Years Among the Yorubans. By Rev. R. H. Stone. Pp. 282. Price \$1.25. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company.

Both of these volumes are handsomely made and profusely illustrated. The lion in the jungle which adorns the cover of the last named will set every boy's blood running faster. The book will soon be worn out in a Sabbath School library. It is one of the "Stories of Missions" series, which embraces also such volumes as Gale's "Korean Sketches," and Chamberlain's "In the Tiger Jungle." The bit of barbarism which Mr. Stone describes is in Western Central Africa. His savages speak the Yoruban language and have been brought recently into prominence by the contest for African empire between England and France.

A main merit of the author is that he has eyes to see and tells what he sees so that we see it too. There are wild stories of hunting in the jungle, of waylaying and capture, of battle and of human sacrifice; but there are quiet domestic scenes as well, the home life of the people, the hard lot of the women, the solitude and trials of the missionary, the triumphs of the grace of God. It is the sort of a book to win young people for missions.

The thirty illustrations, many of them full-page, which adorn Mr. Storrow's "OUR SISTERS IN INDIA," are of themselves most instructive, representing, as they do, many phases of Hindu life and of missionary work. The author has given patient study to his subject at first hand. He was eighteen years a missionary of the London Missionary Society at Calcutta. He is of the thoughtful and thorough sort, and the book enters into all the varied details of the Hindu woman's lot, beginning with what the ancient code of Manu has to say, tracing her story as she appears in history, in literature and in daily life, and giving a full account of the various agencies for the amelioration of her condition and their success. It will be found a useful book by women who are interested in missions or, when, shortly, the Young People's Societies are to take up as one of their monthly topics "The Work of our Woman's Missionary Societies."