

ever spoken on this earth. No other teacher ever had such wisdom or His teaching such life. His words were seeds which fell into hearts and grew into lovely things in character. Some one compares the words of Jesus to a handful of spices cast into this world's bitter waters to sweeten them.

(2) Every one is immortal until his work is done. The enemies of Jesus tried to take Him to kill Him, but for some reason they could not do it. They did not know it, but there was a divine restraint which kept them from touching Him. "His hour was not yet come"—the hour when His work would be finished. If we are faithfully doing God's will, no one can touch us until our hour comes. God will protect us.

(3) Those who reject Christ in this world cannot be with Him in heavenly glory. One of the sweetest promises in the gospel is that in which Jesus says He has gone to prepare a place for His disciples and will come again to receive them, that where He is there they may be also. But only one who has loved and followed Him here can follow Him in glory.

(4) Christ is the fountain of life. There is a legend of the Valley of Chambrá, which says that everything was withering and burning up in the drought, and the oracle said that if Rene, the princess, would die for her people, there would be abundance of water. She was willing to make the sacrifice and was buried alive. Then from her grave there poured forth a river of pure water, and soon every plant was revived and the thirst of every living creature satisfied. The heathen legend illustrates the sacrifice of Christ. This world was perishing for water. Everywhere there was sorrow. Lives were fainting and dying. Every beautiful thing was withering under sin's blight. There was but one way to restore blessing and good. The Son of God, the Prince of glory, must die for His people. "I am ready," He said and He offered Himself a willing sacrifice. All the blessing and beauty of the world come from this great act of love. Christ freely gave Himself, laid down His life, that it might become life to the world. Every sweet flower of hope is watered by the streams from the cross.



## Looks Into Books.

### Converse with the King.

This is a daily text book, original in plan and admirable in execution. The author is the well-known Brantford pastor, Rev. W. H. Porter, M.A. The fact that this is the fourth edition is evidence of the fact that it has met a felt need on the part of busy people who through its help are able the better to hold "converse with the King," as well as of Bible students. The plan of the book is thus clearly set forth by the author: The object of such a book is not to supersede Bible study, but to entice it; to give to many toilers in their spare moments the result of days and weeks of labor; to supply prepared food for hungry souls, ready help for private devotion, family worship and public service, and *especially to aid young people*; to provide also a ready hand-book for ministers and students. To enhance its effectiveness the readings have been arranged responsively. Indeed it was the discovery of this feature of Scripture—"deep calling unto deep," or, as Spurgeon put it, "the deeps in God answering to the deeps in man"—that first suggested this volume. The book is splendidly gotten up by the publisher, William Briggs, Toronto.

### The Ministry of Intercession.

Among modern writers of devotional books, the chief place must be given to Rev. Andrew Murray. He is a voluminous author, and all his volumes maintain a remarkably high standard of excellence. This new volume, "The Ministry of Intercession," is a plea for more prayer, and, if we mistake not, will be even more influential than anything that Mr. Murray has yet written. To all who observe the "Quiet Hour" we commend this penetrating, helpful, spiritual volume. We know of nothing on the subject of prayer more likely to awaken desire after fellowship with God, and develop trust in His goodness. Mr. Murray has this to say on the question of time for devotions:

"During the Regent Square Convention two years ago the subject came up in conversation with a well-known London minister. He urged that if so much time must be given to prayer, it would involve the neglect of the imperative calls of duty. 'There is the morning post, before breakfast, with ten or twelve letters which must be answered. Then there are committee meetings waiting, with numberless other engagements, more than enough to fill up the day. It is difficult to see how it can be done.' My answer was, in substance, that it was simply a question of whether the call of God for our time and attention was of more importance than that of man. If God was waiting to meet us, and to give us blessing and power from heaven for His work, it was a short-sighted policy to put other work in the place which God and waiting on Him should have."

The book has 226 pages and is published by the Fleming H. Revell Company, of Toronto. Price 75 cents.

### The Red Axe.

In this story, S. R. Crockett takes his readers away from his native "grey Galloway land" to the feudal Germany of three centuries ago. The times of the robber dukes when gentlemen "lived by the saddle" furnish Mr. Crockett with splendid opportunities for his vivid portraiture, daring situations, and strong lights and shadows. The story opens with a most weird and thrilling night scene. The Black Duke rides home to his castle from one of his desperate foraging expeditions. A procession of boisterous men-at-arms, laden with booty, follows in his train. The hapless prisoners are kept at a trot by the frequent and remorseless pricking of the soldiers' spears. Through the castle gates they pour into the wide court-yard, where preparations are at once begun for a summary trial of the victims. The play of the torch-light upon the frowning towers, the hurrying of men, the clash of arms, the deep baying of the blood-hounds in their kennels in anticipation of their horrid meal, combine to make a scene wonderfully realistic and powerful.

High up on the Red Tower, the little son of the Red Axe, the hereditary executioner, watches the strange proceedings going on below. He sees a little girl about to be thrown to the dogs, and saves her life by threatening to cast himself down unless she is spared. These two lives are made the central figures in a thrilling romance. The lawlessness of the times, the general belief in the black arts, deeds of valor of many kinds, are all used to throw into bold relief the chief actors. Helene, especially, is a beautiful character, all the more beautiful on account of the dark and stormy surroundings in which she is placed. There are twenty-six illustrations by Frank Richards that lend additional power to the vivid word-pictures of the author. The Copp, Clark Company are the publishers. Price, paper, 75 cents; cloth, \$1.50.

### Charles M. Sheldon.

Two or three years ago, the author of "In His Steps" was unknown to fame; to-day his books are circulated by the hundred thousand. This phenomenal success is not to be accounted for by the literary quality of the books, but rather from the high spiritual purpose which characterizes them all. Mr. Sheldon has no sympathy with that practical form of infidelity which considers the teachings of Jesus too lofty to be seriously regarded as a standard for modern life. All his energies are expended in showing the practical nature of the Christian religion. And the fact of the popularity of his writings is proof that there are multitudes who are attracted toward higher applications of the Gospel.

The conditions of the production of these Sheldon books are altogether unusual. They are the author's successful attempt to solve the problem of the Sunday evening service. They were written under the stress of pastoral work, and read, chapter by chapter, to his congregation in Topeka, Kansas.