

is an admirable present for any intelligent young person.

Mito Yashiki: A Tale of Old Japan. By ARTHUR COLLINS MACLAY, A.M., LL.B. Pp. 456. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Williamson & Co.

We reviewed some time ago in this MAGAZINE Mr. Maclay's valuable "Budget of Letters from Japan." He was amply qualified for writing both these books by a prolonged residence in Japan, in the employ of the Japanese Government. In this volume much historical information and insight into the social, moral and religious condition of the Japanese is given in the form of a feudal romance, descriptive of the decline of the Shogunate and of the downfall of the power of one of the old feudal families. The marvellous changes which have taken place in Japan in the few years which have elapsed since the light of western civilization has broken on its shores lend themselves easily to the dramatic, and in part tragic, plot of such a tale as this. Mr. Maclay, who is himself the son of a Methodist missionary in Japan, is in keen sympathy with the progress of Christianity, and gives a striking picture of the manner in which the true Light of the World is illuminating the ancient "kingdom of the rising sun." His book is in this respect a striking contrast to the caricature of Christianity which recently ran its course as a serial through a popular magazine.

The Dawn of History: An Introduction to Pre-Historic Study. Edited by C. F. KEARY, M.A., F.S.A. Pp. 367. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.25.

The origin of civilizations, of institutions, of languages, has become the subject of profound and thorough investigation. A copious literature on this theme has sprung up, which few except specialists can be expected to master. The object of this book is to put the general reader in possession of the results of these studies—to give a *resumé* of

the 'most recent additions' which science has made to the sum of knowledge, and to explain the method or mechanism of the science by which these results are reached. The growing interest in the subject is shown by the fact that this is the second and enlarged edition of this treatise. It treats in a lucid and interesting way the first traces of man, the palæolithic and neolithic stone ages, the bronze and iron ages. Much of this fails to carry conviction to our mind. We believe that in many cases these different "ages," so-called, were contemporaneous, as they now are among the Eskimo; that there were frequent relapses into barbarism, as Schleimann has shown that there were by the different superimposed "horizons" of various ages on the site of Troy. Of greater value, we think, are the chapters on the growth of language, and the evidence it affords of the origin of nations, early social life, village communities, early religions, etc. The mythologies, folk-lore, religious superstitions, etc., of primitive races are also picture-writing, growth of phonetics, etc., are also adduced as illustrating this important subject.

Foreign Missions: Their Place in the Pastorate, in Prayer, in Conference. Ten Lectures. By AUGUSTUS C. THOMPSON. Pp. 469. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$1.50.

We had the pleasure, some years ago, of reviewing in this MAGAZINE Dr. Thompson's admirable work on "Moravian Missions." The present volume is every way worthy of the distinguished reputation the author has won for thought and study on missionary themes. It is significant of the growing recognition of this important subject that a foreign missionary lectureship has been established at the Theological Seminary of Yale College. Of that lectureship this volume is the outcome. It is a book to awaken from lethargy and to kindle enthusiasm. It discusses with intense earnestness the true sphere of the ministry, the missionary obli-