

CURRENT LITERATURE.

The Least of all Lands (1). Unlike too many books of travel there is a distinct purpose, to which the writer steadily and praiseworthy adheres. He tries to promote a better understanding of the topography and history of Palestine. There are some useful and well-executed sectional maps and plans, and much of the letterpress marks the writer as a man of natural and acquired powers of observation. But a casual visit to the Holy Land is not enough to enable the most skilled traveller to obtain accurate and reliable information upon disputed points. With a certain nonchalance the author informs the reader that "when I visited Palestine last year, I had no thought of writing a book about it." Yet he expresses surprise at the thoughtlessness of the statement by the late Dean Stanley who, be it remembered, had several years of special preparatory study before he traversed the same ground under peculiarly favourable circumstances. Modesty, especially in respect to the Holy Land, becomes casual travellers. The book in parts may be read with profit, and furnishes side-lights to Scripture truth.

THOSE who have it in their power to visit Egypt, and to see for themselves the charm of the Nile, the beauty of its table-lands and deserts, the ruins of temples and tombs, we advise to put into their carpet-bags, together with Murray's *Handbook*, Canon Bell's *Winter on the Nile* (2). Those not so fortunate as to spare the time or money for such a trip, will find this attractive book a capital companion while studying stereoscopic views of Egypt. This country should be more studied, because it is second to none in interest, on account both of its wonderful history and its close connection with so many instances in Bible story.

(1) *The Least of all Lands*: Seven Chapters on the Topography of Palestine in relation to its History. By William Miller. Blackie & Son, 1888.

(2) *A Winter on the Nile in Egypt and in Nubia*. By the Rev. Charles D. Bell, D.D. Hodder & Stoughton, 1888.