

Book Notices.

The Lost Atlantis and other Ethnographic Studies. By SIR DANIEL WILSON, LL.D., F.R.S.E., President of the University of Toronto. Author of "Pre-Historic Man," etc. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo. Pp. vi.-411. Price \$4.75.

This posthumous volume by the late President of the Toronto University has a pathetic interest. It occupied the last days of its distinguished author, and his pen dropped from his hand while correcting its proofs. The book consists, to use the words of Sir Daniel, of "a few carefully studied monographs, linked together by a slender thread of ethnographic relationship." Some of these are of special interest in view of the current celebration of the discovery of America.

The first paper is that on "The Lost Atlantis," the ancient empire fabled to have been sunk beneath the Atlantic waves. Sir Daniel carefully examines the evidence upon the subject and concludes that if any Atlantis ever existed, it was probably the continent of America itself. It is not impossible, he states, that Phœnician inscription or Assyrian gryfons or Tyrian shekels may still be discovered among the treasures of the Montezumas, but until such evidence is forthcoming, the legendary Atlantis must remain a myth.

"The Vinland of the Northman" is the subject of another essay. Here we are on much more solid ground. While Sir Daniel makes short work of the Dighton Rock inscriptions and of the Legend of Norembege, he recognizes the historic value of the evidence of the early Norse occupation of Greenland and discusses fully their occupation of the mainland. A paper on "The Trade and Commerce of the Stone Age" is of exceeding interest to us as Canadians, and shows the extensive travel and migration of pre-historic times.

Other articles, in which the ar-

chæological learning and research of Sir Daniel Wilson are shown, are those on "Pre-Aryan American man;" and "The Æsthetic Faculty in Aboriginal Races," as evinced in their pottery, carving, picture writing and even their language. "The Huron-Iroquois," with whom the French and English settlers came into such frequent and deadly conflict, are justly described as the typical Indian race, typical in bodily strength and vigour and in truculent ferocity. Other essays are of a more technical character, but all are of permanent value.

The volume is characterized by the scientific accuracy and the fine literary form with which Sir Daniel invariably treated whatever subject on which he wrote. Of him as of Goldsmith it may be said, "Non tetigit quid non ornavit."

On Sledge and Horseback to Outcast Siberian Lepers. By KATE MARSDEN. New York: Cassell Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs. 8vo. Pp. 291.

We published some time ago in this magazine Mr. Stead's graphic sketch of Miss Marsden's wonderful two thousand miles' ride across Siberia. We have here that lady's volume giving a detailed account of her philanthropic labours. She exhibits the characteristic energy of "A King's Daughter," of which order she is a member. She has been especially successful in awakening the interest of royal personages. Her book is dedicated, by special permission, to the Queen, who has taken "a deep interest in Miss Marsden's work among the lepers, and recommends her to the attention and consideration of any persons whose assistance she may have occasion to require in connection with her benevolent effort in the cause of humanity." The Empress of Russia has also lent her countenance to this work, on which Flo-