

## PROPHETIC IDEAS AND IDEALS.

Our readers will many of them be interested in reading the following review of Dr. Jordan's volume on the Old Testament prophets. It appeared in an English journal and is from the pen of Dr. A. Duff who is an old Testament teacher of large experience. We quote:

The friends of Dr. Jordan in Yorkshire will find his book—full of cameo portraits of the great Hebrew preachers—to be of the sort that lifts the reader into a vision of the march of God across the ages. It is not one "standpoint" that Dr. Jordan counts precious, but he would help us all into a full, loving, esteeming fellowship with the ever-breathing light and truth.

So he tells of Amos, and on to Micah, of Nahum and onwards to the great Jeremiah, of the wonderful men of the Exile, and then of Haggai and down to Joel. And be it noted that while he has some hesitations and due cautions, as are natural in a representative of an old conservative and highly-organized "Kirk" yet to him the Levitical and Aaronitic sacerdotalism is clearly the religion of the later and lower levels of post-Exilic formality.

The introductory pages, admonishing the preacher that "helps" of the right kind are precisely those which demand most severe and conscientious work from one's self, are worthy of the fine regiment of studies that follow in twenty-eight short, bright chapters, each one like the kernel of a nut. Amos, "the God-inspired man," leads. Then the genetic study of Hosea lets us feel how each successor drank in the life breath of his forerunner, and so ran on farther. Then of Isaiah, Dr. Jordan says: "You say no man can see God and live. . . True. . . This man did not live; in a very deep sense he died." But we need not quote; these gems shall be read. On Zephaniah we learn how loss of faith in the goodness of God's universe comes through lack of oneness with it. In "Nahum" a little more credit might be given to Assyria. "Habakkuk" has some fine bits. "Micah" is perhaps the best little essay in the book for its grip of keynotes. "Jeremiah" is a Rembrandt portrait, chiaroscuro, of the man of sorrows. "Ezekiel" has a good analysis of "priestism." But the missionary ideal in the "Servant of Jehovah," p. 255, is a diamond.

Our neighbors to the South have always failed in their treatment of their Indian wards. In every respect their policy and ours have been diametrically opposite with equally divergent results. On this side the line peace and good will between whites and red men; on the other side frontier wars, scalping and slaughter. The Congregationalist, a Boston denominational paper, gives an interesting sidelight in the following: "We sympathize with the Indians who resent the renaming of their children in our Government schools. Those who urge this reform seem utterly to lack the imagination which the Indian often has expressed in beautiful names, and even the ability to translate them into good English. Besides the lack of decency in ignoring family relationships. Such persons would, if they could have forced the Greeks to change the name of their goddess, the ox-eyed Juno into plain Betsy Jane."

## Literary Notes.

When Angels Come to Men, by Margaret E. Sangster. \$1.00. Fleming Revell Company, Toronto. Any book that comes to us with Margaret Sangster's name as author is sure to be attractive. Particularly to girls her writings appeal, though this new book will prove as desirable to the mothers as to the daughters. We have here eleven short chapters in which angels and their visits are discussed, chiefly from a Biblical point of view. Perhaps the most beautiful chapter is that entitled The Fullness of Time in which is described the annunciation. The book is charmingly bound in dull blue, with box to match.

The frontispiece of the June Literary Collector is a picture of a seventeenth century print shop, while the opening article is one by Ernest Dressel North on The Book Treasures of an Angler. Selections are also given from William London's Introduction to the Use of Books which will delight lovers of seventeenth century English. The following will show the quaint wording and spelling. "He was a wise man, that in his vacancy from publique Services, took his old acquaintance Industry, and so conversed with his Study and Books, as well as company. And who will not say, that good Books and good Company are the very Epithymy of Heaven; a solace when the greatest adversity threatens." Literary Collector Press, Greenwich, Conn.

The resignation of Hon. A. G. Blair of his portfolio as Minister of Railways, and from the Government, was the sensation at the Capital last week. It is stated, that Hon. Mr. Fielding will be acting Minister until the close of the session, of which it is now expected will be greatly prolonged if the proposed railway legislation is pushed through to a finish.

Our good friend of the Acton Free Press has completed twenty five years as Publisher of that attractive paper. Country journalism in Canada has no better representative than the Free Press; and we congratulate friend Moore most heartily on his clean record of a quarter of a century. His paper reflects credit on himself and on Acton.

Mr. James Croil, Elder of St. Paul's Church, Montreal, attended the General Assembly at Vancouver, took an intelligent part in its proceedings, and on the 6th inst sailed from Hong Kong! In itself there is nothing surprising in this. But it is surprising that a man of over four score years should take the journey to the Pacific coast, and then proceed on a voyage of thousands of miles and do it all like a man of forty years. Mr. Croil is possessed of great physical strength, is a good traveller, and will greatly enjoy the trip. It is a pity the General Assembly did not see its way to appointing a Commission to visit our Indian and Chinese missions, as suggested by Mr. Croil. He would have made an exceedingly useful member of such a Commission, although it is improbable he would have accepted the position.

## Sparks from Other Anvils.

United Presbyterian: There is nothing in the heaven or the earth more sure than this that the favor of God is for the upright in heart. And he who for his great name's sake will bear the cross shall in the midst of the glory wear the crown. The reward of the righteous may be slow in coming; but the interest on that which has been committed to his care is compounded and when the day of recompense arrives the blessing will be all the greater.

South Western Presbyterian: We may acquit Czar and cabinet of any implication in or justification of such massacres, but the speakers were right in laying the blame ultimately at the door of unjust and discriminating laws, and neglect of the Greek priesthood to disabuse the minds of their ignorant flocks of a foolish and injurious superstition of a bloody ritual, viz: mingling blood of Christian infants with that of Passover lamb!

New York Witness: The truth is that knowledge has not in itself any moral quality; it has no necessary connection with goodness. Many a learned man has been wicked and base, and many an ignorant man has been noble and saintly. The only knowledge that can elevate humanity is the knowledge of God which comes from personal acquaintance with Him: the knowledge of God that springs from the love of God and results in greater love to God.

Michigan Presbyterian: If a stereopticon lecture on Sunday evening does not attract people to Christ, all right. If it merely draws the crowd and gratifies their taste for amusement, is it worth while? That is a question that each pastor must carry to God for a settlement. No man can decide it for his brother. But for a minister, simply because he sees that some neighboring minister can attract the floating population in this way to feel obliged to adopt the plan is to belittle the sanctuary and the God of the sanctuary.

Christian Guardian: The project for a Government railway to Winnipeg, practically an extension of the Intercolonial westward to that point appears from the despatches to be gaining favor at Ottawa. We confess that it appeals to us as deserving of careful consideration at least. Under proper safeguards and with businesslike management a railway built and worked by Government, connecting Canada on the Atlantic with Canada on the Pacific, would, we believe, be a great factor, not only in the business life, but in the national life of this country.

London Presbyterian: We are among those who fully appreciate the blessing which Free Trade has been to this country. Under it our commerce has become world wide, our Empire has grown, our people have obtained cheap food, employment has increased, and wages have risen. To disturb the policy which has conferred such benefits is a very grave proposal. But circumstances have to some extent changed the basis of the controversy of half a century ago, and it may be that the drawing closer together of the Colonies and the Mother Country warrants some reconsideration and revision of tariffs. It may also be that there are other and better ways of reaching that object.