

consciousness do not find it hard to believe that the things necessary for the earthly pilgrimage will be added.

—In another part of this paper, under the heading "Information Wanted," will be found a communication from Rev. Dr. Saunders of Halifax, and a list of names of ministers and others (now deceased) who have been connected with the Baptist denomination in these Provinces. The purpose of publishing this list Dr. Saunders himself explains as will be seen. We call attention to it here that it may not be overlooked, and we hope that if any of our readers have in their possession the information sought they will forward it to Dr. S. at once, since if the information is to be of any service, it must be received within a very short time.

—Rev. Dr. Saunders informs us that he hopes to have his History of the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces in the booksellers' hands in the course of about a month. This announcement, we are sure, will be hailed with general satisfaction. We have been favored with advance sheets of the work, and such cursory examination as we have been able to make of it, creates a very favorable impression as to its value. Many of our people will find the book profoundly interesting, and it will, we are sure, richly deserve place and perusal in every Baptist home in these Provinces. We have not space and time at command for any more extended reference to the book this week, but shall have something more to say about it in our next issue.

—The writers who belittle the work of Christian missionaries in heathen countries are for the most part men who find their inspiration in their prejudice against Christianity and whose alleged facts are the joint product of their ignorance and their imagination. The men who really know what the work of Christian missionaries is, and who are able to appreciate the value of its results, tell another story. Among recent testimonies to the value of missionaries and their work may be mentioned that of Sir William Mackworth Young who has been for thirty-eight years associated with the Government of India, and who has been Chief Commissioner of Coorg and Lieut. Governor of the Punjab. Sir William Mackworth Young is reported as having said in a recent address delivered before the Church Missionary Society: "I take off my hat to the humblest missionary that walks a bazar in India. He is leading a higher and grander life and doing a grander work than any other class of persons who are working in India. If the natives of India have any practical knowledge of what is meant by Christian charity, if they know anything of high, disinterested motives and self-sacrifice, it is mainly from the missionary that they learn it. The strength of our position in India depends more largely on the goodwill of the people than upon the strength and number of our garrisons, and for that goodwill we are largely indebted to the kindly, self-sacrificing efforts of the Christian missionary. It is love that must pave the way for the regeneration of India as well for England's power."

—It has been discovered that the American Standard Edition of the Revised Bible is remarkably favorable to Baptist views, and the charge has been made that the translation is "the fruit of unpardonable sectarianism." This reminds the *Sunday School Times* of a story; "The story is told," says the *Times*, "that when Andrew Jackson, as President of the United States, was visiting a certain town in New England, the local authorities were mortified that no salute of cannon had been fired. They determined to make a handsome apology, and drew up a formal statement, specifying some thirteen reasons for the absence of the salute. The first reason set down was that they had no cannon. 'Never mind the other twelve reasons,' the President interrupted. 'There are,' says the *S. S. Times*, 'a number of valid answers to the charge that the American Revision is the product of unpardonable (Baptist) sectarianism, but perhaps one that will appeal as fully as any to the American public is the fact that, among the survivors of the American Revision Committee who edited the final version of 1901, there was not a single Baptist brother left in the American New Testament Company.' The only way to account for the 'unpardonable sectarianism' must be to conclude that when it comes to translating some words and phrases of the Greek New Testament, Greek scholars generally show a leaning to Baptist views. If the American committee had translated all the words of the New Testament the 'sectarianism' would doubtless have been still more apparent and 'unpardonable.'

—Sir Gordon Spriggs, the Premier of Cape Colony, is a Baptist and the son of a Baptist minister. He was born at Ipswich, England, in 1830, where his father was minister for nineteen years. With the other Colonial Premiers, Sir Gordon has lately been in London, and the *Baptist Times*, in its issue of July 18th, prints along with his portrait an interview had with the Cape Colony Premier. He is described as a quiet, self-contained man, iron grey and with an evident indication of iron determination underlying his courteous demeanor, carrying his seventy-two years lightly and looking as if he may yet put in much more work for his country. Like so many others, the

present Premier of Cape Colony went to South Africa for the benefit of his health. That was in 1858. He entered the Legislature in 1869 and became Premier in 1878, but went out of office in 1881, since then he has been in and out of office several times, and is now for the fourth time Prime Minister, his present term of office dating from 1900. Sir Gordon stands by his Baptist principles, though the denomination is weak in Cape Colony, and when at home attends the Baptist church at Wynburg, a suburb of Cape Town. He is hastening back to Cape Colony to resume his political duties, rejoicing in the fact of having succeeded in averting the suspension of the constitution of the colony, and he goes back, we are told, "to pursue that policy of 'trusting the people' upon which he has acted throughout his long career as a statesman, and which he believes will best conduce to the promotion of peace and prosperity in the colony over whose political destinies he is called to preside."

From Halifax.

July in the city has been unusually cool and not favorable for out-door pleasures, common here in this month on the land and on the harbor. As usual there has been a large coming and going of tourists. The number, however, on account of the cool weather in the States, has not been as great as last year, and mild sensations have been produced by the coming of ships from Africa with their freight of returned soldiers, most of whom on reaching the city deport themselves in an orderly way. Others, however, have been demonstratively careless in their habits in public. Military life develops vigorous, courageous morality in those who take the right course, and an extreme laxity, if not recklessness, in those who take the wrong course.

On Friday, the 18th, there was a sudden death of a member of the congregation of the First church. Mr. J. A. Chipman has been for about thirty years actively engaged in the commercial life of the city. He was what is called "the picture" of health. I had cheering visits from him when recently suffering from sciatica. After a few days confinement to the house he passed away suddenly. He was the grandson of the late Rev. Thomas Handly Chipman and the son of Deacon Samuel L. Chipman of Nictaux, who was one of the excellent of the earth. Mr. J. A. Chipman professed religion in early life but never connected himself with any church in Halifax. He was genial and well liked by his friends, especially those who were intimate with him.

The Rev. Nell Herman, a graduate of Acadia and Newton, now pastor of the church at Rat Portage, N. W., is visiting his friends in the city and Dartmouth. Like all who have gone from this part of the world, he is full of intelligent zeal for his adopted country.

The First church has not yet succeeded in engaging a pastor, but does succeed in securing supplies of varied and excellent talent. Of late the church has listened to the Rev. A. Cohoon, the Rev. E. T. Miller and the Rev. J. C. Sycamore, the latter for two Sundays. He has been for six years a very successful pastor at Brockville, Ontario. He possesses in a high degree the pastoral gifts and graces, has fluency of speech, simplicity of utterance, is orthodox to the core and has cultivated the passion for winning souls to Christ. He looks to be a man of about thirty years of age. He has been heard with much satisfaction. Nor is this the last treat in the way of supply. Doctor W. W. Weeks is engaged for next Sunday. Rev. Dr. Thomas of Toronto for the following. Then comes Dr. Austin DeBlois and Dr. Jordan of the Western States, formerly of P. R. Island. But, notwithstanding these good supplies, the church is suffering for the lack of pastoral labor; not in the matter of raising money, for that goes on as usual, but in the matter of keeping up the public services and the spiritual life of the church members. The Lord "appointed pastors" and "supplies" are a modern invention.

REPORTER.

New Books.

PRIMITIVE SEMITIC RELIGION TODAY. By Samuel Ives Curtiss.

This book gives much interesting information in respect to the religious beliefs and customs of the Semitic people as they are found in Syria, Palestine and Arabia today, and the information which it affords must be valuable for the interpretation of the sacred Scriptures, especially the Old Testament. Dr. Curtiss has brought to the work here undertaken a preparation secured by four years of special study under Prof. Franz Delitzsch of the University of Leipzig and twenty years of experience as an interpreter of the Old Testament as Professor in Chicago Theological Seminary, supplemented by considerable periods devoted to travel in Syria and Palestine, with visits to Egypt and the Sinaitic Peninsula. He has enjoyed, he believes, very exceptional opportunities for studying the peoples of these countries, especially in respect to their present religious beliefs and customs and in comparison with the Biblical and other records of the ancient Semites. In respect to the value of these in-

vestigations a great deal will obviously depend upon the correctness of the conclusion that certain beliefs, or superstitions, and practices found among the Semites today are essentially the same as those which existed among their ancestors thousands of years ago. No doubt such beliefs and practices have a persistence among oriental peoples, which seems very wonderful to the western mind, but whether this assumption of the persistence of religious customs among the Semitic people will fairly bear all that Dr. Curtiss would rest on it is a question on which there may be much difference of opinion. The book however is a highly interesting contribution to a subject of special importance in the light of present day inquiries and theories, and the path of investigation which Professor Curtiss has pursued will doubtless be followed by others. After some preliminary account of the author's travels in the East and the methods of his investigations, we have chapters on The Sources of Primitive Semitic Religion, The Conception of God and of local divinities and deified men among the modern Semites, and on their ideas of the physical and moral relation of man to God. There are also very interesting chapters on High Places and Sacred Shrines; Priests and Holy men, the Vows and Annual Festivals. The interest of the book culminates, however, in its later chapters which discuss the subject of Sacrifice and its significance among modern Semites, especially the significance attaching to the use of blood in connection with religious and semi-religious rites. Professor Curtiss' investigations on this subject have disposed him to question and reject the theory of W. Robertson Smith, that the sacrificial meal was the oldest form of sacrifice, since he finds that among the Semites of today the really significant thing in sacrifice is considered to be the shedding of the blood of the victim before the face of the Lord or the Saint or local divinity. The book is handsomely printed on excellent paper with wide margins. Finely executed illustrations and a number of appendices add to its value.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$2.00 net.

EXTEMPORAL PRAYER: Its Principles, Preparation and Practice. By Rev. Marshall P. Talling, Ph. D.

A really helpful book on this subject will be welcomed by many, and especially by ministers and others whose duty it is to lead in public or in family prayer. Theoretically the importance of prayer is very generally acknowledged among Christians, but the sum of practical benefit derived therefrom is far less, it is to be feared than it might be if a more reverent and intelligent attention were given to "its principles, preparation and practice." This book of Dr. Talling's will, we think, be found very helpful by those who give it careful perusal and study. The author earnestly disclaims any intention of offering or recommending artificial aids to devotion. He insists rather on the recognition of certain great truths and principles, and also on a preparation of the heart and mind as essential to prayer in its full expression and its richest results. Extempore prayer, as he uses the term, does not mean the impromptu utterance of an unprepared person, but rather prayer which has received suitable preparation as to its purpose, its substance and its form. The principles or conditions of effective prayer are discussed, and instruction given in reference to the preparation for public prayer, common faults in public prayer are pointed out and some excellences noted. About seventy-five pages are devoted to a collection of prayers, numbered and classified, for illustrations and models. The importance of the family altar and the prayer-meeting is emphasized and suggestions helpful in respect to the maintenance of these means of grace are offered.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.25, net.

THOSE BLACK DIAMOND MEN. A Tale of the Anthracite Valley. By William Futney Gibbons.

This book is a collection of a number of short stories rather than one story, and yet the connection between the stories is so close as to give them the character almost of a continuous narrative. It reflects the life of the coal-miners and their families. The conditions are for the most part hard and unattractive. The tragic element is not wanting. The miner's life with its risks and sacrifices develops heroism, but the heroism for the most part is quite of the unconscious sort. "He who leads a rescuing party in a mine disaster is no hero in his own eyes, just an average sort of man who may need to be 'brought out' himself to-morrow." Evidently Mr. Gibbons has written in this book not merely from hearsay or imagination, but from close and prolonged study. Many of his characters are portrayed with vivid and dramatic power. "The characters only are fictitious," he tells us, "the characteristics are real. Such things as are here recorded happen every day. For fifteen years the lights and shadows of these pages have fallen across the author's path as he has gone among these people."—This is a book one is glad to have the opportunity of commending to people who are in search of good wholesome summer reading. It is a story in which the boys and girls, as well as the older folk, will find delight and education. It is clean, wholesome and profitable.

—Fleming H. Revell Company Toronto. Price \$1.50.

THOUGHTS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF THE YEAR. By the Right Rev. Henry G. G. Mould, D. D., Bishop of Durham.

Most of the fifty-two short chapters comprised in this book, the author tells us, were originally contributed in monthly succession to the *Sunday at Home*. The remainder have been written since to complete a series for the Sundays of the year. The author tells us that the preparation of "this simple work," as he calls it, has been a refreshment to his own heart and soul. This is not to be doubted, and his readers doubtless will have a like experience. These sermonettes, as they may be called, for each is founded upon a passage of Scripture, embody much sound instruction, and much that will be found helpful and stimulating to the spiritual life.

—Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price \$1.00 net.