

Current Literature.

New Books and Periodicals

THE NEW ERA. By Dr. Josiah Strong. New York: The Baker & Taylor Co.

THIS second work by the author of "Our Country," which is now in its 100th thousand, is an application of fundamental principles to the solution of some of the greatest problems of the times. The writer finds in history two governing principles, which are its key—two lines of progress along which the race has moved. As these lines spring from man's constitution, they are permanent and indicate the direction of the world's future progress. In this light the writer interprets the great movements of the times, and points out what he believes history, reason and revelation alike show to be the solutions of the great problems of the age. Dr. Strong's consideration of present and future Christianity is fully as effective as his review of history. The crying needs of humanity are distinctly portrayed, and the necessity of a purified Christianity for doing the world's work is brought home to the conscience of the Church, with the firm hand of a skillful physician who sacrifices to heal. The great demand of this transitional period of religious history is for popular education in the laws of eternal truth. This demand is so adequately supplied by Dr. Strong's book, that all who realize those truths as opposed to the misleading dogmas of scholastic theology, will certainly desire to extend its circulation. At this particular time, and in the direction needed, this book is in itself a liberal education.

PROVERB DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE. Edited by Rev. Edwin Rice, D.D., Toronto: James Bain and Son. Cloth, 25 cents.

THIS new work has been prepared for the many who want a comprehensive, concise, handy Bible Dictionary, giving the approved results of the latest exploration and Biblical learning. Bible readers, lay missionaries, members of Christian Endeavour Societies, guilds, leagues, King's Daughters, Sunday schools and other organizations are often at a loss in their labours from the lack of an inexpensive Bible Dictionary fairly abreast of present Biblical scholarship, and free from denominational bias, a Dictionary for handy and quick reference, and where they can find just the handy book they want, cheap, portable, and up to date as to information and interpretation. It has two coloured maps; tables of measures, weights, time, and money; lists of parables, and miracles in the Bible, the names and titles of Christ, and chronological tables. It gives a description of the important persons, places, countrics, and customs, birds, animals, trees, plants, historic events and of many other things in the Bible. It contains a list of obsolete and obscure words found in the Bible, with their meaning, and the most complete table of the Journeyings of the Israelites to be found in any Dictionary. So far as Bible scholars have had an opportunity of pronouncing upon its merits they have been unanimous as to its accuracy and astonished at its comprehensive yet concise compass.

HOW THE CODEX WAS FOUND. A Narrative of Two Visits to Sinai. From Mrs. Lewis' Journals, 1822-1823. By Margaret D'Alroy Gibson, Cambridge: Macmillan & Bowes. New York: Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.

THIS little volume possesses an unusual charm. It is the product of two rarely gifted women, one of whom writes the journal and achieves the finding of the Syriac Codex, and the other, her own twin sister, puts the story together with some other matter collected by herself. There is nothing more romantic in the history of letters, certainly not in the dry, matter of fact department which relates to the finding and deciphering of manuscripts. These two sisters set out alone across the desert for Sinai, partly because they wished to visit a shrine that had been visited in his lifetime by the husband of one of them, partly because Rendel Harris's great find at the same place had fired their ambition to see if there might not be, as he believed, something more to be found. Both of the sisters were exceptional scholars, one having her specialty in Arabic, and Mrs. Lewis in Syriac. They were both at home in modern Greek. The story is told in selections from her journal, made by her sister, Mrs. Gibson. The narrative describes two journeys to Sinai; the first by the sisters alone. They returned with 320 photographs of the Syriac palimpsest, which was to convince the scholars at Cambridge that a genuine find had been made. In the second journey Dr. Bensley, Rendel Harris and Mr. Burkitt, of Cambridge University, go with them, and explore the original manuscript in the monastery where it had reposed so long unopened and unknown. The present narrative is composed from Mrs. Lewis's journal, and from her contributions on the subject to the Presbyterian Churchman (English). The story has been told substantially in our columns before.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SCIENCE OF THOUGHT. By S. S. Hebbard. Revised Edition. Madison, Wis.: Tracy, Gibbs & Co.

THIS little book has apparently been revised to introduce into it some allusion to the prevalent Hegelian tendencies of thought. Like everything else in the book, these allusions are very scant but very dogmatic. The author has the shortest possible method of deciding a point. In general he has the matter settled and his opponent ruled out of court by his centrifugal rhetoric before we are altogether clear what the argument is that has proved so decisive. He starts with a theory of consciousness which, instead of identifying subject and object, like Hegel, separates them into the two elements of consciousness of self or subject and consciousness of mental states or activities, which are immediately referred to self as their cause. Yet in the doctrine of perception we are assured that the mind in

perception is conscious of perceptive states as *not active but passive*, or, in other words, of modifications not produced by the mind itself. Both of these cannot be true. The first shuts him up in idealism; the second with some further exposition may give a theory of objective perception. Space is discussed with a similar dogmatic brevity which ends in chaos by a shorter path than any philosopher ever took before. In fact, Mr. Hebbard's lightning speed in effacing himself is something to admire and to be recommended to all speculators who have a short method to expound.

HOW TO BRING TO LIVE FOREVER. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

THIS is a little book by the Rev. J. M. Hodson, a Methodist minister resident at Belleville, Ont., and the teaching is that the kingdom of heaven must have its starting point and its first experience in this world, a great truth which in its popular sense the writer says has been missed.—"No description was ever given by our Saviour of heaven after death, but of heaven before death. He never wearied speaking. He left the curtain drawn against human eyes to the one, but to the other he opened wide 'the door.'"

It is stated in the Athenaeum that the Palestinian version of a few verses of Exodus has lately been found on a Hebrew palimpsest in Egypt, and acquired by the Bodleian Library.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE (Boston), makes a good selection of articles from the magazines. The lover of science, literature, biography, and social gossip is catered to judiciously and well.

"TRUE RICHES" is the title of Francois Coppee's new book, one of the most delightful of this popular author's works, which is to appear in Appleton's dainty Summer Series.

MR. NORMAN LOCKYER'S observations among the temples of Egypt will bear fruit in his forthcoming book, "The Dawn of Astronomy."

Of the Presbyterian Church of England's Monthly publications the Messenger for the Children and the Monthly Messenger and Gospel in China are ever welcome. The August numbers of these periodicals are very interesting.

THE biography of Mr. John MacGregor (Rob Roy), who died a twelvemonth since, is expected to be ready for publication about the end of the year. It is being prepared by Mr. Edwin Hodder, by request of the family.

THE Presbyterian Churchman for August, in addition to other valuable articles has two which will be read with interest, one on the Free Church Jubilee and one on Mr. Collingwood's Life of John Ruskin, both in capital spirit and good taste.

SHERIDAN'S great-grandson has placed a mass of valuable unpublished Sheridan papers at the disposal of Mr. Fraser Rae, and these will be used to expand Rae's "Life of Sheridan," which has long been out of print. Among these papers are many interesting letters which passed between Sheridan and his first and second wives, a correspondence with the Prince Regent, and a copy of "The School for Scandal" corrected by the author.

PROFESSOR W. ROBERTSON SMITH has been giving attention to the recently discovered Peter Gospel, and to Dr. Martineau's article upon it. It is believed that he will embody his conclusions on the character and genuineness of the document in a contribution to one of the forthcoming monthly reviews. In view of Professor Smith's well-known opinions on some of the earlier portions of the Old Testament, his article will attract considerable attention.

THE Expository Times, Toronto, Fleming H. Revell Co., for August, is up to the standard of excellence and interest usually maintained by this popular magazine. "The Original Poem of Job," an article which appeared in last month's Contemporary Review, from the pen of Dr. E. J. Dillon, receives chief editorial attention in a series of pithily written paragraphs. "Our Lord's View of the Sixth Commandment," by Rev. Dr. Gloag; Exegetical and homiletical notes, and a number of short expository papers are fresh and interesting contributions.

THE TRUTH, edited by James H. Brookes, and published by the Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto, is a magazine published monthly, containing matter of special interest to an increasingly large number of readers. The August-September number is a magnificent compilation of the Niagara Conference for Bible study. The papers read are given *in extenso*, and the variety of subject by able ministers whose names are of continental note, lends a peculiar value to this issue, not merely as an interesting record of an interesting conference, but as a compendium of interesting opinion clearly and forcibly expressed.

By arrangement with the Messrs. Plou, the Messrs. Scribner will publish the authorized English version of the memoirs of the late Chancellor Pasquier, edited by the Duc d'Audiffret-Pasquier and entitled "A History of My Time." The work, which is of equal interest and importance, is the intimate account by an eyewitness and participant of the great public events, together with familiar and striking portraits of the men concerned in them, during the Revolution, the Consulate, Empire and Restoration periods. It will be issued in three volumes, with portraits, of which the first is announced for early publication.