

pendent £17,500,000 in famine relief alone, and, thanks to railways, irrigation system, etc., this one at least of Indian plagues is all but impossible.

In striking contrast to

The wealth of Ormuz and of Inde,
Or where the gorgeous East with richest hand
Showers on her kings barbaric pearl
and gold,

with its ivory palaces and jewelled halls, is the grinding poverty of the millions of India. Bishop Thorburn states that the average wages for a man and his family is five cents a day, about fifteen dollars a year. Ten millions of the people never sleep under any covering but the sky, and millions wear no clothing but a cotton loin cloth. One cause of this poverty is alleged to be the hoarded up wealth of the native princes; another the imperfect cultivation of the soil; but these great evils in time are likely to be greatly mitigated.

There is a vein of humour running through Bishop Hurst's chapter on the Battle of the English with the Indian Languages, and the Agonies of English Style. In the English schools the natives found their literary style on the classic models of Addison and Goldsmith, and the way in which native students speak in a mosaic of high-flown English and classic quotations is at least rather remarkable. A more practical education is now being dispensed, and some of the native scholars speak English with a proficiency, a propriety and an eloquence seldom surpassed by those to whom the language is vernacular. The book is handsomely illustrated with about three hundred engravings, many of them of etching-like delicacy, illustrating every phase of Indian life.

The People's Bible; Discourses on the Holy Scriptures. By JOSEPH PARKER, D.D. Minister of the City Temple, London. The Apostolic Life as Revealed in the Acts of the Apostles. Vol. I. 366, Vol. II. 361, Vol. III. 365. Price \$1.50.

New York and London: Funk and Wagnalls, and 86 Bay Street, Toronto. Methodist Book Rooms: Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

Dr. Parker's three volumes on the Apostolic Life form an admirable sequel to his previous volumes on the Inner Life of Christ. The history of those early and heroic ages of the Church will this year be more profoundly studied throughout Christendom than ever before. Two million of teachers throughout the world, with the best light which they may be able to focus on the pages, will be studying week by week that wonderful story, and ten or twelve millions of scholars will be following, with more or less thoughtful care, their instructions.

What a sublime record this book of the Acts contains! "Here," says Dr. Parker, "all is movement, progress, controversy and spiritual conquest; the Church rears its marvellous form amidst the tumults of the world's most exciting history, and names rise almost visibly out of social obscurity into the noblest fame known to human society. The book may be compared to a battlefield, in which the contest lies between a feebleness socially contemptible and a strength socially imperial and invincible."

The study of abstract doctrine is seldom attractive, especially for young minds; but here, as compared with concrete facts, it becomes intensely interesting and instructive. As a specimen of Dr. Parker's vigorous and striking method, note this extract from his description of the effect of Pentecost upon Peter, Acts ii. 22-36: "This is a full length portrait of Peter himself. If we see clearly the effect upon Peter, we shall have a true idea of the effect of the outpourings of the Holy Ghost upon the entire Church. God shows us things that are too great to be seen in their completeness in illustrative and easily comprehended parts. Fix your minds, therefore, upon Peter. We know that he has been up to this time ardent, impulsive, unbalanced, enthusiastic, cowardly. Since we last saw him,