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The Lord Mayor's banquet is one of the most notable annual events of the great British metropolis. One of the features of the grand banquet which causes it to be anticipated with especial interest is a speech from the Prime Minister, in which he is supposed to deal with public and international interests and to set forth the policy of the government in reference to some of the more important public issues of the day. In his Guildhall speech of Nov. 9, Lord Salisbury dealt with several matters affecting the interests of the Empire from within or from without. He spoke of the Diamond Jubilee celebration and read a telegram from the Queen expressing Her Majesty's thanks to the people for their marvellous display of loyalty in connection with that event. Lord Salisbury spoke also of the engineers' strike, which has so greatly affected the industrial conditions of the country, and congratulated his hearers that there was a renewed prospect that the Board of Trade's intervention would prove successful. The subject of most popular interest, however, with which His Lordship dealt was the relations of Great Britain and France in West Africa. After alluding to the conditions which had led to keen competition among European Powers for the acquisition of territory in Africa Lord Salisbury said:

"We do not desire unjust and illegitimate achievements and we do not wish to take territory simply because it would look well to paint red on the map. Our objects are strictly business. We wish to extend commerce, trade, industry and civilization, to throw open as many markets as possible and to bring together as many consumers and producers as possible, and to open the great natural highways and waterways of the continent. We wish trade to pursue an unchecked course on the Niger, the Nile and the Zambesi, and in doing these things, while we wish to behave in a neighborly manner and to show due consideration for the feelings and claims of others, we are obliged to say that there is a limit to the exercise of this particular set of feelings and we cannot allow our plain rights to be overridden."

These remarks were greeted with prolonged applause. It was of course impossible for the Premier to pass by unnoticed the "Eastern question," but it does not appear that he had any new light to throw upon that vexatious problem. His Lordship held that if the European concert had failed to prevent Greece going to war, it had at least averted a general conflict in Europe, "a great and praiseworthy achievement." In conclusion His Lordship spoke of the hope that, in place of the great military systems now maintained by the nations, involving immense expense and constant menace to peace, there may gradually come to be a condition of things in which the Powers shall act together in a friendly spirit as to all questions that may arise, "until at last they shall be welded in some international construction which will give the world, as the result of their strength, a long spell of unfettered commerce, prosperous trade and continued peace."

The United States A subject of special interest at present is found in the relations of the United States and Spain.

growing out of the Cuban situation. The feeling of the Spanish people toward the great American republic has taken on a good deal of bitterness. They believe, and probably with a good deal of reason, that the rebellion in Cuba has been kept alive by the encouragement which the insurgents have received from the United States through filibustering expeditions and the supply of arms and ammunition received from that country. There is no good reason to suppose that the United States Government has been any party to the aid thus given to the Cuban insurgents. But the sympathies of the people were naturally with the Cubans, and the geographical situation, as well as the interests of American capitalists and traders, combined to make it exceedingly difficult, if not quite impossible, to prevent the acts which have produced so much irritation in Spain. The attitude of the United States Senate toward Spain and the methods of American diplomacy, it may be said, have not tended to conciliation. There is just now a good deal being said about the probability of war between the two nations. It is the opinion of some well-informed English journalists that there will be war. It is extremely galling to Spanish pride to contemplate the surrender of the last of the splendid possessions, which the nation, in the days of its glory, acquired in the new world. It is said, too, that Spain would find it easier to surrender Cuba as the result of an unsuccessful war with a great nation than to acknowledge her inability to subdue the colony. The government of Spain probably recognizes the hopelessness of the attempt to hold the colony, and would be willing to grant Cuba independence. But the Spanish people do not yet see the matter in that light, and if Senor Sagasta should now decide to withdraw from Cuba, it might induce such an exasperation of popular feeling as would result in revolution and the overthrow of the Spanish monarchy itself.

The policy of President McKinley is doubtless pacific. He will avoid war if he can. But the question, on the American side of it, is a complicated one. Combined interests, with personal and commercial rather than national aims in view are at work. By and by Congress will meet, and who can tell what will happen then?

The Washington Conference. The Premier of Canada and his Minister of Marine and Fisheries, who are now in Washington, have been entertained at a State dinner by President McKinley, and in other respects appear to have met with a very cordial reception at the American capital. The primary purpose of their visit is supposed to be to hold conference with the United States authorities in reference to the Seal question, but it is understood that attention is being given also to other international questions and especially to that of reciprocal trade. The tone of despatches received would indicate a somewhat more favorable attitude on the part of the United States government toward reciprocity than has for some time past prevailed. President McKinley and his government are probably disposed to cultivate friendly relations with this country, and many of our Southern neighbors believe that both countries would be benefited by making the conditions of international trade easier. But in a country where the protective principle has been so constantly encouraged and so highly developed, the result is an extreme sensitiveness on the part of every class, lest in any movement toward freer trade, its particular interest shall be sacrificed. The imperative demand for protection on the part of every section of the people and every industrial or commercial interest, and the habitual submission of Congress to these demands tends to make an enlargement of external trade difficult, and especially so with a country like Canada, which produces scarcely any articles of commerce which are not also produced abundantly in the United States. There can be no doubt, we believe, that the whole continent would be immensely benefited if the currents of trade were permitted to flow freely through all its length and breadth, but the conditions which obtain in both countries, and especially in the United States, are such that the prospect of lowering materially the international tariff wall is not at the present time very encouraging.

Literary Notices.

The Emphasized New Testament. By Joseph Bryant Rotherham. New York: John Wiley and Sons. Price \$2.

This work is described in the preface as "a third edition of the New Testament Translated and Critically Emphasized." With the preceding editions, published in 1872 and 1878, we are not acquainted, but the author tells us that the book, as now presented, has been so thoroughly remodelled as to be practically a new work. The translation follows more closely the Greek idiom than does the Authorized version or the Revised, and in some other respects is more literal. The Greek *Baptizo* and its derivatives are translated *immerse* etc. The Greek text of the present edition is that of Westcott and Hort. As compared with the former editions "the idiom of the translation has been a little softened to make it more suitable for social reading," and we incline to think that the translator might with advantage have gone somewhat farther in that direction. A distinguishing feature of this translation, as the title imports, is the employment in connection with the text of a system of marks relating to emphasis, by which an attempt is made to place the English reader at the same standpoint with the scholar who reads the original Greek. For a considerable class of readers these marks will be of value, and will be the more appreciated as the reader by use becomes accustomed to them. In addition to Scripture references and short notes connected with the text, there are given, in an appendix, in reference to certain passages, longer notes of considerable interest and value. The volume is well bound and its paper and typographical work are of the best. The Emphasized New Testament is a book which the Bible student will welcome as an addition to his library of real value. It forms, we are told, "a part of a larger design, that of the Emphasized Bible."

Inspired Through Suffering. By David O. Mears, D. D. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price 50 cents.

This is a wholesome little book which may be read with large profit by every Christian who knows—and who does not—what trial and adversity mean. The author does not shut his eyes to the darker and sterner side of life. Rather he makes that side prominent. Nor does he sentimentalize, but calls to faith, courage, patience and sympathy. He shows that God has made a way above our troubles, to make each of these a stepping stone to higher service. Such experiences are severe teachers, but the lessons we learn make us stronger to help others and the life that is lived for others is the only life worth living.

The Epic of Paul. By William Cleaver Wilkinson. New York and Toronto: Funk and Wagnalls.

This volume is the sequel of Prof. Wilkinson's Epic of Saul, which was received on its appearance a few years ago with so much favor both by the more critical and the general class of readers. Of the earlier work Bishop Vincent said: "It is a poem to be read and re-read—a poem that will live a century hence." President Alvah Hovey said: "It is a most noble poem: My estimate of it may be inferred from the fact that I have just read it through the third time. Such honor I have paid to no book save the Bible for many years." Mr. Maurice Thompson said: "The poem is a superb piece of work and well worth studying for its truth as well as for its romance." The Graphic, of London, calls it "a finely conceived and powerful poem." President A. H. Strong said of it: "By virtue of its stalwart and unwavering faith, I believe it will live and bless the world. I wish most highly to commend the psychology of the poem. I have never seen Saul's mental processes so graphically or so truthfully depicted." . . . The volume which Prof. Wilkinson has now given to the world will probably and deservedly receive an equally cordial welcome. It is written in the same verse as the earlier poem and well sustains its dramatic interest, nobility of conception and beauty of expression. The action of the Epic of Paul begins with the conspiracy formed against the apostle's life at Jerusalem and leading to his long imprisonment. It embraces the incidents of his rescue from the mob, his speech on the steps of the castle, his removal from Jerusalem to Caesarea, his imprisonment there, his journey to Rome for trial before Caesar and his final martyrdom. The design of the book as a whole is to present a living portrait of "the Apostle to the Gentiles," together with a reflex of his most central and most characteristic teaching. The book will, we doubt not, be pronounced a worthy companion of the volume of which it is the sequel and serve to extend the already distinguished reputation of the author.