

the license allowed the literary artist to cover the skeleton of facts with flesh and blood, and endue it with life and animation. The field thus opened gives very wide scope for the display of literary ability of the highest order, and most satisfactorily has Dr. Withrow met the requirement which his constructive ability had created. He has characters of rare beauty to depict, and many of the sketches would be well worthy of the pen of Ian Maclaren. The book is thus a work of power as well as a work of information, moving the heart, quickening all the nobler elements of spiritual life, and at the same time fixing indelibly in the memory a large number of the fundamental facts of our Canadian and Methodist history.

It is needless to say that neither its Methodist nor its Canadian sympathies have narrowed the spirit of the book. The wider and higher spirit of a universal charity is manifest throughout, and both the United States and Christian denominations (other than his own, including Roman Catholics, are treated with sympathetic justice. "Barbara Heck" should find a place in every Methodist house in the land.

N. B.

*Book by Book.* Popular Studies on the Canon of Scripture. By various authors. Cloth, 8vo. Pp. 666. Price, \$2.00. London, Eng.: Isbister & Co. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co.

These studies originally appeared as Introductions to the various books of Holy Scripture in "The New Illustrated Bible." It is very fortunate that these scholarly essays are placed in a single volume by which a complete survey of questions affecting the sacred canon is so easily accessible. Their character and quality is indicated and guaranteed by the names of the authors, as follows: The Pentateuch and Historical Books are by Professor James Robertson, D.D.; Psalms, by the Bishop of Worcester; Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon, by Prof. A. B. Davidson, D.D., LL.D.; Isaiah, Jeremiah and Lamentations, by Rev. H. D. M. Spence, D.D.; Ezekiel and Daniel, by Prof. Stanley Leathes, D.D.; the Minor Prophets, by Prof. W. G. Elmslie, D.D.; the Synoptic Gospels, by Prof. Wm. Sanday, D.D.; the Writings ascribed to St. John, by R. v. Geo. Salmon, D.D., LL.D.; Acts of the Apostles, by Archdeacon Farrar, D.D.; General Epistles of St. Paul, by Prof. Marcus Dods, D.D.; Pastoral Epistles of St. Paul, by the

Bishop of Ripon; Hebrews and the remaining Epistles, by Canon Maclaren, D.D.; Revelation, by Prof. W. Milligan, D.D.

That studying the Bible "Book by Book" is the best method is now generally admitted, and such a volume as the one before us provides a most excellent guide. The work done is thorough, critical, recent and conservative. We know of no other such work to surpass it. The plan, style, contents, character, purpose, authenticity, analysis and other questions affecting each book are discussed in such a way as will enable the Bible student to pursue his work more intelligently and satisfactorily. We most highly commend this volume.

A. M. P.

*The Father of the Forest and Other Poems.* By WILLIAM WATSON. Chicago: Stone & Kimball. London: John Lane. Toronto: William Briggs.

William Watson ought to have been made poet-laureate. Certainly no English poet since Tennyson's death has the elevated, pure, and noble style of William Watson. The poem which gives its name to this volume, we think, far surpasses even Tennyson's "Talking Oak." It is the poet's apostrophe to an ancient yew, dating back to the time of the Romans. In fitting phrase the poet sketches the great dynasties and monarchs that have marked the passing centuries. The yew responds in rebuke of the littlenesses of time and the grandeur of eternity.

"Goodly the ostents are to thee,  
And pomps of Time; to me more sweet  
The vigils of Eternity,  
And silence patient at my feet."

The "Hymn to the Sea" is a magnificent ode, and that on "The Tomb of Burns," a sympathetic interpretation of the peasant bard.

The following pungent sonnet expresses the appeal of the world for the interposition of England:

#### THE TURK IN ARMENIA.

"What profits it, O England, to prevail  
In camp and mart and council, and bestrew  
With sovereign argosies the subject blue,  
And wrest thy tribute from each golden  
gale,  
If, in thy strongholds, thou canst hear  
the wail  
Of maidens martyred by the turbaned  
crew  
Whose tenderest mercy was the sword  
that slew,