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translation. But his great work in this field was his magnificent edition of the writings of SS. Ignatius and Polycarp, a work which nearly all contemporary scholars regard as final.\* It is impossible to render a worthy tribute to such a man and such a worker. Thanks be to God for such gifts to His Church.

#### THE CANADIAN CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS.

Adopted by the Provincial Synod of Canada, Sept. 16th, 1889.

We publish in this number of the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN notes on the Catechism lessons for the 5th and 12th of January, according to the Scheme of Lessons adopted by the Provincial Synod at its meeting in Montreal last September.

These notes are taken from the "Teachers' Assistant" which is published (under the sanction of the Synod) by the Sunday School Committee of Toronto Diocese. It is now a 10 page paper issued every four weeks, and beautifully printed. We are glad to note in the last issue (No. 2 of Vol. IV.) an editorial statement that the circulation of the paper is now over 3,500 copies, an increase since last year of nearly 100 per cent. We heartily commend this invaluable help to clergy and Sunday School teachers throughout the Dominion.

It costs very little,—only 30 cents per annum for 130 pages of sound Church Sunday School teaching. Orders and remittances (in advance) should be sent to David Kemp, Esq., Secretary-Treasurer of Toronto Diocesan Synod, 15 Wellington St. W., Toronto.

MR. ROBERT BROWNING.—The death of Robert Browning has startled many who had not forgotten his advanced years, but had got accustomed to think of him as in that green old age which had promise of years yet to come. Yet a man who was born in the year 1812 can hardly be said to have died prematurely when he passes away in his seventy-eighth year. Mr. Browning was educated at University College, London, but has received literary honors from other Universities. He was made a fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, and a D.C.L. of the University in 1882. He had previously received the degree of LL.D from Cambridge, (in 1879), and Edinburgh gave him the same degree in 1884. His first poem "Pauline" was written at the age of 20, and was published in 1833. It is said that Rossetti was much impressed by the power which it displayed. "Paracelsus" appeared in 1835, and in 1837 he wrote the play of "Strafford" in which the leading part was taken by Macready. Close upon these followed "Sordello," (1840) next the series called "Bells and Pomegranates," including "Pippa Passes," "King Victor and King Charles," "Dramatic Lyrics," "Dramatic Romances," "A Soul's Tragedy," &c., (1841-46). Between 1846 and 1868 many of his greatest works appeared, such as "Men and Women," "Christmas Eve and Easter Day," "Dramatis Personæ," etc. "The Ring and the Book" appeared in 1868-69. His best known poems are "Balaustion's Adventure," (1871), "Fifine at the Air," (1872), "Red Cotton Nightcap Country," (1873), "Jocoseria," (1883). On the very day of his death at Venice, his latest volume of poems was published in London. We do not know whether the controversy as to the obscurity of Mr. Browning's writings is ever likely to be settled,

\*Some valuable papers contributed to the *Contemporary Review* in answer to the book entitled "Supernatural Religion," the Bishop was able to collect and publish a few months ago.

but it can hardly be denied that great as is the number of his admirers, there are very many persons of intelligence and distinction who find his poems very hard reading and sometimes unintelligible. The founding of a "Browning Society" in the year 1851 may serve to prove at once the wide popularity of the poet and the need of some light being thrown upon his writings. Curious stories are told of the difficulty which has been found in understanding Browning. One is told of Lord Tennyson, according to which that great poet said he had tried to read "Sordello" and he could understand only two lines of it, and both were false, the first and the last, namely, "Who will may read the story of Sordello," and "Who would has read the story of Sordello." A still more funny story is told of Douglas Jerrold; but enough for the present.

MR. MARTIN TUPPER.—By the death of the well-known author of *Proverbial Philosophy*, literature has lost an unique figure from its midst. Mr. Martin Farquhar Tupper, the son of a distinguished medical man who had twice refused a baronetcy, was born at Marylebone in July, 1810. He was, therefore at the time of his death in his eightieth year. He was descended from an ancient family of Thuringia, which emigrated to Guernsey in the sixteenth century. He was educated at the Charterhouse, and at Christ Church College, Oxford, where, in addition to his M.A., he took the degree of D.C.L. At Christ Church he beat Mr. Gladstone in a competition for the Burton Prize, with an essay upon "The Reconciliation of Matthew and John." Mr. Gladstone stood second, and when Mr. Tupper received the 25l. worth of books of which the prize consisted, Dr. Burton asked him "to allow Mr. Gladstone to have 5l. worth of them, as he was so good a second." Mr. Tupper was intended for the ministry, but was prevented from taking orders by his infirmity of stammering—an infirmity of which in later life he got the better. He then went to the Bar, but did not practise. It was in 1832 that Mr. Tupper published his first volume, *Sacra Poesis*. This was followed in 1838 by *Geraldine and other Poems*. The first series of *Proverbial Philosophy*, with which his name is now chiefly associated, appeared in 1839. This book, which has passed through countless editions, and has been translated into many languages, was conceived when the author was eighteen; and many of the moral reflections of which it consists were originally written for the behoof of his cousin, whom he afterwards married. The sale of the work was fabulous, hardly any book of the century has equalled it. Many years ago it was estimated that more than a million and a-half copies had been printed in America, though 80l. was all the money that American publishers thought fit to put into Mr. Tupper's pockets; but if he could have secured a moderate royalty on his sales, he calculated that he would have received a hundred thousand pounds from America alone. For several years his English publishers paid him an annuity of from 500l. to 800l.; and from first to last his receipts on account of the book were 10,000l., as he tells us in his interesting and pleasantly written *Autobiography*.

#### REVIEWS.

TO THE LIONS. A tale of the early Christians. By the Rev. Professor A. J. Church, Putnam, N.Y. Williamson, Toronto, 1889.

No one who is acquainted with any of Professor Church's previous publications will need to be told with what admirable skill and grace he is able to convert ancient history into fiction. Few better

specimens of his handiwork are known to us than this beautiful story of the time of Trajan. The correspondence between this Emperor and the younger Pliny is not only well known, but is one of the most precious documents of the period to which it belongs. It shows us the rules under which Roman governors acted in their dealings with Christians; and it furnishes a most interesting testimony to some of the Christian customs of that time.

Professor Church has made excellent use of this correspondence and of the accurate knowledge which he possesses of the condition of the Roman world at the beginning of the second century. When we mention that Pliny moves before us here as he lived; and that his friend Tacitus who appears on the scene, speaking exactly as we should expect of him from his written works; when we add that we have a striking picture of the simple, brave, patient life of the Christians of the period, of the martyr spirit of aged men and tender girls, whilst renegades and apostates are not unknown we have said enough to show that there is here material for a beautiful story, and such it is. Moreover, poetical justice is rendered generally to the characters and this without any violation of probability.

We cannot abstain from adding one extract—some words spoken by Pliny to a Christian whom he was helping to escape, which are not only in perfect accord with what we know of the supposed speaker, but which may be said to represent the mind of the better scepticism of that age. The Christian had been telling Pliny, who felt that he was not long for this world, that there were some near him who could teach him of another life, "Nay, my dear young friend," said Pliny, "it is too late; or rather, this faith of yours was never meant for me. It seems to make good men and women. I am sure that no one would die for the old gods as bravely and cheerfully as I have seen slaves and weak women die for their Christ. And you have a hope, too, I hear, of a life after death. It is a beautiful thought. I wish that I could have heard of it before. But now, you see, it is impossible. You will think of me, and pray for me. I hear that you do pray for others, even for those who hate you. Perhaps it will be well with me, after all; and, if not, I must bear it as I can, for I have tried to do my duty as a Roman and a man."

KEYS TO THE WORD, or Help to Bible Study. By A. J. Pierson, D.D. Price 60 cents. New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co.

This is a most useful little book. There are many "Introductions" to the Holy Scripture of great value; but some of them are useless to unlearned readers and some are too costly. This volume is cheap and it is simple. After a brief introduction, setting forth the aim of the work, we have a concise description of each of the books of the Bible, Old Testament and New. The peculiarity of Dr. Pierson's method is that he associates with each book a key-word which gives, as it were, the note of the book; and this word is expounded in the passage devoted to the book. Thus the key-word of Genesis is "Beginning," of Exodus "Pass-over," of Leviticus, "Atonement," of Numbers "Sojourn," of Deuteronomy "Obedience," and so on. Or again, in the New Testament, the key-word of S. Matthew is "Kingdom," of S. Mark is "Service," of S. Luke "Son of Man," of S. John "Life." Those who are familiar with the abundant literature on the Books of the Bible will here perceive that Dr. Pierson has made excellent use of the labours of his predecessors; and a perusal of the book will convince them that he has put his information in a most convenient and accessible form. We strongly recommend the book to teachers of Bible classes, as one which they might use as a guide in giving instruction to their pupils, not merely in Christian doctrine, but in the special character and contents of the books of the Bible.

A COMPANION TO SCHOOL HISTORIES OF ENGLAND. By J. E. Symes, M.A. Price 2s. 6d. (60 cts). Rivingtons, London. 1889.

If those of our earlier generation envy the rising race at all, they certainly must do so in respect to their school books; and in few departments is the improvement more apparent than in the region