

copied by the Librarian 9 Aug. 1899

THE BOOK PAGE

"That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit."

HELPS TO THE USE OF THE BOOK OF PRAISE. This little pamphlet of fifteen pages has a very technical look, but is, in reality, easily understood by anyone who has even an elementary knowledge of music. Its purpose is to give "the rate of speed at which each tune should be sung." This is indicated by a simple device, and choir leaders and precentors are left without excuse if good tunes are spoiled by being sung in bad time. This key to the tunes—for such it really is—has been sent out to ministers and choir leaders by Rev. Alexander McMillan, Toronto, the Convener of the Music Committee. It is worth the while of leaders of Sabbath School song to look into the book. Well-rendered music has an inspiring effect on the school.

DAILY LIGHT ON THE DAILY PATH. Price, morocco, \$1.25; cloth, 75c. London: S. Bagster & Sons. This is a new edition of the very best of the devotional manuals. There is a page reading "in the very words of Scripture" for every morning and evening throughout the year; with some additional pages for special occasions. The compiler has evidently been held by these four great truths—they make up the warp and woof of the volume—the sinfulness of sin, the beauty of holiness, cleansing through the Cross, and sanctification by the Holy Spirit of God. It therefore meets, as no other book of its class meets, the needs of the sin-burdened soul earnestly seeking after the way of purity and peace. The present edition has a useful index of all the Scripture passages found in the daily readings.

GEMS FROM THE FATHERS, by Rev. Edwin Davies, D.D. Pp. 473, price, 75c., (same publishers), is an alphabetically arranged selection of choice thoughts from the writings of the men who lived in or near the Apostolic times. It is easy of reference for teachers and preachers, and many of the paragraphs are rich and quaint, as one might expect.

Messrs. Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh and London, send the following:

In the "Famous Scots Series":

SIR WILLIAM WALLACE, by A. F. Murison, pp. 159; POLLOK AND AYTOUN, by Rosaline Masson, pp. 156; and ANDREW MELVILLE, by William Morison, pp. 156; each, 50c.

This series, which opened with Thomas Carlyle, Allan Ramsay, Hugh Miller, John Knox and Robert Burns, goes on auspiciously. The biographies are brief, bright and readable. The story of Sir William Wallace, "incomparably the most heroic

and most fateful figure in the history of Scotland," makes one long for fuller and more authentic details. It is hard to know where fact ends and fancy begins in the documentary authorities for his life, but that he was "a hero and a patriot second to none in the recorded history of the nations" every Scotoman, at any rate, will stoutly contend. The coupling of the names of Pollok and Aytoun, the authors respectively of "The Course of Time" and "The Lays of the Cavaliers," is piquant. "One was a rustic, a Calvinist, a Covenanter; the other was of gentle birth, an Episcopalian, a Jacobite." Both were typical Scots, and, although minor poets, made good their claim to a share of the divine afflatus. Andrew Melville comes close to John Knox in his hold on the reverence of all lovers of freedom. His brave battle for the liberties of the Scottish Church is exceptionally well told in Mr. Morison's volume.

Two volumes of "The Children's Sunday" series:

BIBLE STORIES WITHOUT NAMES, by Rev. Harry Smith, M.A., pp. 167, with a detachable key for parents or teachers, price, 50c. The stories are ingeniously told, and, besides being instructive, will prove a delight to children who are fond of puzzles and riddles, as most children are.

THE CHILDREN'S PRAYER, by Rev. James Wells, D.D., pp. 289, price, 50c. Dr. Wells has the rare gift of speaking to children from the inside. He understands the child mind, has not ceased, indeed, to "think as a child." He traverses the familiar ground of The Lord's Prayer, but with many a homely and telling illustration. Boys will read the book and teachers will find in it much material ready to their hand for use in the class.

PRIVATE JAMES FYFFE, by Herbert Reid, pp. 159; price, 50c.

Private James Fyffe and his cronies,—friends and foes—are real boys, and the story of how the Boys' Brigademade men of some of them is told in capital style. The one unflinching test of Christian profession which the boys applied to themselves was the extent of their profanity.

"Well, Gus, how are you getting on?" the captain would say, meeting the boy some day in a quiet street.

"Middlin', sir! I'm tryin' my best; but whiles at the fibs! I loss my temper, and then oot it comes before I ken whaur I am. But,"—brightening up—"I've arranged wi' Will Stewartie"—this was his chum—"that whenever he hears me comin' oot wi' a sweer, he's to gie me a kick as hard as he likes, an' I've to dae the same by him."