

A curious book is "The Little Bible," being the story of God's chosen people before the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ upon earth, written anew for children by J. W. Mackail, sometime Fellow of Balliol College, Oxford, 288 pages, 12 mo. cloth, Langton and Hall, Toronto, sold by Mr. Drysdale for a dollar. It is curious, because its first chapter is on the fall of the Morning Star from the company, not only of the orthodox Michael and Gabriel, but also of Raphael, Uriel, Israfiel, and Azrael. This Miltonic sermonette is based on Isaiah xiv., 12, "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!" Lucifer, son of the morning, is in the original "Helel ben Shahar." This Helel was no fallen angel, but Ilus, son of Dardanus, who left his memorial in the Nahaliel torrent east of the Dead Sea, at the mouth of which stood Zareth Shahar. From the Zarthan form of the ancestral Zareth's name came the Greek or rather the Trojan Dardanus. The Paschal Chronicle states that the Dardani were descended from Heth, the ancestor of the Hittites, as I informed Professor Sayce many years ago. The Bible calls them Cherethites. The prophet Isaiah quoted a fragment of an ancient Palestinian poem, referring to the expulsion of this race, not from heaven but, from Egypt, which was regarded in that time as an earthly Paradise. This is a poor beginning for the children. Next come six literal days of creation, without note or comment, after which the uncritical history proceeds in the order of the Bible books down to chapter 182. Here, without any warning, the unhappy child is introduced to Holofernes, and in the three following, to Judith. This being not enough Apocrypha for a healthy child, 182 to 190 furnish him with the veracious story of Tobit. Job comes in, historically all out of place, in 191 to 195; after which the Maccabees tell their story. Bel and the Dragon, and some other choice apocryphal literature, is left out. Mr. Mackail tells his stories in simple yet dignified language, and, on the whole, follows Scripture very faithfully: but he is what the Germans would call "ein höchst unkritischer Kopf."

A handsome gift book for a girl or a young woman is Mrs. Margaret E. Sangster's "Winsome Womanhood, familiar talks