

THE MARTYR OF SOLWAY SANDS.

(From The Presbyterian, London, Eng.)

The tide was flowing on Solway sands,
And bound to a rugged stake,
A fair-haired Scottish maiden stands,
For Christ and Covenant sake.

She could die in the bloom of her early youth,
(But a passing pang to die!)
But not one word of the saintly truth
Could her guiltless tongue deny.

The water had reached her praying lips,
And dashed in her upturned eyes,
And the swoon that led through Death's eclipse
Was unfolding Paradise.

But rough and torturing hands unbound
The lass from the martyr-stake,
And she found herself upon Scottish ground,
Still mocked for Jesus' sake.

"Now swear to the king! or worse shall be!
And abjure your Covenant vile!"
"Never?" she cried; "my King is He
Who died for me erstwhile!"

"I am His! I am His! I am bought with blood!
Let me go where the saints have gone!
I will pray for your king as I plead with God,
But my troth's with Christ alone!"

And they bound her again to a rugged stake,
In a hoarse advancing tide;
And they saw the gurgling bubbles wake,
And the fair hair floating wide.

But they saw not the gleam of the white-winged host,
Nor heard, as she heard, the strain
Of the ransomed ones on the heavenly coast,
Who answered the glad refrain.

"Blessing, and glory, and honour, and power,
For ever and ever shall be,
To Him who has saved us in Hell's dark hour,
And made us His people, and free!"

But the latest voice in that heavenly lay—
The clearest of all beside—
Was hers who went to her death that day,
In the Solway's flowing tide!

O Scottish land! at fair Freedom's birth,
With what throes and pangs thou cried!
It was not a loss, but a gain to Earth,
That Margaret Wilson died!

Newmarket, Ont.

WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

Literary Notices.

FROM THE WILLARD TRACT DEPOSITORY, Toronto, we have received the following publications, each excellent in its line: BRITAIN'S QUEEN, a jubilee volume, illustrated; paper cover, 15 cents, in which Pearl Fisher tells pleasantly and affectionately the tale of Victoria's life. LIFE IN A LOOK, a plain Gospel address by the Bishop of Huron; same price. THE

CONTEMPORARY PULPIT, an English monthly, containing choice sermons from eminent divines.

THE RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY, Bible House, Toronto, also supply the two first-named on the same terms.

FROM E. B. TREAT, publisher of the *Pulpit Treasury*, come to our table two works worth having: The first, CURIOSITIES OF THE BIBLE, by a New York Sabbath School Superintendent, is a large collection of questions, answers and Scripture conundrums, fitted to interest the young, and to make them thoroughly acquainted with the text and history of Scripture. Invaluable for a teacher, being full of useful hints. The other is of a widely different character, WOMAN'S HANDBOOK OF HEALTH AND DISEASE. Certainly every mother should know generally the laws of health which govern herself and her daughters. This work, by Dr. Lucien C. Warner, is full of vital knowledge, plainly and delicately told. Information every woman should possess, a book for the drawer, not for the table, that may be read with profit, without loss. Whether women should write M.D. after their name or not, we shall not discuss, but if there is any knowledge a wife and mother should possess, it is that which will enable her intelligently to watch the growth and tendencies of her daughters. This knowledge this book gives.

THE PEOPLE'S COMMENTARY ON MATTHEW. (E. W. Rae, D.D.: The American Sunday School Union, Philadelphia.)—This is pre-eminently a Sunday school commentary—plain, well illustrated, embodying, without ostentation, the results of latest learning; eminently fair, and as full as the requirements of Sunday school work ask. There is a brief introduction to the New Testament, giving a brief account of manuscripts, etc. In view of the incoming lessons for the Sunday schools from this Gospel, the volume is timely, and fills well its sphere.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.—The numbers of *The Living Age* for May 14 and 21 contain, among many articles of interest, "England and Europe," *Nineteenth Century*; "The Empress Eudocia," *Church Quarterly*; "Jewish Pauperism," "The Permanence of National Character," and "Spring," *Spectator*; with instalments of "Major Lawrence" and "Richard Cable," and poetry. For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,300 pages a year) the subscription price (\$8) is low; while for \$10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American \$4 monthlies or weeklies with *The Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell and Co., Boston.

PONDER this ye men of means, but mean. We find it in an exchange: A pious negro in the West Indies came, on one occasion, to a missionary to present a contribution to the funds of the society. The missionary thought the negro offered a larger sum than was consistent with his circumstances, and took occasion to tell him so. The poor but liberal man insisted on giving it, at the same time saying: "Massa, the work of the Lord must be done, and I shall soon be dead." If all professing Christians looked at personal work for God in the light of eternity, they would probably act with greater promptitude, zeal and earnestness than they are in the habit of doing.