

mediator of the Old Covenant, and put to confusion the army of rationalistic critics.

FOUR ENGLISH HUMORISTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY. By William Samuel Lilly, Honorary Fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge. London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1895. Price \$2.

These lectures, on Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, and Thomas Carlyle, are like everything else Mr. Lilly has written—fresh, suggestive, and stimulating. The title may seem a trifle misleading, for Mr. Lilly treats of the solemn, rather than the

humorous, side of these great writers. He sees the humorist in Dickens as democrat, in Thackeray as philosopher, in George Eliot as poet, and in Carlyle as prophet.

THE SONG OF SOLOMON AND THE LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH. By Walter F. Adeney, M. A., Professor of New Testament Exegesis and Church History, New College, London. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son, 1895.

This is a richly suggestive book, by one who seems to possess the poetic and spiritual insight so peculiarly requisite to an understanding of these exquisite Hebrew lyrics.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Schools for Study and Culture.

THE interest manifested in the Schools of Bible Study and of Social Study, started in the January number of *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW*, has been very gratifying. Pastors are arranging for preaching on these subjects, and leaders in the Young People's Societies for Bible classes.

Papers on Assyriology.

OWING to a misunderstanding Professor McCurdy's brief paper on Assyriology, heretofore announced, was not prepared for the present number of *THE REVIEW*. Instead of this we give our readers a very able and timely paper by that great Old World archeologist, Prof. A. H. Sayce, of Oxford, England. Professor McCurdy will furnish an elaborate paper, showing the various bearings of the subject, for the March number of *THE REVIEW*.

Christianity in Madagascar.

MANY Christian hearts have been saddened by the recent war of the French upon Madagascar. The prospect of Roman Catholic domination of the island, through French influence, is not a thing to be contemplated cheerfully. The conversion of Madagascar to Christianity is one of the most notable miracles of modern missions. Many of our readers have doubtless come upon some of the recent reckless misrepresentations of the press regarding the Hovas and their noble Christian Queen. We reprint from *The Spectator*, London, the following letter, from Antananarivo, the capital of Madagascar, addressed to the editor of *The Spectator*, setting matters in their true light:

"SIR: During the twenty-four years of my residence in Antananarivo, I have been a regular reader of *The Spectator*. I have always been struck with your fairness in being willing to insert communications in correction of any statements made in your paper that are thought to be incorrect. May I therefore ask your usual courtesy with re-

gard to a statement in *The Spectator* of August 13th, which has just arrived here. In that number, quoting from the Antananarivo correspondent of *The Times*, the statement is made that the 'Queen and courtiers take to gambling of the most reckless description.' I am able to give this the most positive contradiction. For many years now there has been no gambling in the presence of the Queen, and it has been strictly forbidden in the royal palace. I am perfectly sure that you will do justice to the Christian lady who is still Queen of Madagascar, by inserting this letter. There is another remark in the same paper I should like to notice. You say in one paragraph that 'savages are sometimes fantastic'—the inference being that the Hovas are savages. Now, such a statement could be made by no one who knows the Hovas and what manner of people they are. May I give you one fact? A friend of mine and fellow-missionary was recently visiting the churches in the country district under his care in this province of Jenerone. At one place he came to be found one of the colored troops brought over in the French expedition. He was taken ill and unable to keep up with his regiment, and so remained behind at this village. When my friend arrived there, he found that this poor fellow was being taken care of, fed, and nursed, by the members of the Christian Endeavor Society of the place. Where do the savages come in?—I am, Sir, HENRY E. CLARK, "Local Secretary of the Friends' Foreign Mission Association, Doncaster House, Antananarivo, November 15, 1895."

It would not be easy to surpass this in our most Christian courts and nations

The Noachic Deluge.

THE present drift toward renewed scientific belief in the historical accuracy of the Scriptural account of the Flood is very suggestive. The greatest British and American geological workers and thinkers—Professor Prestwich, of Great Britain, and Sir. J. W. Dawson, of Canada—are engaged in demonstrating that the Biblical theory is the most natural explanation, and that in its utmost integrity, of the geological phenomena that have recently been brought to light. Speculation has had its day and sober consideration and interpretation of facts must now have their day. We expect to give the readers of *THE REVIEW* an opportunity to hear from both these great scientists on this important subject.