

The Bow in the Clouds; or, Words of Comfort for those in Sickness, So row, and the Varied Afflictions of Life. By 200 Best Authors—Prose and Poetry. Edited by the Rev. J. SANDERSON, D.D., Editor of *The Pulpit Treasury*, etc. Nearly 500 pages. Square, 12mo, with frontispiece and presentation page from special designs. E. B. Treat, Publisher, 771 Broadway, New York. Price, \$1.75.

The work is made up chiefly of selections in prose and poetry, from a wide range of authors, including Drs. Cuyler, Schaff, Spurgeon, Robert Hall, S. Ireneus Prime, Matthew Henry, and Fenelon, Hugh Miller Paul Gerhardt, Longfellow, Whittier, Bryant, Wordsworth, and Mrs. Hemans. The method and arrangement of the volume are all that could be desired, and the selections have been made with good taste and judgment.

Animal Life on the Sea and on the Land. A Zoology for Young People. By SARAH COOPER. Illustrated; pp. xiv, 413. New York: Harper & Brothers; Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

Few subjects have the fascination for young people that the study of natural history possesses. And few studies are more instructive. It cultivates, at once, the powers of observation, and reflection, and classification. It gives a new interest to the outer world, and new views of creation as a whole. Next to religion we covet for our young people nothing more than a love of Nature. Hence, our Chautauqua circles study the work as well as the Word of God. We know of no more useful help to this study than the book before us. It is simply and pleasantly written, and is in accordance with the present condition of science, while it seeks to lead young people to the study of nature at first hand and from life. It is yet so copiously illustrated as to greatly help the study. From the ample resources of the great publishing house of the Harper Brothers no less than 279 graphic illustrations are furnished. It would be a valuable book for the C. L. S. C. course.

Mountaineer Series. Five volumes in a box. By WILLIS BOYD ALLEN. Price \$2.00. Congregational Sunday-school and Publishing Society, Boston and Chicago.

The series is intended for the little ones. The five volumes form a connected story concerning the King family, who were obliged to leave their home, and begin a struggle for existence elsewhere. The father had offered to him the agency of the railroad station and a small store. Mr. Allen tells what adventures there befell them, what good they tried to do among the dwellers around them, what were their disappointments and successes, and how finally a heroic effort to save a train from destruction called Mr. King to a larger place on the road. The series is a good one to place in the hands of the young. The volumes are profusely and capably illustrated.

Report of Secretary of the Sunday School Board for Year ending July 1st, 1887.

THE following report was presented to the Sunday School Board at its last meeting, in Toronto, October 18th, 1887, but was crowded out of previous numbers of the BANNER by pressure of other matter:—

To the Sunday School Board of the Methodist Church.

DEAR BRETHREN,—The past year has been one of the most successful ever known in the history of the Sunday Schools of the Methodist Church. In every department of our Sunday School work there has been remarkable progress. Mere figures cannot adequately set forth the vast amount of good that has been accomplished through the unpurchased and unpurchasable services of the 27,200 teachers and officers of the Sunday Schools of our Church, in building up the cause of God, in leading to the Saviour the children and youth committed to their care, and in training them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Only the great day shall reveal the full and final result of their loving counsel and care and prayer. One tangible result is that 15,295 conversions are reported in connection with our schools during the year, and that 32,627 scholars are regularly meeting in class. These, and the many thousands being trained in the knowledge of the Scriptures and the way of salvation, shall soon form the mass of the membership of our churches when the present older generation shall have passed away.

It is cause for devout congratulation that the number of schools is so rapidly increasing. During the year that increase has been 237, and the year before 142, making an increase of 379 schools, or nearly 15 per cent. in two years. Let us try to realize that nearly 400 new centres of religious teaching and training are thus established for the nurture in piety and in Bible knowledge of the young people of our Church at the most susceptible formative period of their lives. Yet there are a large number of preaching appointments of our Church where no Methodist schools are reported. In many cases there are Union Schools, but it is desirable, where practicable, that wherever there is a Methodist preaching appointment there shall also be a Methodist Sunday School.

Our scholars are being trained also in the graces of giving and working for the cause of God. The Juvenile Missionary Offerings of the year reach the sum of \$25,526, an increase of \$1,764 on the previous year, and of \$10,826 on that reported from all the Methodist schools in the Dominion four years ago. Yet this is only about one-eighth of the Missionary income of the Church. In England the juvenile collections amount to about one-third of the entire Missionary income of the Church.

The increased efficiency and importance of the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund

will be
its inc
come l
to \$3,
642 to
Treasu
ference
made—
ceived
Confer
and N
largely
are ma
ceives
\$256.
part pe
amount

The
School
now re
April,
of page
every
cordial
day So
support
cations

Thirt
five sch
mirable
Method
hoped,

For a
during
amount
and we
view of
partmen
reason t
pray th
tary an
of faith
teachers
come to
their car

STATI
the Stat
Number
ers, 27,
Convers
Studying
ance Ple
in Libr
sions, \$
for S. S.

October

One p
by the C
lishing S
best MS
either of
prizes on
Competi
course f
addressi