

THE BOOK PAGE

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

THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ITS CONTENTS. By Rev. Professor James Robertson, of the University of Glasgow. Paper, 25c.; cloth, 40c.

THE NEW TESTAMENT AND ITS WRITERS. By Rev. J. A. McClymont. Paper, 25c.; cloth, 40c.

The Guild Text-Books. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto.

The truth which God has revealed to us in His Word is only truly understood when seen in the setting in which He has placed it. His message has ever been through living men and to men then living. To get at the innermost meaning of the message one needs to enter into the very spirit of the time at which the words were spoken. The historical imagination must be on the alert and the main facts in regard to the period and the circumstances in which the book was written fairly familiar.

On this account such works as these two little Guild Text-Books are extremely useful. They tell in brief compass what is to be known of each of the sixty-six books of Holy Scripture, who wrote it, to whom or for whom he wrote, what the conditions were which called it forth, and what are its main contents.

The point of view of both writers is modern, whilst cautious, and teachers and Bible-class scholars are put into possession of the results of recent scholarship and criticism in a form which any plain reader may grasp.

A real service has thereby been rendered to Bible study. With these two little books, a concordance and a Bible dictionary the teacher or the Bible-class scholar is tolerably well equipped for effective work as a student of Scripture.

CAPTAIN ALLEN GARDINER, Sailor and Saint. By Jesse Page; illustrated. London: S. W. Partridge & Co.; Toronto: Upper Canada Tract Society; pp. 160. Price; 50c.

"Although born and bred in a midland county, Allen Gardiner from childhood had that indefinable yearning for the ocean which is more or less in the heart of most English boys. We were at war with the French in those days (in the first years of this century) and young Gardiner, though still a little lad, worked out upon the floor of his room his own plan for overtaking the enemy's ships in the harbor of St. Rochello.

"He felt instinctively a strong desire to see distant lands, and eagerly reading Mungo Park's book of adventure, he determined to qualify a little by making himself a vocabulary of the Mandingo language, in case his path ever lay among that people.

"Then he knew that it was essential for travelers to have good constitutions and health to bear hardships and ignore comforts: so once, when

his mother came to say good-night, she found the bed empty and her little sailor-boy peacefully sleeping on the bare boards of the floor—"To accustom himself to roughing it some day," as he explained to her."

We follow the fortunes of the boy, first, at thirteen, as a cadet in the Naval College at Portsmouth, two years later at sea in the good ship *Fortune*. Then come stirring years of travel and adventure, his conversion and his work as a pioneer missionary in Africa, Brazil, and Patagonia, until finally he and his brave companions perish from starvation, martyrs to their consuming desire to win the wretched Terra del Fuegians for the Gospel.

The story is not a new one—it was new a generation ago—but this new edition with abundant illustrations, now appearing for the first time, will afford it a fresh lease of life.

FOUR NOBLE WOMEN AND THEIR WORK. By Miss Jennie Chappell. Same publishers. Pp. 160. Price, 50c.

Agnes Weston, Catherine Booth, Frances Willard, and Sister Dora, these are the four noble women whose work is recorded in this handsome volume; each of the four a thoroughly womanly woman, tender of heart and hand, and each in her own way showing what a woman may do to make the world better, Frances Willard as a temperance reformer, Catherine Booth as the "Mother" of the Salvation Army, Agnes Weston amongst the blue-jackets, and Sister Dora as a pioneer hospital nurse.

"I wish, Jack, that you would come to the Boys' Bible Class at 'The Sailor's Rest'; I am sure you will like it. I'll stand you a fid of plum duff if you will come." The "fid," that is, piece, of plum pudding, prevailed; the boy went and stayed and went again. In after years he said "How can I thank my chum enough, for that piece of duff led me to a place where I learned that Christ loved me and now I love Him." Such was, or, rather, is, for she is still living and working, the sort of Miss Weston's work, and in like practical ways have the others of these four Christlike women sought to reach those who need a helping hand.

LOVE TO THE UTTERMOST. By Rev. F. B. Meyer, B.A. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. Pp. 293. Price, \$1.

This book consists of expositions in the Gospel of John. In an earlier book, "The Life and Light of Men," the author dealt with the first twelve chapters. The present volume finishes the Gospel. The thought is everywhere of that deeply spiritual type characteristic of this writer. To him every incident is not simply historically interesting, but spiritually profitable. Nowhere, however, is there a tendency to overdo this and so nauseate instead of enlighten. The style is picturesque and clear. To the devout student of the Gospel, and especially to Bible class teachers, such a book is sure to prove helpful.