

## THE BOOK PAGE

Books for review to be sent to Editor, **TEACHERS MONTHLY**, Room 87, Confederation Life Building, Toronto.

**PIONEER LIFE IN ZORRA**, by Rev. W. A. MacKay, B.A., D.D.; introduction by Hon. G. W. Ross, LL.D., Minister of Education for Ontario; with portraits and illustrations, bound in targa; price, \$1.75; William Briggs, Toronto.

"No better stuff stood beside Nelson on board the *Victory*; no better stuff climbed the heights of Alina or charged the dervishes at Khartoum," says the Minister of Education in his preface to Dr. MacKay's picture of the pioneers of Zorra. Picked men the early settlers of the Province of Ontario were and valiant was their struggle to make a home for themselves and their children in the forest. How splendidly they succeeded, and what a heritage they have left, not only of smiling fields and orchards and growing towns, but of the appliances of a free civic government, of education and of religion! The story of those heroic days every Canadian child should know.

Zorra was specially notable for the sturdy religious type of its first settlers, and Dr. MacKay's foot is on his native heath when he describes these men and their ways. The description is at once vivid, instructive and entertaining. "The Pioneer and the Sabbath," "The Men's Day," "An Old Communion Sabbath," "Pioneer Songs," "Ghosts, Witches and Goblins," "Zorra's Famous Missionary," are some of the headings. There is a fine admixture of the grave and the gay. The description of the old-fashioned catechizing, for example, is enlivened by such incidents as the following: "A boy, who had been specially trained by his mother in good manners, was being examined on the passage, 'All have sinned.' 'Now, my boy,' said the minister, 'does that mean that every one of us has sinned?' putting emphasis on 'every one.' The boy, hesitated, fearing an affirmative answer, lest he might cast a reflection on the character of the pastor. But on a repetition of the question the lad replied: 'Everyone has sinned except yourself' and the elders.' He saved his manners at the expense of his theology."

The book is slightly higher in price than the usual run of books for Sabbath School libraries. This will not deter schools from purchasing, as it is good value for the money. It will stimulate both the religious life and the patriotism of old and young.

The tragedy of the Huguenots never loses its sad charm. True to France and her monarchs, long after these hunted them like partridges on the mountains, and leaving their country only as a last resort, they were

citizens whom France could ill afford to lose, her best blood, indeed, whose loss she sorely feels even to this day. **HOW THEY KEPT THE FAITH**, by Grace Raymond (Presbyterian Board of Publication, Richmond, Va.; pp. 389, price \$1.00), gives a glimpse of those heroic days. The interest of the book turns on the struggle between love of kindred and faithfulness to God and conscience. The story is somewhat long drawn out; a hundred pages less would have been better. But the plot is well conceived, and one feels grateful, as he reads, for two things, that we have come upon happier days, and that, when evil days do befall the Church of God, His grace suffices; yea, is magnified, for it is the heroism of such times that puts iron into the blood of God's servants in the softer ages that follow.

**THE ABIDING LAW**. Twelve addresses on the Ten Commandments. By the Rev. James Aitken, M.A. Pages 191. Price 75 cts. O'Plant, Anderson & Ferrie, Edinburgh and London. An old topic, but the book has a breath of freshness. The prevailing note is the positive side rather than the negative side of the Commandments, what we should do, rather than what we should not do. The very titles of the chapters will suggest to ministers and teachers an original treatment of the commandments; for example, Exclusive Worship (First Commandment), The Soul of Reverence (Third Commandment), The Hallowing of the Home (Seventh Commandment), The Grace of Contentment (Tenth Commandment).

**THE OLDEST TRADE IN THE WORLD** By the Rev. George H. Morrison, M.A. 183 pages. Price 50 cts. Same publishers; the tenth and concluding volume of the "Golden Nails" series of addresses to the young. The addresses are such as children will read, which is a great thing to say of books of this sort intended for children. The "Golden Nails" series is a good one for Sabbath School libraries.

**HANDEL'S MESSIAH**; Gem Edition. 181 pages, 35 cents. S. Bagster & Sons, London. An exquisite little book bound in green. A complete and quite legible, although minute transcript of the Messiah, words and music. Music lovers will like to have it.

**DANGERS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE**. By Rev. S. K. Winn, D.D.: 20 pages, price 2 cents. Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va. However foolish and fantastic the claims of Christian Science may seem to sober-minded people to be, it is important that they should be met. Dr. Winn has fairly done this from Scripture and common sense. Where Mrs. Eddy's doctrines are being promulgated, it might be good policy to supply the antidote in this convenient form.