

record. On a stormy voyage, confined to his berth for twelve days, he wrote his seven noble poems on slavery, including the magnificent "Slave's Dream." After he became famous he was sorely beset by lion-hunters. One man, a perfect stranger, came to his house with an omnibus full of ladies and stayed for an hour. But he endured it all with the patience of a martyr. When in England the Queen invited him to Windsor Castle, where she received him with all the honours. But no foreign tribute touched him more deeply than the words of an English hod-carrier, who asked permission to take the hand of the man who had written, "The Voices in the Night." Another great sorrow was the tragical fate of the lady who, after seven years of widowhood, gladdened his life; she was burned to death by lighted wax falling on her summer dress. Thenceforth he walked beneath the shadow of a perpetual sorrow.

Similar glimpses are given of the philosophic Emerson, the genial humourist Holmes, Mrs. Stowe, Celia Thaxter, and the great-souled Quaker poet of the slave. Mrs. Fields gives also charming glimpses of visits to Lord or Lady Tennyson at Aldworth.

The Life Indeed Series. Edited by the REV. W. L. WATKINSON. *Life and Christ.* By EBENEZER E. JENKINS, LL.D., London: Charles H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs.

Mr. Watkinson is rendering distinct service to the cause of Christian truth by editing, and the Wesleyan Conference office by issuing, the series of volumes of higher Christian literature known as "The Life Indeed" series. One of the most valuable of these volumes is this collection of discourses by one of the saintliest of souls, and one of the masters of Christian eloquence. The book is essentially Christo-centric. It treats of life in its relation to the One "mighty to save." It will deepen one's conceptions of the all-embracing sweep and power of the religion of Jesus. The conclusion of the whole matter is expressed in this sentence from the closing discourse: "Except the doctrine and voice of Jesus, no philosophy, no system of morals, no religion, professes to have any light upon the destiny of thought. Christianity finds thought upon the boundary of the hereafter, forsaken by every other guide, wandering alone, as if reserved for the blackness of darkness forever, and leads

it back to God, its natural home, its dwelling-place in all generations."

Valeria, the Martyr of the Catacombs; a Tale of Early Christian Life in Rome. By the REV. W. H. WITHROW, D.D. Toronto: William Briggs.

We have few men in our Canadian Methodism with the peculiar literary gifts of Dr. Withrow. His is the rare power of painting life pictures, of grasping with the sympathetic intuition of genius the living significance of the dry facts which are recorded on monuments, or catalogued in cyclopedias, and of moulding them into pictures instinct with life and truth. The work before us is such a picture. The materials are familiar only to those versed in later classical literature and primitive Christian archaeology, in both of which fields Dr. Withrow is a master. They are here presented in a form comprehensible by a child, and yet of intense interest to a grave and reverend student of church history. For our rising ministry and for our Epworth Leagues this is a rarely valuable book, introducing the reader, almost as by a magician's wand, to familiarity with early chapters in the history of the Christian Church, chapters which immediately preceded the final triumph of Christianity in the Roman Empire. The mechanical execution is in the best style of the Book-Room, and beautifully illustrated. The book is just the thing for every Sunday-school library, or for a Christmas present.—N. B.

Christ's Trumpet-call to the Ministry; or The Preacher and the Preaching for the Present Crisis. By DANIEL S. GREGORY, D.D., LL.D., author of "Christian Ethics," "My Four Gospels," editor of the *Homiletic Review*, etc. Cloth, 8vo., pp. 365. Price, \$1.25. Toronto: The Funk & Wagnalls Co.

This book is the enlargement of a series of articles that appeared in the *Homiletic Review* expressing the author's thoughts and convictions after thirty years' experience. Subjects discussed are "The Preacher's Present Conversion," "The Preacher's Message," "The Preacher and His Furnishing," "The Preaching for These Times," and "The Preacher as a Pastor in These Times." They contain valuable suggestions on the best pulpit efficiency for to-day, and on requisite means, forces and agencies for coping with existing moral enemies. They are suggestive and practical, and burn with intense earnestness. They discuss the life and death