

Book Notices.

Poems. By ROSE TERRY COOKE. 12mo, pp. 412. New York: William S. Gottsberger. Toronto: Williamson & Co. Price \$1.50.

Many of these poems have passed the ordeal of publication in the leading literary organs of the day—as *Harper's*, *The Atlantic*, *The Independent*, etc. There is, therefore, the presumption that they are of distinguished merit. That presumption is vindicated by a careful examination of the contents of this handsome volume. The thought is unhackneyed; indeed, the theme is often found in very recondite sources, as the Legends of the Saints, the Stories of the Talmud, and the like. These poems are filled with a deeply religious spirit, and have the elements of abiding value. We have been especially pleased with the ballads, which recount tales from the folk lore of many lands. The writer has caught the true ballad life and spirit. It is marvellous that a lady should have so entered into the eager life of such poems as "The Squire's Boar Hunt," and others of strikingly dramatic character. The ball songs and her translations are remarkably good. As a specimen of the accomplished author's musical verse and religious spirit, we quote a single stanza of the poem entitled "It is More Blessed:"

Give! as the morning that flows out of
heaven;
Give! as the free air and sunshine are
given;
Give! as the waves, when their channel
islands riven,
Lavishly, utterly, carelessly give.
Not the waste drops of thy cup over-
flowing;
Not the faint sparks of thy hearth ever
glowing;
Not a pale bud from the June roses
blowing;
Give! as He gave thee, who gave thee
to love.

The People's Bible. By JOSEPH PARKER, D.D. Vol. VIII. 1 Kings xv.—1 Chronicles ix. 8vo, pp. 360. New York: Funk & Wagnall. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price \$1.75.

This great popular commentary maintains with unabated interest the high standard which it at once reached. The quick, keen insight, the luminous exposition, the practical applications of its author, give it an ever-increasing value. The period covered by the present volume is one of much importance in the history of God's chosen people. The lessons educed therefrom—such is the perennial interest of the Divine Word—are of the greatest importance to the Church and the people of this nineteenth century. The Funk & Wagnall edition of this book is handsomely printed and bound.

Pictures of Hellas: Five Tales of Ancient Greece. By PEDER MARIAGER. Translated from the Danish, by MARY J. SAFFORD. Pp. 318. New York: Wm. S. Gottsberger. Toronto: Williamson & Co.

To his already large and admirable library of foreign authors Mr. Gottsberger adds a volume by Prof. Mariager, of Copenhagen, of Tales and Traditions of Ancient Greece. Most of the recent stories of classic times depict the period of the great rupture between Christianity and Paganism. These volumes are an exception. It goes back in its first sketch to the Primitive Pelagic Period, and comes down in the last to the 103rd Olympiad (367 B.C.). The author succeeds with wonderful skill in imparting the verisimilitude of action and feeling into that old Greek life, and in giving us a striking insight into its character. As far as possible historical accuracy is observed. The book has several classical illustrations.