

some of them while the writer was suffering bonds and imprisonment. The author describes the awful persecution of the church by Nero, the burning of Rome and massacre of the Christians, the ruthless hounding down of the saints of God throughout the empire, the rebellion in Judea, the massacre of the Jews in the east, the triumphant martyrdom of St. Peter and St. Paul, and, like the close of a mighty drama, the siege and destruction of Jerusalem, the burning of the Temple and the carrying off to Rome the sacred spoils of God's holy house. We may not accept all the local traditions as to the death and burial of the great apostles, but the book is a sublime epic of the triumphs of the church through seeming disaster and defeat. Five excellent maps illustrate the text.

The Age of Faith. By AMORY H. BRADFORD, D.D. Author of "Spirit and Life," "The Pilgrim in Old England," etc. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. viii-306. Price, \$1.50.

Instead of accepting the statement that the time in which we live is an Age of Doubt, Dr. Bradford maintains that it is emphatically an Age of Faith. The pessimistic French and German novels are not the true exponents of the world's philosophy. He summons the great poets, Browning, Tennyson, Lowell, Whittier, Lanier, as prophets of faith. So, too, are the greatest statesmen, scientists and writers, Gladstone and Argyll, Kelvin and Dawson, Victor Hugo and the whole school of whom George McDonald and Ian Maclaren are types. The sense of brotherhood and altruism has dawned upon mankind like a sun. The fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man in Jesus Christ are the watchwords of the closing century. This book is of such importance that we hand it to a competent critic for fuller review.

The People's Bible Encyclopedia. Biographical, Geographical, Historical, and Doctrinal. Edited by the REV. CHARLES RANDALL BARNES, A.B., A.M., D.D. Pp. 1221. Illustrated by nearly four hundred engravings, maps, charts, etc. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs.

Nowhere that we know has such help for the study of the Word of God been furnished in so clear and concise, condensed yet full manner, as in the volume before us. In the range of strictly Bible topics its treatment is even

more extensive than in the twelve-volume work of McClintock and Strong. Specialists in different lines have been engaged, thus securing accurate and up-to-date treatment. Among these are President Buttz, of Drew Seminary; Dr. Rogers, the distinguished Assyriologist; Dr. McCurdy, of Toronto University; Dr. Post, of Beirut, Syria, and other distinguished writers. The maps and diagrams are especially helpful. On testing this book by practical use we were able to find references in it which we were unable to find in either Cruden's or Eadie's Concordance to the Scriptures. It is handsomely bound. The Methodist Book Concern has rendered a distinct service to Sunday-school teachers and Bible students by the preparation of this admirable volume.

Woman: Her Charm and Power. By ROBERT P. DOWNES, LL.D. Author of "Pillars of Our Faith," "Pure Pleasures," etc. London: Chas. H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 361.

The place of woman in the history of the nations is a criterion of their civilization. The people who degrade women become themselves degraded. It is the noblest characteristic of our holy Christianity that it lifts woman from the abasement to which non-Christian religions consign her, that it shrines her in the sanctities of home, and ennobles and dignifies society and civilization.

Our author writes with a high ideal of womanhood. His purpose is "to awaken in woman a sense of privilege and responsibility which will not suffer them to be complaining, or selfish, or prayerless, or idle again, while they have a woman's life to live." The book is written with beauty and eloquence, and is instinct with a noble Christian spirit. The ideal woman is thus described:

"Right from the hand of God her spirit
came
Unstained, and she hath ne'er forgotten
whence
It came, nor wandered far from thence,
But laboureth to keep her still the same;
Near to her place of birth that she may
not
Soil her white raiment with an earthly
spot.
For this I love her great soul more than
all,
That, being bound, like us, with earthly
thrall,
She walks so bright and heaven-like
therein;
Too wise, too meek, too womanly to sin."