

# GEIKIE'S LITERARY NEWS.

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## NEW BOOKS.

*Personal Narratives of a Pilgrimage to El Medinah and Meccah.*  
By Richard F. Burton, Lieutenant, Bombay Army. With  
introduction by Bayard Taylor. New York: G. P. Putnam  
& Co. Toronto: J. C. Geikie

The world is changed sadly since the times of good old Sir John Maundeville with his valleys opening into the nether world, his men with heads below their shoulders, and their melancholy rivals with the heads of dogs. Romance is well nigh driven away like the May morning fairies by the sun-rising. Jones and Brown, pooh pooh the cataracts of the Nile as a poor affair, and Grundy tries how far he can throw a stone from the top of the great pyramid. It is with no little pleasure, therefore, that we have to notice Mr. Burton's volume which tells us of some of the very few spots of the earth yet hidden from the crowd. Since 1678 no European traveller has reached Meccah and Medinah and returned from them except Buckhardt and Lieut. Burton, so that his narrative deals with matters and scenes that must be new to every one. His style itself is so rare and striking, with so much of the vividness of Eothen and the fine description of Warburton, that even had the subject been hackneyed he would have had many readers.

We commend the volume to all lovers of good English and to all who desire to pierce the thick mystery that hangs over the Holy Land of the Prophet.

*The Hills of the Shatemuc.* By the author of the *Wide Wide World*. New York: Appleton & Co. Toronto: John C. Geikie.

Of this book no fewer than 45,000 were sold in the first month of publication, and in England 20,000, it is said, have been at once bought up. That an authoress should have such a demand for a third or fourth work from her pen argues very strong merit. Nothing less would account for such lasting popularity in her department of letters.

*Sermons, Doctrinal and Practical.* By the Rev. W. Archer Butler, M. A., late Professor of Moral Philosophy in the University of Dublin. Philadelphia: Farry & McMillan. Toronto: John C. Geikie.

The *North British Review*, speaking of these sermons, says, "Few men ever brought to the service of the Christian Ministry such a conjunction of useful qualities, and few sermons in our language exhibit the same rare combination of excellences; imagery almost as rich as Taylor's; oratory as vigorous often as South's; judgment as sound as Barrow's; a style as attractive, but more copious, original and forcible than Atterbury's; piety as elevated as Howe's; and a fervor as intense at times as Baxter's."

*Africa's Mountain Valley, or the Church in Regents Town, West Africa.* By the author of "Ministering Children." New York: Carters. Toronto: John C. Geikie.

The former work of this author, "Ministering Children," has had a great sale in England, and we anticipate no less favor for the present volume. It is a narrative very well written of the labors of that very eminent missionary, the Reverend R. A. Johnstone, in Regents Town, Sierra Leone. By birth a German, and originally a mechanic, Mr. Johnstone was appointed by the Church Missionary Society in 1816, as schoolmaster at Regents Town. His devotedness, intelligence and success having proved his fitness for a higher position, he was after some time ordained as a clergyman of the Church of England, and seldom has there been in that great communion one who more worthily attended its altars. His story takes us back to the days when the Church missionaries generally were foreigners, when the missionary spirit had not as yet been awakened to any great extent in the native clergy of Britain, as is so happily the case in our day. May the Church never want many men of such apostolic spirit.

The susceptibility of the simple children of Africa, among whom Mr. Johnstone labored, for receiving the truth, is well worthy the thoughtful reflection of all. No one can read the simple faith, the love, the earnest devotedness of the converts of Regents Town without learning a lesson fitted to humble and quicken. The story of Mr. Johnstone's labors is no less fitted to do us good. Such a man is the realization in some measure of the great ideal of the Christian life. He stands before us in these pages as an example of what Christianity in healthy exercise makes a man. The influence of a gospel in civilizing the rude and barbarous people, to whom this instance it was proclaimed, is also a striking illustration of the great truth that to make men Christians is the way to make them men. We very heartily recommend the volume which must, we believe, please every one who takes an interest in his own spiritual welfare, or in the spread of religion.

*Memoir of Frederick Perthes, or Literary, Religious and Political Life in Germany, from 1780 to 1843.* From the German by Clement Theodore Perthes, Professor of Law in the University of Bonn. 3 vols. 8vo. Edinburgh: Thomas Constable & Co. Toronto: John C. Geikie.

This is one of those records of the public life of Germany during the last fifty years, which are rich in the lessons of the great age that passed before our fathers. The memoirs of the famous publisher Frederick Perthes, are not merely the biography of a most vigorous and sympathetic German man, living in an age unusually rich in stimulating and elevating moments, but they contain, as the title bears, a record of "the literary, religious and