

BOOK NOTICES.

Memoir of Norman Macleod, D.D.

By his brother, the REV. DONALD MACLEOD, B.A. 8vo., pp. 484. Toronto: Belford Brothers and Methodist Book Room.—\$2.50.

THE genial editor of *Good Words* is presented to us in this volume in a singularly attractive light. A large proportion of the book is made up of his confidential correspondence and journal, in which the man speaks out his very soul. His was a frank, noble, generous nature, somewhat impetuous we judge in youth, brave and honest to the core. His inexhaustible fund of humour, we suspect, made him lose caste somewhat with the "unco guid," but he won the enthusiastic affection of those who knew him best. The influence of a pious mother, still living, and the death of a beloved brother, led, in early youth, to deep religious experiences.

One of the principal charms of the volume arises from Dr. Macleod's relation to the Queen and Royal family, and to the literary magnates of the day. He preserved his manly self-respect in his intimate association with royalty. In preaching before the Queen he "looked not at the sovereign present, but sought ever to keep before his mind the unseen Majesty of Heaven." When the Prince of Wales requested him to preach a short discourse, he gave a good hour's sermon. He was the first minister of the Established Church who preached for the Wesleyans in Scotland.

His liberal management of *Good Words* brought on him a good deal of obloquy from some of the more rigid of his countrymen, but it was the pioneer of a vast body of serial literature, not distinctively religious, but animated by religious spirit, which has supplanted much of the irreligious literature that previously poisoned the minds of multitudes.

His visit to India was of immense benefit to the cause of missions in that country. The wide advocacy of their interests in *Good Words* was a revelation of an unknown world to thousands of readers. The bits of travel scattered through the book are wonderfully fresh and vivid.

But nothing in his life became him like his leaving it. The story of his death is singularly touching and beautiful. Dr. Macleod was no ascetic, but a hearty, healthy, whole-souled man—of broad sympathies, intense human affection, and indefatigable energy of character. He will not compare with others, his countryman, McCheyne, for instance, in deep spirituality of nature; but he was a good man, one that feared God and feared only Him. By his genial *bonhomie*, he recommended religion to many who would have been repelled by a more ascetic type of piety. The story of his life has its important lessons. A fine portrait graces the volume. The publishers are to be congratulated on placing it within our reach in such elegant style at so low a price—only half that of the English edition.

The School of the Prophets; or, Father McRorey's Class and Squire Firstman's Kitchen Fire. A Fiction founded on Facts. By JOHN CARROLL.

IN this book our indefatigable and always racy and instructive contributor, the Rev. John Carroll, appears in a new role. The story is a clever picture of life in early Canadian Methodist circles, with which the writer is so familiar. His quick perception, graphic delineation, and keen sense of the humorous, are admirable qualifications for the task he has undertaken. Additional interest will be given to the book by the recognition of the characters who figure under assumed names.