

Book Notices.

From Manger to Throne, Embracing a Life of Jesus the Christ, including a description of Dr. Talmage's Journey To, Through, and From the Christ Land, and a History of Palestine and its People from the Earliest Ages to the Present Time. By REV. T. DEWITT TALMAGE, D.D. With 400 illustrations. Sold only by subscription. Philadelphia: Historical Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

This book has been waited for with keen expectation. We believe it will be one of the most popular and most useful works on the life of our Lord and the lands of the Bible ever written. It does not profess to be as learned as some of the great commentaries on the Gospels. It purposely avoids all pedantic exposition. It is eminently popular in its style. It is written for the masses—to bring vividly home to the hearts and minds of busy men and women the scenes and lessons of the memorable life of our blessed Lord. It gives the results rather than the processes of learning. The author has, as he says, “ransacked the world of literature, sacred and secular,” which treats of the subject. But he has also fused the ore in the furnace of his own thought, and stamped it with the impress of his own mind. Dr. Talmage is one of the most vivid and picturesque of living writers. His rhetoric and imagery are sometimes a little exuberant, but they are at least intensely alive. It is impossible for him to write a dull page, and he is on all the great essentials of religion soundly orthodox.

This is not a dry-as-dust treatise prepared by poring over learned books in a library. Much of it was written amid the scenes described—amid the august environment in which the grandest events in the world's history were enacted. The following is the author's own account of the conditions under which he prepared this work :

“In my American home, on the Atlantic, on the Mediterranean, on camel's back, on mule's back, on horseback, under chandelier, by dim candle in tent, on Lake Galilee, in convent, at Bethel where Jacob's pillow was stuffed with dreams, and the angels of the ladder landed ; at the brook Elah, from which little David picked up the ammunition of five smooth stones, four more than were needed for crushing like an egg-shell the skull of Goliath ; in the valley of Ajalon, over which, at Joshua's command, Astronomy halted ; on the plain of Esdraelon, the battle-field of ages, its long red flowers suggestive of the blood dashed to the bits of the horses' bridles ; amid the shattered masonry of Jericho ; in Jerusalem that overshadows all other cities in reminiscence ; at Cana, where plain water became festal beverage ; on Calvary, whose aslant and ruptured rocks still show the effects of the earthquake at the awful hemorrhage of the five wounds that purchased the world's rescue ; and with my hand mitted from the storm or wet from the Jordan, or bared to the sun, or gliding over smooth table, this book has been written.”

The publishers have spared no expense to make it mechanically and artistically worthy of the theme. It is illustrated with more than four hundred superb engravings of the people, places and scenery of the Holy Land, by distinguished artists, forming a beautiful and complete picturesque Bible Land. Among the other illustrations are accurate photographic copies of nearly two hundred of the famous paintings of the old masters, which were never before published in America. Also a grand panorama of the crucifixion, in eight colours, and ten feet in length, showing the city of Jerusalem, the surrounding country, and the people and their costumes as they were on the day of the world's great tragedy. We commend this book as eminently