

## Book Notices.

*The Credibility of the Christian Religion; or, Thoughts on Modern Rationalism.* By SAMUEL SMITH, M.P. Boston: H. L. Hastings. Toronto: William Briggs.

This is the reprint of an English book which has attracted much attention and has had a very wide sale. It grapples with many of the difficulties which are presented to the acceptance of the Bible. It vindicates its miracles and doctrines and discusses the inexactness, or, as the term now is, the "errancy" of the Bible, and establishes, we judge, for the satisfaction of every candid reader, the indubitable veracity and authenticity of the Word of God, or, as Mr. Gladstone well calls it, "of the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture."

*Revised Normal Lessons.* By JESSE LYMAN HURLBUT. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

Dr. Hurlbut, the veteran Sunday-school editor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, re issues in this book a new Edition of his excellent Normal Lessons, designed for the better instruction of readers in the books of the Bible. In a series of progressive lessons he sets forth the framework of these books, gives an outline of Bible geography with numerous maps and sections of the Holy Land, treats also of the organization of the Sunday-school and Home Department, and special sections for the Sunday-school teacher.

*The Columbian Edition of the Methodist Year Book.* New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

The Columbian Edition of the Methodist Year Book for 1893 is full of information, not only on almost every topic connected with Methodism, its institutions, charities, publishing interests, deaconesses, Epworth League, etc., but also that of other churches and other countries, a wonderful ten cents' worth.

*Minutes of the Annual Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church.* New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

This is a closely-printed octavo volume of 361 pages. It embraces the condensed minutes of eighty-six conferences, including Central China, Germany, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Japan, New Mexico, Norway, Sweden. This will give some idea of the vast range and variety of the work carried on by this great Church.

*The Deaconess and her Vocation.* By BISHOP TROBURN. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

The Missionary Bishop of India is an enthusiastic admirer of the deaconess system, which he has largely introduced in connection with his work in British India. In this little volume he treats of the deaconess and her work from a historical point of view, and treats of the early

and modern deaconesses, and of the remarkable recent growth of the deaconess movement. He thinks that the native deaconess, in large part recruited from the ranks of Indian widows, will be the solution of the question which has given much trouble in India, that it will contribute to the emancipation of women from their wrongs.

The following is a series of admirable little booklets in the interests of the Sunday-school movement in the United States. They are called "The Ten-Minute Series," are neatly printed, lucid in style and arrangement, and exceedingly cheap, namely, five or six cents apiece. They are as follows: "Life of Jesus," "History of the Christian Church," "Jewish History and the Bible," "Christian Evidences," "Supplementary Lessons for the Sunday-school," "Bible Geography" and "Studies about the Bible."

## The Privilege of Help.

Do not speak of help in God's work as a duty only. It is a glorious privilege. Would it not be an honour to make a star? to gather it up out of the great mass of shining nebulae drifting overhead, to shape it, and then launch it for its golden journey upon the great, shoreless, bottomless ocean of space? And yet to make a soul, in the sense that you shape its character and determine its destiny, is your privilege, and a glory outranking any work on sun or star. Don't call it, then, just a duty to teach in Sunday-school, to come in contact with soul matter, to mould a boy or girl, to give shape and set to their future. Angels might well covet such a crown as you wear, and what others may despise as an incubance. It is a privilege of such grand dimensions that all measurement is useless. In heaven do you suppose the angels harp upon the idea of "duty?"

To help one another or any cause, or fill any place in God's household, is a favour received more than a favour bestowed. If you are parents in a home, do not let your children grow up with the idea that service there is simply an obligation. Teach them that it is a privilege to do anything for the home, for father or mother, for brother or sister. Home? It is a noble vessel freighted by the divine Hand with a rare cargo of blessing, and to pull the humblest rope or do any seemingly menial but needed service, is a privilege. Educate young people to the idea also that in society it is a privilege to be a help. Do not train them to be grumblers when any burden may be imposed upon them by the community of the country. Impress them profoundly, lastingly, with the idea that to help another is a privilege to the helper.

To make one little note of love anywhere in God's great chorus going up from His universe, while it makes joy in the hearts of those listening to the song, crowns the singer.