

THE BOOK PAGE

(Books for notice should be sent to the Editors of the Teachers Monthly, Presbyterian Publications, Toronto)

Richard Roberts has, through his *Renaissance of Faith*, made himself entitled to be heard, and that title is enhanced in his new book, **The High Road to Christ**: A Popular Essay in Restatement (Cassell and Co., 171 pages, 75c. net): that is, the restatement of Christian beliefs. The book consists of a series of addresses, taking the title of one of these. The aim of the addresses is to set forth the central truths of the gospel in the full light of modern inquiry and knowledge, the assumption lying behind being "that the forms in which Christian truth embodies itself vary from age to age." "The heart of the gospel cannot become obsolete, but the clothes in which one age dresses it are not in the next age suitable, either in size or character." It is "to see how Christianity appears clothed in a modern habit", that these addresses were given. The practical object of the book is to clear the high road to Christ. Questions of Biblical criticism, the relation of modern science to revelation, etc., are frankly discussed. The whole effect of the treatment is enlightening and tonic. The key is in its last sentence of the book: "He who would attain to the full stature of his manhood, must needs let the great Christ in." Mr. Roberts' volume is full of suggestions for preachers and teachers, and nothing better could be put into the hand of a young man who is drifting from the moorings of his faith.

There is perhaps no living writer who knows the Moslem and Mohammedanism as does Dr. Samuel M. Zwemer, the author already of several standard books in his line of special knowledge and study. He has now put the Christian world under fresh obligation by a new volume, **The Moslem Christ**: an Essay on the Life, Character and Teachings of Jesus Christ according to the Koran and Orthodox Tradition (Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh, 198 pages, \$1.25). The first seven chapters of the book, which are a careful and thoroughly wrought out study of the references to Jesus in the Koran and Moslem tradition, lead to a final discussion in Chapter VIII. of the practical question of "How to preach Christ to Moslems who know Jesus." The present-day philosophical disintegration of Islam, not only as regards its dogmas, but its ethical teaching, now that its thinkers are compelled to face the New Testament revelation of Jesus, has compelled Moslems anew to consider the fact of the Christ. Dr. Zwemer's conclusion, based on actual instances from his own experience, is that; "let a Moslem once feel the burden of his sins, and turn away from Mohammed and the Moslem Christ to the Living Saviour, the Son of God revealed in the Gospel, the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world, and all his intellectual difficulties vanish like the morning mist before the rising sun. Moslem converts are no longer Unitarians." The whole Christ of the Apostles' Creed becomes their joyful possession.

No one can claim to have been better qualified to write **The Life of Lord Selkirk**: Coloniser of Western Canada (The Musson Book Company, Toronto, 95

pages, 9 full page illustrations, 50c.), than Dr. George Bryce, Hon. Professor in Manitoba College, Winnipeg, whose whole public life has been spent in that city, and who has made long and extensive study of the history of Western Canada. The work is timely, for 1912 marked the centennial of the landing of Lord Selkirk's first band of settlers at Point Douglas on the Red River, now within the limits of the city of Winnipeg. And the story is worth telling. Sir Walter Scott, his old college friend, said of Lord Selkirk: "I never knew in my life of a man of a more generous and disinterested disposition, or one whose talent and perseverance were better qualified to bring great and national schemes to conclusion." His emigration projects in Prince Edward Island, on the shores of Lake St. Clair, in what is now Western Ontario, and on the Red River, seem to have been the outcome of his philanthropic pity for and desire to better the condition of his poor unfortunate fellow countrymen. That they had not in their beginning better success may be attributed to the hard conditions of pioneer life on this continent in the beginning of the last century; and, in the North West, to the determined and unceasing opposition of the great fur companies. The motive was good, the energy and high courage of the leader were undoubted, and his memory is deserving of the high praise which this book awards it. It is a stirring tale which Dr. Bryce has to tell—a tale which all Canadians, old and young, will be the better for reading.

The nineteen bits that are linked together like 'a chain of little lakes' in Henry Van Dyke's newest volume, **The Unknown Quantity**: A Book of Romance and Some Half-Told Tales (The Copp, Clark Co., Toronto, 369 pages, with full page illustrations by Chas. S. Chapman, Garth Jones, Sigismond de Ivanowski and others, \$1.50), are, like all Van Dyke's work, exquisitely done. The thread that runs through them all like a little river joining little lakes is what the writer calls "The Unknown Quantity"—the mysterious things which happen us and which no one can explain, the changes for good or ill that take place in the heart of man for which his intellect gives no reason, the daily miracle of free choice which sometimes flashes out the strangest things, the secret, incalculable influence of one life on another, the unaccountable web of circumstance, and the vast unexplored land of dreams. Amongst the choicest of the bits are two or three stories of the far northern Quebec woods and camps—Henry Van Dyke interprets the French Canadian almost with as much insight as did Dr. Drummond. But the stories go far abroad—on both sides of the sea, amongst artists and musicians, country doctors, millionaires, music lovers. One of the sweetest and tenderest of all is *The Sad Shepherd*, of the birth time of our Lord, which if we mistake not, has already appeared elsewhere in a separate booklet, but deserves the greater permanency which it has now received. Henry Van Dyke recalls Robert Louis Stevenson in the perfection of his style, and he has the living flame of imagination which kindles everything which it touches.

The Boys' Parkman: The Romantic History of Canada (McClelland and Goodchild, Toronto,