

## Looks into Books.

JULY ARTICLES YOU SHOULD READ.

A French friend of Browning, by Thos. Bentzon, in "Scribner."  
Literary Landmarks of Venice, by Laurence Hutton, in "Harper."

Glimpses of Venezuela and Guiana, by W. W. King, in the "Century."

The Money of the Far East, by Geo. Pell, in the "Eclectic."

The Ice Age by W. Uphan, in the "Popular Science Monthly."

South American Poets, by Ezekiah Butterworth, in "Review of Reviews."

Oliver Wendell Holmes, His Life and Letters, in "The Bookman."

Religious Elements of Education, by Rev. Dr. Sutherland, in the "Methodist Magazine."

Gunpowder, by Lieut. Ellecott, in "St. Nicholas."

THE MESSENGERS to the seven churches of Asia: being the Inaugural of the Enthroned King, a Beacon on Oriental Shores, by Rev. Thomas Murphy, D. D., LL. D., Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work. 1895. \$3.00.

This is a substantial volume of 675 pages gotten up in good style and apparently meant to be the permanent monument of the author's life. It contains a great deal of interesting information and of edifying material in popular form that might have been given in successive courses of sermons about forty years ago. The writing is painstaking and dignified, but there is a surprising dearth of original ideas and one will search through it in vain for anything approaching scientific exegesis of these opening chapters of the Apocalypse. No proper foundation for the interpretation of the messages is laid by showing their very evident relation to the preceding vision of the Christ as the Royal Judge. There is a chapter at the end, which ought to have been put at the beginning, on the keynote of the Apocalypse, which seems to promise such a foundation, but which stops short before it comes to the point. The confusion of ideas which appears in the title as given above runs all through the book, and prevents the writer from grasping firmly the dominant idea of the series. The book is not likely to do any particular harm to the few who will ever read it through, but the Presbyterian Board of Publication does itself little good by becoming foster mother to religious literature of the type which it represents. Dr. Craven's prefatory note does far more credit to his heart than to his head. As a true friend to the author, he ought to have advised the suppression of the book.

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY AND MODERN THOUGHT: Higher Criticism, by Rev. W. D. Armstrong, M. A., Ph. D. William Briggs, Toronto.

This is one of the lectures delivered in Knox College by Dr. Armstrong, of Ottawa, during the Alumni Conference in January last. It is an intelligent and able plea for a conservative attitude towards old beliefs on matters dealt with by the higher critics, but without prejudice towards that which is new. Like most of those who are not specialists, he feels that the results about which many are now so sure, are likely to be seriously modified in the conservative direction before finality is reached, and that in any case the essentials of religion cannot be affected by any of the conclusions that may be reached on critical questions. The advice which it gives is timely and might be profitably read by many others besides ministers. It is handsomely printed and is worth preserving.

A YEAR'S SERMONS. By S. D. McConnell, D. D., author of "Sermon Stuff," "Sons of God," etc. 12mo, cloth binding, pp. 810, \$1.25. Published by Thomas Whittaker, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York.

Under a most modest title we have in this volume a collection of fifty-two remarkable sermons. Dr. McConnell's originality stands unquestioned. His marked ability in the "art of putting things" is excessively attractive, and in nothing that he has written is this ability more apparent than in this volume. These sermons, in their present form, were never delivered. They were prepared weekly, during a year, for the editorial pages of a secular newspaper in Philadelphia. Each sermon is short and to the point, and is couched in a language which is always readable. Whilst they are reverent, they are plain, clear and incisive.

Their titles are such as are calculated to excite the attention, without any attempt at sensationalism. For example: "The Market Value of a Soul," "A Liason with the World," "Sinning by Proxy," "The Tyranny of Business," "Revelation and Man's Capacity" and a score of others equally striking. The volume is dedicated "to the congregation outside the church, that people who are the fascination and the despair of the preacher, this volume is with hopefulness and doubtfulness inscribed."

NEW SERIES OF BOOKLETS. Containing Poems of Comfort and of Consolation. Printed in two colors. Price 20 cents each. Thomas Whittaker, Publisher, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York.

These daintily printed booklets, in red and black, are just what one wants now and again for presentation to friends when occasions arise. They make charming little tokens for cultivated minds; are suitable for comfort in cases of bereavement or sore trials, while conveying beautiful lessons of faith, hope and love. The following famous poems are included in the series: "Not Changed but Glorified," "Not Knowing," by Mrs. Brainard, "Resignation," by Longfellow, "Compensation," by Miss Havergal, and "Crossing the Bar," by Tennyson, with "The Pilot" by Henry Alford, the two last named being printed together.

AMERICAN MEDITATIVE LYRICS. By Theodore W. Hunt, Ph.D., Litt. D., Professor of English in the College of New Jersey. 205 pages, 16mo, illustrated, \$1.00. New York, E. B. Treat.

This little volume is a beautiful collection of studies of the spiritual element in poetry, as illustrated more particularly in the works of Bryant, Longfellow, Emerson, Poe, Whittier, Lowell, Taylor, Holmes, and Mrs. Stowe; while the concluding chapters treat of elegies, hymns and some later lyrics. For a frontispiece the volume gives a grouped facsimile of the poet's autographs, and each chapter is headed by an excellent portrait of the poet therein treated. In its bright dress the book is most attractive to the eye, and its pages lead one pleasantly along until he is beguiled before he knows it into an interesting and serious study of an important branch of literature. Prof. Hunt's deeper sympathies are with earnest work, and his full literary furnishing makes even his lighter essays full of profitable instruction.

CHRIST AND MODERN UNBELIEF. By Randolph H. McKim, D. D. A course of seven lectures, 12mo, cloth, \$1.00; paper covers, 50 cents. Published by Thomas Whittaker, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York.

Between the last century and the end of the nineteenth, unbelief has shifted its ground. Of the last century we may say, "There were giants in those days," when Butler and Paley arose and conquered Deism with its own weapons. Then it was unnecessary to prove the existence of a personal God. Then there was no other religion which unbelievers would plead for if Christianity were disproved. It held the field. The genuineness of the sacred books of the Christians has scarcely a solitary impugner. Now, however, all is changed. Pantheism, agnosticism, Oriental mythology, and modern criticism are an hostile array against God, the Bible and Jesus Christ Himself. It is obvious that new points of attack and new phases of sceptical thought must be met by new arguments. This is what this volume aims to supply. It essays to state what is the precise point to be proved, and how far any of the objections raised by modern doubt are vital, so that if any of them be conceded Christ's religion would still imperatively, supremely and exclusively claim the homage of mankind.

The style of the book is popular and crisp, and the whole of these published lectures, as to treatment, leave little to be desired by either advocate, inquirer or doubter.

ALDEN'S LIVING TOPICS CYCLOPEDIA. The second volume of this useful publication extending from Boy. to Con., contains the latest facts concerning the nations, Brazil, British Empire, Bulgaria, Cape Colony, Chile, Chinese Empire, and others, and concerning three states, California, Colorado and Connecticut; also concerning six large cities of the U. S. The facts are commonly from one year to five years later than can be found in any of the leading cyclopedias, and commonly a year later than the 1896 almanacs and annuals. We name only leading titles; besides there are hundreds of others, all of them "living" topics. One wonders how busy seekers after knowledge have got along without such an up-to-date cyclopedia. The whole series of six handy volumes is to be completed during the year, and at the surprisingly low cost of \$1.50 to \$3.00 for the set, with liberal discounts for advance orders. Specimen pages may be had free by addressing the publisher, John B. Alden, 10 and 12 Vandewater St., New York.

THE MISSIONARY GAME. The "Missionary Game of the World" is the title of a card game which has just been published. The arrangement is the same as that in the "Chataqua Games" series which have become so popular, which have had such good results in educating children old and young through the medium of a simple and fascinating recreation. The Missionary Game is the work of a Canadian, Miss E. F. Parker, of Aylmer, Que., and the questions on the cards cover the whole range of Protestant missionary effort.