

## THE BOOK PAGE

"That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit."

THE CROSS TRIUMPHANT. By Florence Morse Kingsley, pp. 364. Paper 60c.; cloth \$1. Toronto: William Briggs.

YESTERDAY FRAMED IN TO-DAY. By "Pansy" (Mrs. G. R. A'den); pp. 356; cloth, illustrated, 70c. Toronto: William Briggs.

Two fresh books from well-known authors, whose very names ensure a wide sale. In "The Cross Triumphant" Mrs. Kingsley follows closely on in the pathway which led to her great popularity in "Titus," "Stephen" and "Paul." Her power lies in the ability to reproduce with life-like vividness those most thrilling of all times, because connected with the life and mission of the Man of Nazareth. This new book belongs to the period of the destruction of the Holy City with its "great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time—no, nor ever shall be." The portraits of Merodah, the sweet Jewish maiden, and her miserly father, a type of the Jew whose god is gain, of the bewitching Berenice, the daughter of the Herods, and of Phannias, the Nazarite, who became the loyal soldier of the Cross, are all well done. All such books as Mrs. Kingsley's are to be welcomed, so long as they are true, as hers are, to the spirit and doctrine of the Word. They serve to make more real the Man of Nazareth in the power of His life and teaching to the men of to-day.

"YESTERDAY FRAMED IN TO-DAY" is intended as a puzzle. It is a daring experiment. History and chronology are alike set aside. The Man Christ Jesus is lifted bodily out of His own age and set down in the midst of ours. The people are the people of New England towns, and among them walks and works the Lord Jesus. The healing of the palsied man let down through the roof, the curing of the man born blind, the raising of the widow of Nain's son and of Lazarus, are reproduced in the story, as well as the persecutions He endured, and His death and resurrection and ascension. It is a curious tale, a tale of which the author herself says: "I think you are about to read that which is unlike anything else in print." It will be read, but one cannot help asking what has been gained? Possibly the object is to show that the treatment of our Lord by His own generation was in no wise a strange thing, that the proud Pharisee and raging high-priest and scoffing unbeliever still live, that our time is no more hospitable to the miraculous in Christ's work or the God-like in His character than was the age that slew Him. If so, and it seems the readiest solution of the puzzle, one wonders whether it is worth while. Such dislocation of the Gospel story has an element of the repulsive. The author means well. None

can doubt her reverence; but the truest view, after all, of the Christ, is in the surroundings amongst which He did actually live. His coming just when He came and where He came and how He came were all part of a great historic development, the working out by the God of grace of His purpose of grace towards men. To see Him and His work in the actual setting in which He and it stood is to receive the largest impulse for service of Him here and now.

BIBLE STORIES (Old Testament): The Modern Reader's Bible. By Richard G. Moulton, M.A., pp. 310, with map. Price, 50c. George N. Morang & Company, Toronto.

An exquisitely made book, paper, type, binding, satisfying to the eye. It is the latest issue, a "Children's Number," of the Modern Reader's Bible series. The stories are in the very words of Scripture, but the matter is paraphrased in the ordinary literary form, chapter and verse being dispensed with, and appropriate headings substituted. The introductions and notes are brief but valuable, and the freshness that comes from the novel arrangement of the text adds zest to stories already familiar. This volume is to be followed by the New Testament Stories. Bible lovers will welcome them, and they should largely stimulate that most wholesome of all reading for boys and girls, the stories of the Bible.

Two capital "everyday" books for boys are FLASHLIGHTS ON NATURE, by Grant Allen, illustrated (and the illustrations are most attractive) by Frederick Enock. Pp. 312. Price, \$1.25. William Briggs, Toronto; and FIGHTS FOR THE FLAG, by W. H. Fitchett, with Portraits and Plans, pp. 333. Price, \$1.00. London: Geo. Bell & Sons (from William Briggs). Grant Allen we cannot always commend, but in these first-hand studies of minute out-door life he is at his best, and his best is very good. The mere title, "Fights for the Flag," stirs the blood of the boys, and from Blake and Marlborough to Inkerman and Balaclava the procession of British heroes passes before the eyes. "Not since Macaulay ceased to write," says the *London Spectator*, "has English literature produced a writer capable of infusing such life and vigor into historical scenes. The book cannot but take the reader by storm wherever it finds him." The closing chapter is a sweet picture of Florence Nightingale, the angel of the Crimea, of whom Longfellow wrote:

"Lo! in that house of misery  
A lady with a lamp I see  
Pass through the glimmering gloom,  
And flit from room to room.

"And slow, as in a dream of bliss,  
The speechless sufferer turns to kiss  
Her shadow, as it falls  
Upon the darkening walls."