

Holman Hunt's wonderful picture, "The Triumph of the Innocents," the result of years of labour, shows Joseph, a sturdy peasant, with his basket of tools on his back. Around the Holy Child and his mother, circle the souls of the slain innocents, the first-fruits of the holy army of martyrs, to whom the infant Christ turns with a look of soulful sympathy.

In the legend the little Jesus makes sparrows of clay and claps his hands, when they all fly off. When the pitcher which Jesus is carrying breaks, he brings the water in the corner of his robe. When the couch which Joseph is making for a customer proves too short, Jesus stretches it to the proper length. These puerile stories are given with much variety in early art, and are in striking contrast to the simple account of the Scriptures which sum up the boyhood of Christ in the words, "And He was subject unto them. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

In early art Mary was represented, not as the principal figure, but merely as an accessory to the Divine Child. In course of time she came to occupy the principal place, and even received the unwarranted titles of "Theotokos," and "Mater Dei," "The Mother of God." But as there is a soul of goodness even in things evil, so even the undue exaltation of Mary were not without some moral benefit to mankind. In a coarse, rude age of rapine and wrong, a new ideal of gentleness and ruth was created. A morose asceticism had spread on every side, denouncing the sweet and gentle charities of hearth and home, and forbidding the love of wife and child to those who would attain to the heights of holiness. Woman was degraded as a being of inferior nature, regarded as "a necessary evil," and forbidden, as unworthy, to touch with her hand the sacred emblems of the passion of Christ.

But this *cultus* of Mary raised woman to a loftier plane of being, invested her with a moral dignity and power, infinite superior to any-

thing known to pagan times, and called forth a deeper reverence and more chivalrous regard :

This example of all womanhood,
So mild, so merciful, so strong, so good,
So patient, peaceful, loyal, loving, pure,

ennobled and dignified the entire sex, and therefore raised and purified the whole of society. The worship of sorrow softened savage natures to more human gentleness, and ameliorated the horrors of long, dark centuries of cruelty and blood.

Hours with the Bible. By CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D., LL.D. *The Scriptures in the Light of Modern Discovery and Knowledge.* Entirely new edition. Revised throughout and largely rewritten. Cloth, with illustrations. Six volumes, \$7.50. Vol. I. From the creation to the Patriarchs. Vol. II. From Moses to the Judges. Vol. III. From Samson to Solomon. Vol. IV. From Rehoboam to Hezekiah. Vol. V. From Manasseh to Zedekiah. Vol. VI. Completing Old Testament. New York: James Pott & Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

The study of the Word of God is ever commanding more and more of the attention of mankind. New books and new editions of standard works are teeming from the press as never before. Among the most valuable of these recent issues is that above mentioned. Dr. Geikie's "Hours with the Bible," during the last ten years has become a sort of classic in its line; but the marked development of biblical knowledge in recent times, especially in connection with recent exploration in Egypt, Assyria and Babylonia, has created the necessity for a revision of the text. Dr. Geikie gives also the benefit of his own personal recent travels in Egypt, Palestine and Assyria, and his extensive studies of the best and most recent authorities on these subjects. A list of the latter alone fills nine closely printed pages.

The purpose of the book is in harmony with the modern inductive