

entitled "A Teacher's Life, Jessie E. Robertson, with extracts from diaries, essays, and letters, by her Sisters and Friends." There is a brief preface by Mr. Robert McQueen, the superintendent of the Kirkwall Sunday School, and the book is dedicated to the Valens' Bible Class. The tenth chapter, consisting of a criticism of Miss Robertson's writings, is, I am informed, the work of Professor Thomas Shaw of the Guelph Agricultural College. Reference is made in the book to the Rev. Mr. McLean, who, Mr. Cameron informs me, was the first minister of Strabane, to the Rev. J. L. Robertson, and the Rev. J. W. Cathcart, who intervened between Mr. McLean and Mr. Cameron, the present minister. Miss Robertson, who died, however, a Mrs. Robertson, sister-in-law to the minister of Strabane, seems to have possessed a singularly fine natural disposition towards character and culture, to which the grace of God in special exercise lent its chief charm and ornament. She was by no means a passive Christian, like so many subjects of Christian feminine biography, but one intensely active, both in seeking the cultivation of her own powers and the welfare of others. She was ambitious but utterly unselfish, romantic and enthusiastic yet remarkably practical, beloved by all her pupils and, withal, a thorough disciplinarian. The editor of her life is her sister, now the wife of the Rev. D. G. McQueen of Edmonton, N.W.T., and she has faithfully performed her task. Mrs. McQueen and her collaborators in preparing the volume desired to put on permanent record a memory that to them and to many others was fragrant, to give to female teachers a life from which they could learn many valuable lessons, and to add to the ranks of Christian biography one that, by its simple naturalness, must have a charm for ingenuous minds. I confess I am not in love with diaries. I kept one for a great many years, till a better spirit came over me: then I gathered my self complacent idols together and made a mighty bonfire of them. But the Teacher's diary, or rather its extracts, exhibit a singularly candid and truthful nature, ever yearning towards better things. I most cordially recommend this book, not as an artistic whole, but as a pleasing glimpse of the best side that our present Canadian home and school life presents. I suppose it can be procured from any bookseller. The proceeds of the book, after expenses of publication are paid, are to be devoted to the cause of missions. Mr. Cameron kindly directs my attention to some misprints, for which the editor is not responsible. If the writer of *Talks on Books*, and the other contributors to the *JOURNAL*, were held responsible for the misprints which rather frequently appear in its numbers, we should be set down as a set of boobies, deficient in a common school education.

No less a man than the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone is the author of our next book, *The Impregnable Rock of Holy Scripture*. This consists of a series of articles originally published in *Good Words*. Mr. Gladstone makes no pretence as a specialist in Hebrew or in Natural Science, but thinks that his general training and acquired culture as an investigator of ancient history, having special reference to his Homeric studies, fit him for bringing impartiality to a consideration of the Bible record. On first reading over the last book of the venerable and most industrious writer, I thought I detected signs of weakness and a tendency to be garrulous. But, perusing it a second time, that impression vanished, and I found that the arguments are tersely put, in good order, and, of course, in excellent English. The Creation Story chapter is an excellent popular vindication of the relations between geological data and the statements of Genesis. The chapter on Recent Corrobor-