

OUR NOTE BOOK.

A third annual Christian Convention has been held at Dublin, in the Lenster Hall of the Exhibition Palace, and has been largely attended by ministers and laymen from all denominations of the Protestant Church in Ireland, Great Britain, and the continent. The subjects for consideration at each session were too numerous to be specified in our contracted space, but they were carefully discussed, and a deep spirituality marked the entire proceedings of the convention, which extended over four days, and were closed by a "praise meeting," at which the Jubilee Singers were present and assisted.

The Wesleyan Revival Mission has continued its work, and has extended throughout the country, local causes preventing the holding of the services simultaneously. Reports from the various centres give evidence of much success. In many places the services have been prolonged, and there has been a gratifying ingathering of souls into the Church.

A mission is appointed to be held in the churches of Manchester early in the new year. It is looked forward to with much interest and expectancy. The series of special services held recently by the Rev. W. H. M. Atken in the cathedral and in St. Ann's Church of that city were remarkable in their power and their results, and the more widespread efforts about to be made in all the principal churches of the city and suburbs will give abundant exercise for the zeal of those who came under the influence of the great revival preacher.

Special meetings for the military, organised by the Rev. W. J. Henton, military chaplain, have been held weekly, during the last two months, at the William-street Wesleyan Schoolroom. They have consisted chiefly of readings and lectures (the latter occasionally illustrated by the magic lantern), and have been enlivened by vocal and instrumental music. The meetings have been well attended alike by the military and by civilians. Mr. Henton has also given a series of lectures on "Our Own English Bible," on Thursday evenings, in the Shooter's-hill Iron Chapel.

The first Protestant Church in Constantinople was opened in 1846. There are now seventy-six in the Turkish Empire, of which a third are self-supporting and independent. Four "evangelical unions" have been formed for mutual counsel and aid. Connected with these churches are congregations aggregating 13,000, with a population of over 18,000 native Protestants.

The restoration of the old Abbey of St. Alban's, which is the largest church in England, is progressing, and Dr. Cloughton is spoken of as the probable bishop of the new see. Dr. Vaughan, Master of the Temple, is said to have given his assent to a request that he should become bishop of the new Cornish diocese of Truro.

The Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, both Established and Free, are giving attention to the spread of intemperance, and have been devising schemes to counteract the vice. The last Sunday in the year will be employed by many of the ministers in the preaching of sermons on the sin of drunkenness, which for many years has prevailed to an alarming extent at the New Year.

The Irish branch of the Evangelical Alliance has been resuscitated, and associations are being formed in almost every town and village of considerable population. Lecturers and deputations have been appointed to advocate the principles of the Alliance throughout the country. At a meeting of the council, at the Exhibition Palace, Dublin, the Right Hon. W. Broke, who presided, and the Rev. D. Mullen, secretary, broadly stated the character and object of the Alliance to be the making of all Christians to consider one another brethren in the Lord, notwithstanding the peculiarities of each, and to promote the spirit of union which they had witnessed at the late convention.

The cause of temperance progresses, and is ably advocated by men of the foremost rank in the Church. The recent utterances of the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Manchester, and the Rev. Basil Wilberforce are pregnant with importance. In the sermon of the latter a few weeks ago, in St. Paul's Cathedral, taking for his text the words of Joel ii. 1, "Sound an alarm," Canon Wilberforce said that the drink traffic was poisoning the blood of England at its very source. In connection with the temperance mission week in Southampton, the Nonconformist Temperance Society held a meeting in the Watts Memorial Hall, at which the Canon was also present and spoke, observing that total abstinence was being recognised by men of science and the clergy as a real power in the country, and he urged his audience to make the temperance movement a religious one, and to feel that they were working for God and Christ.

Within a short period death has singled out several whose names men have delighted to honour. Of these, on the 7th Nov., expired Dr. Waddy, an eloquent preacher and masterly debater, the originator and, for fourteen years, governor of Wesley College, Sheffield, and president of the Wesleyan Conference in 1859-60. On the 21st of the same month, the eminent philanthropist, George Moore, succumbed to the effects of a street accident in Carlisle, and thus ended a life which, while greatly blessed by God in the bestowment of much worldly prosperity, "sought not its own," and has been rarely equalled in the extent of its beneficence. On the day following (Nov. 22) died the scholarly Dr. Beard, well known as the author of several educational works, which have done much. In the more thoughtful among the toiling classes in their desire for self-culture. The death of Sir Ekanah Armitage, in the eightieth year of his age, took place on Sunday, Nov. 26. In early life, working as handloom weaver, by dint of perseverance he rapidly rose to a high position in his native city, became Mayor of Manchester in 1846, was re-elected in 1847, was knighted for his prompt suppression of the riots of 1848, for a short time was M.P. for Salford, and in 1866 was made high-sheriff of Lancashire. He largely supported the cause of Congregationalism, and contributed nobly to local and other charities. George Dawson's death took place suddenly, by the rupture of a blood-vessel, on Nov. 30. Though popular in Birmingham as a preacher, he was more generally known as one of the first lecturers of the day; and though by some he was considered as a reflex of Carlyle and Emerson, his power and originality were recognised by many who differed from him in opinion; while his earnest denunciations of insincerity and the frivolities of the age commanded the esteem of all who, with himself, loved the honest and true.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

The Quiver. Vol. XI (London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin). Interesting without being flighty; thorough and practical, without being dry; homely, yet not commonplace; earnest and logical, without bigotry, the "Quiver" is our ideal of a religious magazine for the people. The complete tales in this new volume are especially good—"The Pennant Family," a Cornish wreckers' story, tragic in its scenery, and devoutly earnest in its lessons, is the gem of the whole. "Across the Plain," a homely story that cannot fail to win the hearts of the readers; "Gold in the Sky," somewhat sensational, but in the main true to life, and many other shorter tales. Then we have the late Dr. Spence's articles on "The Beauty of Holiness," written in his inimitably robust style, clear and logical, and breathing the true spirit of Christian love; "Thoughts on Christ's Life," beautifully expressed by an anonymous author; "The Later Christian Fathers," encouraging us in well-doing; "The Martyrdom of St. Stephen, by Dr. Hanna, whose name is a guarantee of sterling worth. The "Quiver Bible-class" is ably conducted, and "What the Spirit Saith to the Churches" is worthy of prayerful reading. To enumerate the many winning tales and words of advice for the young, the short, pithy articles on almost every imaginable Scriptural topic, the beautiful poems, and, in fact, half the attractions (not forgetting the illustrations) would occupy more space than we can afford, and we can therefore only counsel our readers to buy this new volume of the "Quiver," and if they are only half so well pleased and profited in the reading as we have been, they will be amply repaid.

Rev. William Jay's Works. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 5s. a Vol.) We are glad to see this reissue of the great preacher's works. Commendation on our part is unnecessary; everyone knows the value of these discourses, and we simply call attention to this cheap and handsome edition.

Rowland Hill: His Life, Anecdotes, and Pulpit Sayings. (By V. J. Charlesworth. (London: Hodder and Stoughton. 3s. 6d.). We had previously read two biographies of Rowland Hill, and did not expect to find novelty in Mr. Charlesworth's volume. But we were agreeably surprised. The book is written with great care and fidelity, and the story of the veteran preacher's life and labours is an interesting and instructive one. We have selected one of the most practical discourses for our monthly sermon, and the portrait is also engraved from the frontispiece. Mr. Spurgeon prefaces the book in a most genial and characteristic manner.

The Pilgrim's Progress. As originally published by John Bunyan (London: Elliot Stock.) Mr. Stock deserves the thanks of the whole reading community for his admirable series of reprints, of which this volume is one. Type, paper, and binding are reproduced with a fidelity that reflects great credit on the publisher.

The Biblical Museum: Genesis and Exodus. (London: Elliot Stock.) Mr. Comper Gray possesses remarkable facility of condensation, and all his works are marked with that terseness and thoroughness which are the delight of the hard-reading student. The present volume, the first of the Old Testament series, should be possessed by all who would read the Scriptures understandingly.

The History of Protestantism. By Dr. Wylie. Vol. II. (London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.) In this large and profusely illustrated volume, the author records the triumphant progress of the Reforming army "against the devil's falsity and darkness." The story of the Swedish Protestants, with their enthusiastic self-devotion, the heroic defence of God's Word by Zwingle and his handful of followers—the glorious Confession at Augsburg—the noble work done by Calvin and Melancthon—the grand devotion and sublime abnegation of self of the Waldenses—the chivalric though headstrong patriotism of the Vaudois—Black Bartholomew and its surrounding horrors—all this, and much more, does the volume graphically describe. Dr. Wylie has achieved, in the production of this work, a reputation as a historian second to none; Catholic in the extreme, painstaking to the last degree, terse and concise on every point, and displaying erudition of a high order, this book cannot but be regarded as one of the completest and most reliable histories of the glorious Reformation that this country has ever known.

Kind Words. Vol. VI. (London: Sunday School Union.) Mr. Clarke, the genial editor of *Kind Words*, has good reason to be proud of his new volume. Every page is worth reading, and there is an entire absence of the padding so very often found in children's serials. W. H. G. Kingston is to the fore with a stirring nautical story; the Editor tells "Tales out of School"; "Archie Dunn" narrates some most remarkable "Stories," while we have papers on Physiology, Biography, Poets and Poetry, Natural History, and a thoroughly interesting and instructive assortment of tales and short sketches. Then there are "Nuts to Crack," "The Young Author's Page," and sundry other details in which the youthful readers can play their part, and the boy or girl who cannot appreciate *Kind Words* must be made of very hard metal indeed.

The Morning of Life. Vol. II. (London: Sunday School Union.) This is a magazine "for young people," but of a rather more advanced class than the readers of *Kind Words*. As such, it will doubtless be very acceptable. The best feature to our mind is the short series of articles on "The Proverbs of Solomon," by Dr. McAulane. We quote one elsewhere.

Christmas Fare (*Kind Words'* Christmas number) is exceedingly good in every way but the printing.

Child's Own Magazine. Vol. V. (London: Sunday School Union.) A most attractive volume. The imitation olograph on the cover is very effective, and within there is nothing left to be wished for. The printing is certainly superior to the other "Union" publications.

The Lay Preacher. Vol. I. Third Series. (London: F. E. Longley. 3s. 6d.) Many a hard-working minister and lay preacher will be glad to have this volume. It is crammed full with good things, and yet every detail finds its own place. This volume is not intended to supply brains to the indolent, but to help and stimulate those who, knowing a good deal, are thereby enabled to realise how much they do not know.

Pulpit Echoes. Vol. II. (London: F. E. Longley. 2s. 6d.) A volume of thoroughly representative sermons, and an excellent companion for the sickroom.

Pennel. Vol. I. (London: F. E. Longley. 2s. 6d.) The best, cheapest, and most representative volume on the subject of Scriptural Holiness we have seen.