

## Books Department.

*History of the World, or Cyclopaedia of Universal History,* by JOHN CLARK RIDPATH, LL. D. Jones Brothers Publishing Co., Cincinnati. The Balch Brothers, Toronto.

This work, complete in three volumes, gives a clear account of the principal events in the career of the human race from the beginnings of civilization to the present time. It is illustrated with numerous maps, charts, sketches, portraits and diagrams, to such an extent as to present the leading events of history in panoramic view to the eye. As a book of ready reference for historical information, it will be found a useful and attractive work for the library of any one interested in literary pursuits. The first volume presents to us the Ancient World, and in it we see the rise and fall of ancient dynasties and empires, with pictures shewing the characteristics of the different ages. We have Egypt, Chaldea, Assyria, Media, Babylonia, Persia, Greece, Macedonia, Rome to the capture of Constantinople and the end of the Eastern Empire.

In the second volume we have the devastations of the barbarians from the North, and their ascendancy over the wrecks of the Roman Empire, the rise of the Mohammedan power, the age of Charlemagne, the rise and sway of the Feudal System in the leading countries of the day, the Crusaders with their romantic adventures, the darkness of the middle ages, the light of the Reformation and the discovery of the New World, with the speedy colonization which followed it in what is now known as New England and the United States.

The third volume opens with the reign of James I, and describes the English Revolution and Restoration, the age of Frederick the Great, the War of Independence in America, the French Revolution, and ends with ten chapters on the Nineteenth Century, with an account of China, Japan, and Australia.

We have noted one or two little inaccuracies in ecclesiastical matters, such as representing the thirty-nine articles and the Westminster Confession of Faith as being the same document, but these will probably be corrected in a second edition. In the account given of the Reformation, the Anglican Churchman will miss the prominence which he considers ought always to be given to the fact that the Reformation in England was different in a marked degree from that in Germany. It was a great national event, a wonderful movement on the part of the whole church, bishops, priests, deacons and laymen, with but a comparatively few exceptions. It was not, as on the continent, a few struggling against power, but it was the movement of the whole church itself, without the loss of its continuity or place in history. Few secular historians do the English Church justice, as a mere fact of history, in this respect.

We are pleased however, to note the following tribute paid to our Prayer Book:—

"It was proposed to make the new Liturgy conform as nearly as possible to what was conceived to be the usages of the primitive fathers of the Church, and at the same time to retain so much of the Romish form of worship as the commissioners considered to be authorized by the Scriptures. Without entering into the merits of the English Prayer Book, viewed as an aid to devotion, it may be safely averred that the service rendered thereby to the English language has been beyond estimate. The grave and elevated forms of our speech, its strength in assertion, its depth in feeling, and its dignity in apostrophe, were crystalized in this formative period of the national religion, and found a full and sonorous utterance in the early handbook of English Protestantism."—(Vol. II, p. 654.)

The work, as a whole, is the successful carrying out of an excellent design. Its great worth lies in the panoramic style in which all the great events of history are massed together and successively presented to view.

The great attractive feature of the work is its illustrations, some of which are very beautiful. In this respect it will be found useful in the way of interesting children in the delightful and wholesome study of history. The illustrations found on pages 3, 5, 9, 13 and 15, of this issue of OUR MISSION NEWS, are samples of the pictures found in it.

*The Ante-Nicene Fathers*; Translated into English, by REV. A. ROBERTS, D. D., and JAMES DONALDSON, LL. D., revised and chronologically arranged, with brief prefaces and occasional notes, by A. CLEVELAND COXE, D. D., (Bishop of Western New York.) Vols. I—VI. The Christian Literature Company, Buffalo, N. Y.

Unquestionably a useful work for the clerical library. The expensive and scattered editions of the Ante-Nicene Fathers are here published in the very best of form, on good paper, and with excellent print, at low prices, and are arranged in chronological order, with notes by Bishop Coxe. In themselves they form a valuable ecclesiastical history of the primitive days of Christianity, and are books which cannot fail being appreciated by every churchman interested in the early literature of his religion. The work has been so well patronized as to enable the publishers greatly to improve upon their first efforts, and to bring out a second edition of the earlier volumes, so that all may be uniform in the improved form.

*Missionary Work among the Ojibway Indians*, by REV. E. F. WILSON, Sault Ste. Marie. S. P. C. K.

An interesting book of early missions among the Indians, written by Mr. Wilson, who for many years has labored, as he still is laboring, to civilize and christianize the Red men of this country.

We hope to refer to this book at greater length some future time. It will be found useful for distribution in our Sunday Schools.