

Book Notices.

Palestine: The Holy Land as It Was and as It Is. By JOHN FULTON, D.D., LL.D. Illustrated. Philadelphia: Henry T. Coates & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. viii-527. Price, \$3.00.

There is an undying interest about the Lord's land which grows stronger as the years pass by. Dr. Fulton's account of the land as it is and as it was, is one of the latest and best which has appeared. He visited a good many of the by-ways as well as the highways of travel in Palestine, but devotes special attention to the city of the great king. He discusses fully the question of the real site of Golgotha, and agrees with the very large consensus of testimony that it was not on the present site of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, but most probably on the hill outside the Damascus gate.

A special feature of the book is the elucidation of biblical narrative from the present conditions by study of the sites and scenes of Palestine. The beautiful half-tone engravings, printed in sepia tints, of which there are thirty, enable us to walk again through the streets of Jerusalem, by the strand of Jordan and Galilee, and to visit the places made sacred evermore by the life and labours of our Lord. It is an admirable book for preachers or Sunday-school superintendents or teachers. The eight coloured maps in this book add very much to its value.

Literary Friends and Acquaintances. A Personal Retrospect of American Authorship. By W. D. HOWELLS. Illustrated. New York and London: Harper & Brothers. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. viii-288. Price, \$2.50.

Few living writers have been in such close touch with the literary life of America as the genial author of "Silas Lapham," and many other books. Mr. Howells confesses that his early ambition was to be known as a poet, and yet he is much better known by his graceful prose than even by his elegant verse. There is a friendly frankness about this book which captivates us at once. The piquant humour, the blended wit and wisdom, the graceful bonhomie of the man are everywhere apparent. He knew, as much as any one could know, the very heart and inner life of Lowell, Long-

fellow, Holmes, Bayard Taylor, Field, and other leading lights of American literature, to whom he devotes special studies, and had a scarce less close acquaintance with many others. To none does he give more absolute love and homage than to Longfellow, "the White Mr. Longfellow," as he calls him. "All men that I have known besides," he says, "have had some foible (it often endeared them the more), or some meanness, or pettiness, or bitterness; but Longfellow had none, nor the suggestion of any. No breath of evil ever touched his name; he went in and out among his fellow-men without the reproach that follows wrong." But even the foibles of the writers into whose familiar society we are introduced makes them but the more human and lovable. Seventy-one engravings and landscape pieces greatly enhance the value of this admirable book.

The Last Years of Saint Paul. By the ABBE CONSTANT FOUARD. Translated with the Author's sanction and co-operation by GEORGE F. X. GRIFFITH. New York and London: Longmans, Green & Co. Pp. xiii-326. Price, \$2.00.

It is significant of the broad, deep, underlying unity of our historical Christianity that this book, by a Roman Catholic abbé, bearing the permission of the Roman Catholic censor and the imprimatur of a Roman Catholic archbishop, is one from which, for its piety and its learning, the most strenuous Protestant may derive much profit. The great apostle of the Gentiles belongs to all Christendom. The distinguished author has studied very profoundly all the Biblical, patristic and classical literature and Greek and Roman epigraphy illustrating the subject. In a previous volume he has described the missionary journeys of Saint Paul, which make up the longer term of his apostolate. The present volume describes the last five years of his life after his arrival in Rome, half of which he was destined to drag out in captivity. His main purpose in the seventeen years of mission work had been, says our author, to free the Christian communities which he was founding from the bondage of Judaism. He was now to enrich the church with those invaluable letters written from Rome,