

THE BOOK PAGE

Harold Begbie's *In the Hand of the Potter*, the publication of which created so much interest a year ago, appears now in a neat, well printed, paper covered edition (Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, 191 pages, 35c.). It will be remembered that *In the Hand of the Potter* differs from the writer's companion volume, *Broken Earthenware*, in this, that, whilst "The testators to conversion were in *Broken Earthenware* all men, and of the humblest class in the community, some of them from the lees and dregs of society;" in the present book "most of the stories concern women, and in all cases the stratum of society is above the depths." Nor are they, as in *Broken Earthenware*, stories of sudden, violent conversion, but in many cases the process leading to the new birth has been gradual and tranquil. But whatever sort of story he tells, Harold Begbie is interesting and worth reading.

Rest A While Stories (H. R. Allenson, London, Upper Canada Tract Society, Toronto, 156 pages; 50c. net) is a promising title. The book contains 25 stories and ballads suitable and useful for reading aloud or reciting at Temperance Societies, Mothers' Meetings, or wherever else good wholesome narratives will be enjoyed. Mary Rowles Jarvis, the author, has the knack of story telling, humor, pathos and good feeling being paramount qualities in her work. There is many a good old weary soul, and many a Sunday School scholar, to whom the book would be a welcome gift.

After Spurgeon, McLaren of Manchester (as his biographer spells his name) was the greatest preacher of his generation. Spurgeon, Parker and McLaren were a famous trio of preachers and the greatest of these, take him all in all, was McLaren. His biographer—a cousin and sister-in-law—modestly entitles her work, *Dr. McLaren of Manchester: A Sketch* (Hodder & Stoughton, Toronto, 272 pages, \$1.25). The story is told in a simple, direct way, indeed is largely allowed to tell itself from Dr. McLaren's letters and other memoranda. The life of this great divine, extending for seventy-five years, was a wonderful life. It was a ministry almost from boyhood, for his choice was early made. It was a preaching ministry. Everything else was subordinate. His preaching was exposition, the fruit of deep study and meditation upon the Word. The guiding star of the exposition was Christ and Him crucified. From whatever angle Dr. McLaren looked at any passage of scripture, the Christ and the cross were in sight; and yet his preaching was no mere monotonous repetition of Christ's name or the doctrine of the atonement, but a perpetual exhibition of the whole of scripture as the revelation of Christ and His kingdom among men, in which there could be no monotony. Those who are familiar with his sermons, and they are a great host, will welcome this sketch of his life; and those who followed, as did the writer of this notice, the twenty years of his "Yankees", as he called the pungent and vivacious and illuminating homiletical articles on the Sunday School Lesson which appeared week by week in the Sunday School Times during that long period.



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