

A very thoughtful series of papers is that just issued by Mr. Hawkins (3). We certainly cannot agree with all he says, but the sketches have the true ring of godly common sense, and we cannot better evince our appreciation of them than by reprinting on another page a portion of one of them.

Dr. Newton is, doubtless, well known to our young readers, and the book before us (4) cannot but enhance their appreciation of his pleasant, chatty style. We have seen this very book called goody-goody, but this we deny: it is plain common sense, put in an attractive form, and will be blessed by many a parent and Sunday-school teacher.

To criticise the world-renowned "History of Methodism," (5) by the venerable Abel Stevens, would be ungracious and unnecessary. Suffice it to say the Conference Office has issued the book in a very cheap and attractive form, and we hope to hear that it has sold by thousands.

If "Kilda Hall" (6) is a first effort (which by the parade of subscribers' names we should presume it is) we have nothing to say against it. Crude and verbose it certainly is, but there is promise of much better things yet to come from the same pen.

Scissors and paste are very useful, but they must be used discriminately, and a modicum of common-sense is required to make the cuttings presentable. Mr. Nicholson has done his pruning well in this little volume of American newspaper extracts (7), and we hope to see something from him more ambitious and more deserving of his *imprimatur*.

"Sweet Naples!" There is music in the very title. We have read many volumes of "travels," from Huc and Gabet's "China" to Stanley's "Dark Continent"; but never have we been more charmed than with the volume before us (8). Mr. Stamer does not profess to be a great traveller, but he has resided in Naples six years, and says truly in his preface, "These are no 'impressions' or notes taken on the wing, but experiences." That they are so, and interesting withal, we can vouch, and long for that day when we can spare the time to verify our author's most lifelike narration.

Written primarily to advocate the use of Messrs. Hill's whole meal bread, this very elegant little pamphlet (9) contains a considerable amount of interesting matter concerning the ancient history and privileges of the Bread Baker's Companies, evincing great research and not a little ingenuity on the part of the painstaking compiler.

To those who know *nothing* of the French language, a portion of this little book (10) will be useful, as it gives the English and French of commonly-used phrases, with the phonetic pronunciation in the latter language. This vocabulary is the only part worth mentioning; the "guide" is exceedingly meagre, and the book as a whole is very dear; there are several brochures given away which contain far more general information than this shilling one.

GOD LOVES WHOM HE CHASTENS.

MY text is:—"God is love," words that blaze in gas jets over the pulpit of my Chicago church. I shall dwell particularly upon God's chastening those whom He loves, and chastening them because He loves them, and, as an illustration, I will tell you a story concerning my own little girl. She was only six or seven years old, and as bright and merry as could be; but she fell into the habit of getting up cross in the morning, and speaking rudely to her mother and brother. I told her at last that she must be punished, unless she conquered her habit. But one morning, while I was dressing, I heard her little voice impatiently chiding my wife. After breakfast, when it was time for her to go to school, she stepped up to give me a morning kiss; but I gently pushed her aside, telling her she could not kiss me. The corners of her tiny mouth dropped. Tears welled up into her eyes, and my heart was almost bursting. Slowly and sadly she left the room, without a trace of that childish life in her steps that belonged to her age. She met her mother in the hall, and, with sobs choking her voice, cried: "Oh, mamma, mamma, papa will not kiss me! Ask him if he won't." But when the mother pleaded with me I remained firm, and my little girl dragged her steps wearily down the street. It was the first morning that I ever refused to kiss her, and as I stood in the window I wept while watching her retreating figure. It seemed to me that I had never loved her so well before—so strongly, for I punished her through my own suffering. That day was a long one to me, though I hurried home long before the usual hour, to be there when she returned from school. I

sat in the same place where she had left me, and she came timidly and sadly to me, threw herself in my arms, and cried: "Papa, will you forgive me?" I printed a kiss on her little lips, and she knew that I had not punished her through hate.

OUR NOTE BOOK.

THE Baptist Union has held its annual meetings. The general proceedings have been characterised by great harmony. The chairmanship of the Rev. Hugh Stowell Brown, a host in himself, has been exercised in a kindly, good-natured spirit, and his inaugural address on "Ministerial Apprenticeship" has been so well received, that it is not improbable that the curacy system, modified and adapted to the requirements of each church, may be introduced into the pastorate of Baptist churches.

The seventy-ninth anniversary meeting of the Religious Tract Society was held in Exeter Hall on Friday evening, May 3. Sir Charles Reed presided. The receipts during the past twelve months were £148,557, and the expenditure £146,231. During the same period there had been issued 500 new publications, of which 201 were tracts. The total circulation from the home depot, including books, tracts, periodicals, cards, etc., had reached 52,783,265, of which 24,640,395 were tracts. The issues from foreign depots were about 10,000,000, making a total of 63,000,000 during the year, and of nearly 1,783,000,000 since the formation of the Society.

The seventeenth annual meeting of the Midnight Meeting Movement Society, held at the Hall, Red Lion-square, was presided over by Alderman Sir R. W. Carden. Sixty-four meetings have been held in London and the provinces, and 3,410 young women have attended. The numbers placed in homes or restored to parents during the year was 233, their ages ranging from fourteen to thirty-nine, the great majority under twenty-one, and only thirty-five above the age of twenty-five. Many interesting cases of reform, restoration, and conversion were narrated by speakers who followed the reading of the report.

Dr. Sexton is becoming a stout champion of Christianity against the attacks of the Secularistic party. A three nights' debate on "Christianity versus Secularism," has been held between him and Mr. Charles Watts, a Secularist teacher. The debate excited considerable interest, and was attended largely by members of all denominations in the town. The Rev. J. Fordyce, M.A., Congregational minister, presided.

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, has been restored at a cost of £200,000, which has been entirely borne by Mr. Henry Roe. of that city. He has also endowed it with £20,000.

After all, it seems that the Pope is fallible. His Holiness Leo XIII. has been much extolled for the moderation of his principles. Great hope has been evinced in certain quarters that the powerful influence exercised by one so cultured, and at the same time so sagacious, and apparently so prompt to reform an abuse, or to demolish any rock of offence, would win many adherents; but it is now rumoured that the Jesuits are too many for him, and that their principles are in the ascendant.

May Day morning was ushered in at the City Temple by a breakfast for business men and women, at the early hour of half-past six o'clock. Nearly 1500 people accepted Dr. Parker's invitation, and the season seemed to be one of thorough enjoyment. A service of an hour's duration was afterwards held in the chapel, which was attended by a large congregation. Dr. Parker preached on the words, "Not slothful in business."

The seventy-ninth anniversary meeting of the Church Missionary Society has been held in Exeter Hall. The Earl of Chichester presided. The income of the society for the year has been £20,753, against £175,938 last year. The Bishops of Sydney and Saskatchewan, Canons Miller and Martin, and Major-General Sir W. Hill, were the principal speakers.

The first church in England in connection with the Reformed Episcopal Church has been opened at Southend, by the Rev. Dr. Gregg, Primary Bishop, who, in the course of his remarks, said that he had been a vicar in the Church of England for eight years, but left her pale in consequence of doctrines and practices of which his conscience did not approve having been legally sanctioned.

The seventy-fourth annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society was held, as usual, in Exeter Hall. The