

ble. As a specimen of her fluent style, we excerpt this description of Bagdad, though it by no means conveys a proper idea of the scope and character of a work destined to be popular with all classes of readers, for there is a certain wild luxuriance about the book which to be thoroughly enjoyed must be read as a whole. Of the four hundred and forty pages in this record, not a single one of them is dull.

'Bagdad, in spite of its ancient name, and of its Caliphs and Calenders so familiar in our ears, is hardly now an interesting city. Compared with Damascus or Aleppo, it wants individual character, while Cairo twenty years ago must have been far more quaint and attractive. I suppose, if we had entered it from the north and by the river, we should have been differently impressed from now, coming as we have from the west, where there is nothing in the approach to give one the idea of a great city. The walls have been pulled down, and one enters by scrambling over the mounds of rubbish where they once stood, and then crossing an intermediate space of broken ground, given over to dogs and jackals, and gradually abandoned by the town as it has shrunk back from its old circuit, like a withered nut inside its shell. One sees at once that Bagdad is a city long past its prime, a lean and slippered pantaloon, its hose a world too wide for its shrunk shanks. Within, there is little to remind one of the days of its greatness. The houses are bad and mean, and built of mud, and the streets narrow and unpaved as those of any Mesopotamian village. There are no open spaces, or fountains, or large mosques, or imposing buildings. The minarets are few and of inconsiderable height, and the bazaars without life or sign of prosperity. No caravans crowd the gates, and hardly a camel is to be met with in the streets. The rich merchant, like the Caliph, the Calender, and all the rest, seems to have disap-

peared. I don't know how it is, but these signs of decay affect me disagreeably. Bagdad has no right to be anything but prosperous, and stripped of its wealth, is uninteresting, a colourless eastern town, and nothing more.'

Others besides adherents of the Episcopal Church will be interested in Mr. Perry's exhaustive History of the Church of England,\* for it treats very fully of kindred subjects, and a good deal of space is filled with an account of the Reformation and how it came about. This History is intended to supply a manifest want, for it covers territory not embraced in any of the many books on the same topic. Bishop Short's History deals more fully, perhaps, with the subject on a broad and liberal basis, but Mr. Perry is fuller in detail and more particular about many essential points. Indeed Perry's History fills a unique place; it treats of the Church during its reformed period, and concludes with the Silencing of Convocation, and a brief sketch of the remainder of the eighteenth century. American and Canadian readers also, will be glad to know that a very useful history of the Church of England in America and its successor, the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, accompanies the volume. This valuable addendum is from the scholarly pen of Dr. J. A. Spencer, the skilful editor of the New Testament in Greek.

Professor Huxley's Life of David Hume† will make a lasting impression on all thoughtful men. The biographer contents himself with giving the merest outline of Hume's life, character and surroundings, and en-

\* *A History of the Church of England.* By G. G. PERRY, M.A., Canon of Lincoln and Rector of Waddington. New York: Harper & Bros.; Toronto: Willing & Williamson.

† *Hume.* By Professor Huxley. — *English Men of Letters*, edited by John Morley. New York: Harper & Bros. Toronto: Hart & Rawlinson.