

Literary Notices.

BOTH SIDES; or, Jonathan and Absalom, By the Rev. Rufus S. Green, D. D. There are parts of the Old Testament which are well nigh unexplored territory even to many Bible readers. In a certain sense this is true of the stories of Jonathan and Absalom. Both those names are quite familiar to all Bible readers, but the former is known principally as David's friend and the latter as David's rebel son who was hanged in an oak. There are, however, in both cases many very suggestive records besides; and of these common, every-day parts of their lives, but little is really known by most people. Dr. Green has done good service in preaching a course of sermons to young men on these two young men of the Old Testament. The title of this book, "Both Sides," explains the author's aim, which is, to show one noble life and one ruined by its own folly. The lessons are well brought out. The older stories are interpreted in the light of to-day. The book is an excellent one to put into the hands of young men. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath-school Work. 16mo, pp. 304. Price, 25 cents. McGregor & Knight, Halifax.

THE CENTURY for March contains the story of the famous Libby Prison Tunnel, one of the most remarkable episodes of the American war. Digging a tunnel from the corner of the cellar of the prison through more than fifty feet of solid earth with nothing but two old chisels and a wooden spittoon, over one hundred Union officers who were imprisoned there made their escape. The story is written by one of themselves.

It is appalling what enormous expense is the outcome of superstition and ignorance. We read the following statement in *Around the-World Tour of Christian Missions*: "The public and private annual expenses throughout China to keep quiet the spirits of the dead amount to the enormous sum of \$154,752,000. . . It is no uncommon thing to impose upon a bereaved family to the amount of \$1,000 in order to release their relations from 'Yung Kan,' the dark prison, lest in time he should break out himself and wreak terrible vengeance."

JAPAN.

Professor and Rev. Wm. Knox, of the University of Tokio Japan, writes: "Japan is an empire of 37,000,000 of people. It has a population larger than the population of France, and an area greater than the area of the British Isles, with our State of Maryland added. The Japanese are not a feeble folk, like the Sandwich Islanders, nor a rude and barbarous folk, like the dwellers in the islands of the South Seas. It is an empire with ancient civilization, and of extent sufficient to fully test the experiment. Success there will be an earnest of success in all Asia. And yet Japan is not so large that the mind is overpowered by the vastness of the problems. It does not stretch away to the centre of a continent, like Guina, nor teem with hundreds of millions, like India. Already plans have been formed for education, internal commerce, medical reform and religion, that reach to every province and embrace the whole empire."

LUXURY TO LIVE.

It is not wise or well for a genuine active and healthy Christian to be thinking too often about dying. To make a full, brave day's work is the main thing; don't let us look too far ahead; the blessed wages will be sure when sundown comes. Our loving Father keeps our times in His own hand; He knows when to dismiss us from the life-school and promote us to the higher grade in Heaven. It is a luxury to live a full, hearty, vigorous life for Jesus, sowing and reaping, filling and being filled. As soon as God has something still better for us to do, and something richer for us to enjoy, and something higher for us to reach, let us joyfully go up yonder for them.

"'Tis a blessing to live; but a greater to die, And the best of this world is its path to the sky."

—T. L. Cuyler.

The Foreign Mission Committee, Eastern Division, invite correspondence from graduating students, ministers, and licentiates of our church, with a view of securing a missionary for Couva, Trinidad, in place of Rev. J. K. Wright, who has resigned. They invite also applications for the position of lady teacher for Exchange School, in the same district.