

and ethnology of Bible Lands, illustrated by coloured maps. It also treats fully the following wide range of subjects: water, wells, fountains, etc., and life on the water; boats, rafts, sailing, etc.; agriculture, irrigation, vineyards and orchards, fruits and flowers; domestic animals, beasts of burden, and beasts of prey; birds of passage and birds of prey; reptiles and insects, with their countless illustrations of the language of Scripture. The second and still more interesting part treats of customs having a historical origin; as oral and written language; tent and nomad life; permanent habitations, the house and the town; the furniture of the house, its inmates, family life; social life, government and military affairs; the religions and religious institutions and practices of the East; commerce and the mechanic arts. This immense variety of topics is illustrated by over 350 engravings, many of them full page size. A collection of Oriental proverbs, and an index of one thousand passages of Scripture and six hundred subjects elucidated by the text enhance the value of the volume. We hesitate not to affirm that it is the best possible commentary on many passages of Scripture. It will be invaluable for ministers, Sunday-school teachers, and all Bible students. Dr. Van-Lennep has laid the Church under great obligation for these admirable illustrations of the Sacred Text.

*The Thrones and Palaces of Babylon and Nineveh from Sea to Sea.* By JOHN P. NEWMAN, D.D., 8vo. pp. 445, illustrated. Harper and Brothers, New York; Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

WHEN we were in Washington last spring, Dr. Newman courteously exhibited the contents of his private museum of oriental curiosities. Among them was a Babylonish brick, a foot square, bearing a cuneiform

inscription, which he had brought on horseback a thousand miles through the Euphrates valley. In this volume he gives an account of the remarkable excursion he then made. It is one of the most interesting books of travel which we have read. Possessing a quasi-official character, as representing the United States Government, the Dr. had unusual facilities for exploration in little-trodden tracks. He is a keen observer, and a piquant narrator. His impressions of the cradle lands of empire and of the historic sites of Babylon and Nineveh are a wonderful corroboration of the inspired prophecy concerning their present desolation. The book is enriched with eighty excellent engravings of the more striking scenes and incidents of travel, and especially of the mounds, excavations, galleries and exhumed objects, sculptured tablets, etc., of those ruined cities, with elucidations of their striking commentary on Holy Writ. Mrs. Newman, his companion in travel, has the honour of being the first lady of modern times who has traversed this difficult and dangerous route. The Doctor informed us that if this work was successful he contemplated publishing one on Japan. We think we may count pretty confidently upon the pleasure of having a companion volume on that strange wonder-land with which we have, as a Church, such interesting missionary association.

*Norse Mythology: or the Religion of our Forefathers; containing all the Myths of the Eddas, systematized and interpreted.* By R. B. ANDERSON, M.A., Professor of Scandinavian Languages in the University of Wisconsin. 2nd edition. 8vo. pp. 473. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.; London: Trubner & Co.

It is especially befitting that the sons of "that true North" of which the English laureate has sung, should be familiar with the heroic traditions