

only comment which suggests itself is that Mr. Stanley up to the present time has been the reporter of his own proceedings; and if he is to be judged out of his own mouth, the appearance of any subsequent explanation or justification of his proceedings is in the last degree improbable, and that for the simple reason that he sees nothing which requires to be explained or justified. We would, however, rather feel inclined to agree with Lord Derby in the expression of a wish that some further explanation can be given of his summary proceedings. The present aspect of them is anything but satisfactory; and it would be a source of the deepest regret if the fair fame of this great African traveller should be sullied by a single act of wanton cruelty. The mischief that might be done in that way would probably be irreparable, and would prove a great hindrance in the way of future travellers and missionaries. There appears also to be an impression in England that Mr. Stanley has been guilty of "an audacious assumption of an English Mission;" and much gratification is expressed in learning that "Lord Derby will cause her Majesty's consuls on the east coast of Africa to be instructed to intimate to him, if any means of communication with him should be open to them, that he has no authority to use the English flag." The extent and importance of the fields lately opened in the middle of Africa, for missionaries, are so great that every effort should be made to prevent unnecessary hindrances and obstructions.

PLAIN LECTURES ON THE PRAYER-BOOK.

BY DIAKONOS.

LECTURE No. 16 (Continued.)

Then our Collect brings us to *Easter*. The word *Easter*, it is generally concluded, is derived from an old Saxon word which imports 'Rising'—and thus signifies the day which our church keeps as the anniversary of our Lord's Resurrection, for "if Christ be not risen then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

Ascension Day.—When our minds follow the eyes of the disciples as they stand gazing up into heaven, and we hear the angels tell us as they told the first Christians "This same Jesus whom ye have seen go up into heaven shall in like manner so come from heaven," and our Collect reminds us to "ascend by faith, in mind and heart to that place where the Author and Finisher of our Faith ever remains our Great High Priest, making intercession for us."

Such is the teaching of several Collects. In them and by them we are aided in our remembrance of the Descent of the Comforter, of the proto-martyr St. Stephen, of the martyrs in deed but not in will, the Innocents, and of all the blood by which the Lord's Harvest-field has been watered, of the disciples whom the Lord chose, the twelve apostles, who are the stones laid next the great corner stone in the spirit-

ual temple of the new Jerusalem, Andrew, Thomas, Philip, James, Barnabas, Paul, John, Matthew and all those "who have departed this life in the fear and faith of Christ."

We begin the Church's year with Advent. For each Advent the Church has one song of praise, "Hosanna to the Son of David, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of The Lord, Hosanna to the Highest, Even so come Lord Jesus." Thus the Christian year opens on this Sunday with a direct representation of our Lord Jesus Christ to us in His human nature as well as in His Divine nature, to be the object of our adoration.

How can we do otherwise than love the Babe of Bethlehem, the Child of the Temple, the Son of the Virgin, the Companion and Teacher of the Apostles, the Healer of the sick, the Man of Sorrows, The Dying, Crucified One! But we must *adore* as well as *love*, and we must not fail in all these to recognize the Triumphant King of Glory who reigns over the earthly Zion, and over the Heavenly Jerusalem.

No contemplation of the humility of the Son of Man, must direct our eyes and thoughts away from the contemplation of His Infinite Majesty, of whom the Father saith when "He bringeth in the First begotten into the world" "Let all the angels of God worship Him."

"Lo! the Lamb so long expected Comes with pardon down from Heaven, Let us haste with tears of sorrow, One and all to be forgiven."

That when next He comes with glory And the world is wrapped in fear, With His mercy He will shield us, And with words of love draw near.

Hymns A.M., Or. Ed. 33.

BOOK REVIEWS.

COUNTRY LIFE IN SYRIA:—Passages of Letters Written from Anti-Lebanon. By Harriet Rattray Seeley. Jackson & Halliday, London.

At a time when, like the present, attention has been called so strongly to the East, there is naturally a desire to obtain all the information we can as to the modes of life, educational influences, and religious tendencies of the various peoples who are—unfortunately in many respects for themselves—the subjects of the Sultan. During the Russian war we were tolerably well read up in much that related to the Ottoman empire, but after the peace, attention was directed to other lands, and some persons, if not quite as hazy as Punch's military worthy, who supposed the Montenegrins to be, of course, *negroes*, have yet little if any knowledge of the country beyond that acquired from books which deal principally with topics centering in Jerusalem, or the memorable scenes of our Lord's earthly ministry.

It is with pleasure then that we welcome such a volume as "Country Life in Syria," which is not the production of a mere "book-maker," in which the scissors and paste-brush enter largely into the manufacture, but which gives from personal observation gathered during a settled residence of many years in the Anti-Lebanon, most effective sketches of every-day life and character. Although not so stated in the work itself, yet the volume is composed of

letters addressed without any intention of publication by the authoress to friends and relatives in England. The subjects were justly considered so well and freshly treated, that the publication of the present volume was decided upon, and no one can read the book without endorsing the judgment of those who decided to commit it to the press.

Owing to the ill-health of Mr. Rattray he went with his wife to reside in Syria, forming a district under the Turkish government, and their experiences of that country are related in the volume before us, which, we trust, is only the forerunner of more from the same clever pen. The work is prettily illustrated, we presume from pen and ink sketches by Mrs. Rattray.

Of the treatment towards Christians Mrs. Rattray speaks thus, "The Moslems are growing domineering and insolent to the Christians. The town of Muallaka has hitherto had Zabtieh, or native policemen, selected from Christian sects. They are now superseded by Moslems in spite of the remonstrances of the inhabitants. A short time ago, one of these Zabtieh fired upon a Christian, without the slightest cause, while the latter was sitting peaceably at his shop door. The Christians succeeded in having the Zabtieh imprisoned. Before the latter had spent one night in confinement, he and the keeper of the prison had absconded together, and nothing more was heard of the affair. This new state of things has already affected our business transactions. There has been, of late, a black Cadi, a native judge, at Baalbek, who comes from India. He detests the English, and loses no opportunity of abusing our Government. John thinks he may have left his native land at the time of the mutiny, and perhaps had good reasons of his own for obtaining employment as an official under Turkish authorities. This Cadi and the Moslem members of the *Majlis*, at Baalbek (the local law court is called a *Mejliss*), have recently behaved in the most outrageous manner to my husband, regarding certain claims recognized as legal by the English Vice-Consul at Damascus. The peasantry of the village of "Khorabeh," which my husband has farmed for nine consecutive years, without giving any trouble either to the Turkish authorities or to the English government officials in Syria, are beginning to rise up against us. They perceive that the natives are now allowed to insult us with impunity in the open law court at Baalbek. The Cadi has informed them, that if they choose to retain any of our property, repudiating all written contracts between us and themselves, they will be assisted and protected by the native government officials at Baalbek.

Our peasantry have not been backward in availing themselves of the opportunity. Their first step was to sell our horse "Quad," which I mentioned in writing to you of our ascent of Hermon. They next sold a black donkey of ours, which also happened to be in their village, and pocketed the price of both, telling us to go and complain to our Consul. John's health (never very good, for as you are aware he is consumptive) has completely broken down from grief at this new state of things. He has been in Syria upwards of fourteen years, and has never been robbed or insulted by the natives until quite recently; the change in the conduct of officials at Baalbek towards us, took place after the departure of Captain Burton. Syria had four British Consuls who made the English name respected through "the length and breadth of the land—Colonel Rose, Mr. Wood, now at Tunis, Mr. Rogers, and Captain Burton. *Tempora mutantur; so much the worse for us.*"