

canals which have been built and are still being constructed by the British Government out of the revenues taken from the people, this last year would have witnessed a famine here, in comparison with which the horrors of that now drawing to an end would have seemed insignificant, and for the like of which we should have to go back to the happily by-gone days of independent native rule.

To these instances of the return given to India by her British rulers for the taxes taken from the people may be added many others, due exclusively to British rule, which space forbids me more than to mention. Such are, e. g., a most complete postal system, with the unit of postage, to all parts of India and Burmah, a half-anna, or one cent—the most satisfactory postal-money order system that I have anywhere seen; a postal telegraph, by which a message can be wired anywhere in India or Burmah for as low as sixteen cents; connected with the post-office, also, a government savings bank by which, in any post-office in the empire, may be deposited on interest so small a sum as eight cents—a favorite form of investment with thousands of the very natives who most vigorously denounce the government; hospital and dispensaries scattered all over the land where the poorest may have enlightened European treatment gratis; permanent security—no doubt sometimes at the expense of one of those “useless frontier wars” for which the professor blames the government—against the fearful Mohammedan raids and invasions by which, previous to British rule, large parts of India had been repeatedly laid desolate; magnificently graded macadamized roads, connecting all important places in India, not to speak of steamboat lines, and railways with fares so low that one can go, if he please, from Calcutta to Peshawar, near the Afghan frontier, 1,542 miles, for about \$6.00, etc., etc. This enumeration is far from complete, but it will suffice to enable the average reader to judge with how much of truth and justice it is charged in the article reviewed that England “exorts” her “enormous” revenues from the Indian people “without any compensation.”

(To be continued.)

LOOKS INTO BOOKS.

THE IDEAL LIFE. By Prof. Henry Drummond. Price \$1.25. Toronto Fleming H. Revell Co.

This volume of unpublished addresses by the late Professor Drummond, is introduced with a memorial sketch by Ian MacLaren and W. Robertson Nicoll. This publication will be a surprise and an unmixed satisfaction to a great many people, for very few men have had the genius to touch the religious and moral life of the time with such insight, skill and suggestiveness as Prof. Drummond. “The Ideal Life,” contains a series of fifteen addresses, hitherto unpublished, on various aspects of the religious life approached from the practical side and discussed with reference to the bearing of truth on character. The range of the volume is indicated by such titles as “Ill-temper,” “The Eccentricity of Religion,” “The Three Facts of Sin,” “The Three Facts of Salvation,” “What is God’s Will,” “Penitence,” and “How to Know the Will of God.”

THE QUEST OF HAPPINESS. By Philip Gilbert Hamerton. Price \$2. Boston, Roberts Brothers.

There is something depressing in a book like this, although it is the final word of a gifted author, written after he had been seized by a mortal disease, and knew that he was nearing the end of life. Though not wholly finished it is one of the best books he has written. It is pervaded by a kindly, cheerful spirit, and is the product of one whose life was full of disappointments yet who met them all courageously. Nevertheless, the effort to be calm is so apparent that the reading becomes pathetic. The style is as clear and fresh as a running brook, the illustrations really illustrate, and one reaches the end wishing the author had been permitted to finish it. With Mr. Hamerton, happiness means that “degree of satisfaction with our existence, which in spite of minor vexations and disappointments, makes us willing to go on living without any important change.” Thus defined our author acts for himself a daring quest in his pursuit of happiness. To see the ideal and, at the same time, content oneself with the real is the road given. The ideal disappoints because impossible of attainment; the real affords constant opportunities for more or less of happiness.

HERO TALES FROM SACRED STORY. By Louis Albert Banks, D.D. Author of “Sermon Stories for Boys and Girls,” “Christ and His Friends,” etc. Price \$1.50. New York, Funk & Wagnalls Company.

This work will prove of great help to both parents and teachers as it brings before the reader the heroes of sacred history in a very vivid and impressive manner. Commencing with Samson different characters are dealt with down to the conclusion of chapter eighteen, referring to Paul in Corinth. The work is embellished with nineteen full page illustrations reproduced from well-known paintings and sculpture. “Hero Tales” is certainly a very worthy successor to Dr. Banks’ former work “Christ and His Friends,” which was so favorably received and so widely read.

LORDS OF THE WORLD. A Story of the Fall of Carthage and Corinth. By Professor A. J. Church. With 12 full-page illustrations by Ralph Peacock. Crown 8vo, olive edges, \$1.50. New York, Charles Scribner’s Sons.

Prof. Church is still a leader among the writers who present ancient history in a readable and attractive form, in which the reader considers himself in the region of fairy fiction in place of the somber ages of the past. The scene of this story centres in the destruction of Carthage by the Romans. The young hero is captured by the Romans, but wearing the dress of his twin sister, escapes death. Entering the army of Carthage he is in the thick of the long conflict and passes through many thrilling adventures. He is present at the final scene, and that awful catastrophe is most vividly told. The story is full of valuable historical details and the interest never flags.

MAGAZINES.

The *Homiletic Review* for January contains as usual an excellent collection of sermonic material that ought to be helpful to the wide awake preacher. The principal article in the Review section is by Dr. McCurdy, of Toronto, on the “Babylonian Flood” and references therefrom. Funk & Wagnalls. \$3.00 per year.

The *Presbyterian and Reformed Review* for January, maintains its high standard as an exponent of the Princeton Theology and of conservative criticism. That it is not hide-bound, however, in any traditionalism is evident from the fact that the place of honor in this number is given to an article by Prof. Macloskie on “Theistic Evolution,” which is sympathetic towards the present scientific position. The writer finds no practical difficulty in reconciling evolution with the Bible. Other articles are by Prof. Purves on “Apostolic Literature and Apologetic History”; Prof. E. D. Warfield on “The England of the Westminster Assembly”; Prof. W. B. Greene on “The Metaphysics of Christian Apologetics”; Bohl on “Two Phases of the History of the Huguenots”; Dr. Lowrie on “Zahn’s History of Sunday.” Among the signed book reviews is one on “Gray’s Hebrew Proper Names” by Prof. Robinson of Toronto. MacCalla & Co., Philadelphia. \$3.00 a year.

The *Expository Times* for January is as usual up to date in its information as to the more important movements in Theology, but this number, rather more than usual, shows its bias in favor of the advanced critical views. Perhaps the most interesting article is by the Rev. John Reid, of Dundee, giving a new view as to the standing still of the sun and moon at Joshua’s prayer. He makes it to be not the prolongation of the day for the slaughter of the foes of Israel, but the prolongation of the night that he might have time for the delivery of his unexpected attack before the break of day should make it impossible. Dr. Salmund continues his sketch of the late Dr. David Brown. F. & T. Clark, Edinburgh, Revell Co., Toronto.

The *Biblical World* for January discusses editorially the purpose of Sunday School Teaching, and proposes to follow the subject up in successive numbers. The illustrated article is on “Nazareth,” by Dr. Selah Merrill, while Austin Bierbower, Esq., discusses “Jesus as a Man of Affairs. The Rev. Bancroft Hill has a suggestive article on “The Temptation in the Wilderness,” and Prof. Burton restates the internal evidence as to the “Purpose of the Gospel of Matthew.” Prof. Myra Reynolds has a fresh article on “Literary Illustrations of the International Lessons.” Prof. Muss-Arnolt gives an exhaustive Catalogue of recent books, and articles on theological subjects covering thirty-two pages. The University of Chicago Press. \$2.00 a year.