

the books will be rejected, not even that of the Pastoral Epistles, which have been placed in the competent hands of Rev. Prof. Lock. Yet it must be borne in mind that the difference between the Old and New Testament commentaries will not be a difference of method but only of results. The same methods which lead us to radical conclusions in the Old, lead us to conservative conclusions in the New Testament.*

We next note as a pleasing sign of the times the word *International*. Both the Commentary and the Library are *International*. That American scholars are associated on an equal footing with the most eminent theologians of England and Scotland, speaks well for the seriousness and thoroughness of American theology. American students at present, after graduating in their own Universities, generally go to Berlin or Leipzig for post-graduate work. It is to be hoped the influence of the International Commentary and Library of Theological Literature will induce a larger number to visit Oxford, Cambridge, or Edinburgh. Nothing but good can result from such an union of English and American theological scholarship.

The practical result of this enterprise will be to assist the great and steadily progressing movement towards Christian unity. It is certainly a significant fact that members of the principal Reformed Communions can unite to put forth not only a library of Theological Literature, but also a Commentary on Holy Scripture. Nor have we thus far seen any protest against such united action from the High Church organs of the Anglican Communion. Surely when Anglicans, Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Baptists (we do not know whether there are any Methodist writers) can harmoniously agree to co-operate in the interpretation of the Scriptures, which are the source and criterion of all Christian Doctrine, the differences between them cannot be so great as some would have us believe, nor can "our common Christianity" be such a slender residuum after subtracting from it distinctive doctrine, as a recent correspondent in THE WEEK supposes.

If divines of various communions can labour side by side in the interpretation of Holy Scripture, it is passing strange that there should be any insuperable barrier to their respective ministers and congregations worshipping side by side. If denominational differences prevented united action anywhere, certainly one would have supposed that it would be in the interpretation of those Scriptures wherein each finds the ground of its distinctions. The editors of the Commentary state that the particular commentaries will be international and interconfessional, and if a great and complete Commentary and Theological Library can be published on such a basis, is it altogether too visionary to suppose that there may some day be a great international and interconfessional theological college. Nay, may there not some day be a great English Church which shall not be one by crushing out or thrusting aside doctrinal differences, but by embracing them within the wider circle of a simple faith and an all-inclusive charity—a Church, therefore, that shall be international and interconfessional, the spiritual home, and the centre of unity of the free English-speaking peoples. Now that the Pope has once for all rejected the orders of the Anglican clergy, is it not worth the while of the Anglican Church to contemplate such an ideal, at once Scriptural and progressive, and to aim steadily at its realization. SIGMA.

Truth is naturally so acceptable to man, so charming in herself, that to make falsehood be received we are compelled to dress it up in the snow-white robes of Truth; as in passing base coin it must have the impress of the good ere it will pass current. Deception, hypocrisy, and dissimulation are, when practised, direct compliments to the power of Truth; and the common custom of passing off Truth's counterfeit for herself is strong testimony on behalf of her intrinsic beauty and excellence.

* In a most interesting article by Sanday, in the Guardian of September 23, the following is said to be Harnack's position: "As a critic Harnack's position is not extreme. . . . Where Baur accepted as genuine only the four great Epistles of St. Paul, Harnack, we believe, accepts the full Marcionite canon of the Epistles" (i.e., all but the Pastoral Epistles and that to the Hebrews). "His name is rather specially identified with the defence of the Epistle to the Ephesians. . . . There only remain the Pastoral Epistles and these, too, Harnack does not reject entirely, but adopts the theory of a genuine nucleus, especially of II Timothy."

Gems of Hope.*

WE have a good many birthday books, and some of them are extremely good. There may possibly be other books serving for the recording of the days of the death of friends; but this is the first that we have seen, and it is a very good one. Miss Bate says that the chief object of her book is "to keep alive, more especially in the family circle, the memory and the influence of the blessed departed to associate these memories with thankfulness and hope, and in some measure to bury our sorrow in their joy." Every month begins with a hymn or other poem, generally of five stanzas. Then every left-hand page has three texts and opposite to them three blank spaces for the names of the departed. After a careful examination we can testify that the poems and the texts alike are carefully and successfully chosen. Several of these hymns are put down as anonymous, and some of them are unknown to us; but surely the hymn beginning:

"In vain our fancy strives to paint
The moment after death"—

is Newton's, and perhaps Miss Bate, with the help of friends, may find out the authors of some more before she comes to a second edition, which she will certainly reach. The little book is admirably printed and prettily bound, and will certainly be a source of great comfort to the mourners who may use it, and who shall associate with their loss the "comfortable words" which stand over against the names of the departed.

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Canadian Catalogue of Books.†

MR. HAIGHT'S long and patient labours have resulted in a volume creditable alike to printer, publishers and compiler. There are 104 pages of catalogue, a list of catalogues consulted, an index table of sizes (in inches), a title index, a chronologic index, and a list of subscribers. In addition to the full title page in every case, Mr. Haight gives the highest quoted prices of rare books and in many instances furnishes information not given in the title, such as "contains portrait" or "contains numerous illustrations," etc. This part supplies 1,006 titles, and it is Mr. Haight's intention to continue issuing the parts "until (as near as possible) a complete list may be obtained of all the books and pamphlets printed, or published in the Dominion, from the first printed book in 1767 to the end of 1895; and from that date to issue annual lists for each year, beginning with 1896." This catalogue and subsequent issues will prove of inestimable value to book collectors. The present edition is limited to 500 copies, and the book will doubtless soon be out of print.

BRIEFER NOTICES.

Kings in Exile, by Alphonse Daudet; *A Bachelor's Establishment*, by H. DeBalzac; *Tom Crogan*, by F. Hopkinson Smith. Macmillan's Colonial Library. London and New York: Macmillan & Company. Toronto: The Copp, Clark Co., Ltd.—Daudet's novel, recounting the unheroic and for the most part ignoble adventures of the ex King of Illyria and other royal refugees in Paris, is crowded with characters and affords abundant opportunities for exemplifying the author's skill in analysis and portraiture. The translation is excellent, and the small but graphic illustrations by Bieler, Conconi, and Myrbach are so numerous that there appears to be one on almost every page.

"Un Ménage de Garçon" is translated by Clara Bell, and is one of the Comédie Humaine series of Balzac, the English edition of which is edited by Professor Saintsbury, who furnishes a preface to this volume. Professor Saintsbury gives it a very high rank among its companions.

"Tom Crogan," on its first appearance, was quite extensively advertised through a conflict of opinion between

* "Gems of Hope." In memory of the Faithful Departed. Selected and arranged by Fanny Bate. Price 75 cents. Toronto: W. Briggs. 1896.

† "Canadian Catalogue of Books." By W. R. Haight. Part One. Toronto: Haight & Company, 1896. \$2.50.