

admirable engravings are neither one nor the other. They are faithful as a photograph can make them, and even familiar scenes are often taken from a new point of view. By their aid the stay-at-home traveller can get a better conception of those historic regions than ever before. The author devotes a chapter to the land of Goshen, and two others to Sinai and the wilderness. The account of Petra, that wonderful rock-hewn city, is of unique interest and sumptuous illustration. On account of the difficulty of the journey and the inhospitality and treacherous disposition of the natives, few travellers have been able of late years to visit these strange ruins, which fact gives to these numerous illustrations a special and permanent value. The full-cut page of the Bedouins in the Khuzneh Gorge is but a hint of the perils of such explorations.

A chapter is given on the search for Kadesh; two others to the south country and round about Jerusalem, with special excursus to the site of Calvary in the light of the most recent discovery. Then the author goes to Samaria, Nazareth, Galilee, and across the Lebanons to Damascus. The photographs from which the cuts are copied at ten cents each, would cost \$15; and here they are copied, with a descriptive and elucidatory text, in a handsome volume for a quarter of that sum.

Christmas in Song, Sketch and Story.

Nearly three hundred Christmas Songs, Hymns and Carols, Selected by J. P. McCaskey. 4to, pp. 320. New York: Harper Bros. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$2.50.

It was a happy thought to collect the best of the Christmas songs, chansons and roundelays which through the ages have gladdened the gracious Christmas-tide in many lands and in many tongues. Mr. McCaskey, the successful compiler of "Harpers' Franklin Square Song Collection," has not only furnished the words but

also the music of these varied Christmas carols, which music is often quaint and peculiar. Many of those carols go back to the very birth of Christian hymnody, and are invested with a thousand tender recollections. Appropriate Christmas selections from Henry Ward Beecher, Lyman Abbott, Berthold Auerbach, Chas. Dickens, and N. B. Warren, accompany the songs; also over a score of beautiful Christmas pictures, after Bouguereau, Defregger, Dielman, Botticelli, Raphael and other masters. The book gives an immense amount of music—two hundred and seventy-five tunes with words—to say nothing of the other text for the price.

The Boy Travellers in Great Britain and Ireland. By T. W. KNOX. Small quarto, pp. 536. Copiously illustrated. New York: Harper Bros. Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$3.

Col. Knox has rendered invaluable service to the young people of two continents by combining in such a high degree useful information and delightful entertainment as he has in his admirable system of the "Boy Travellers" in the Far East, in Russia and on the Congo, in Australasia, Mexico, etc. The young folk will read these books with avidity for the sake of the pleasant story, and cannot help learning a great deal both of the history and the geography, the manners and customs of foreign lands. The volume for the current year, to Canadian, and indeed to all, English-speaking readers, is of still greater interest, we believe, than any previous volume. It takes one back to that dear old land which so many of us regard either as our own birth-land or as the land of our fathers. It gathers up their interesting tales and traditions, and illustrates by nearly four hundred engravings, many of them of rare artistic merit, the most famous historic places, scenic attractions, quaint customs and the like. The family party whose adventures it recounts land at Queenstown, visit Cork and Killarney, Dublin, Belfast,