

are being translated and published, and the criticisms of old faiths and forms of worship is so common and eager, the present work is very timely and acceptable. It will perhaps be especially welcome to those ministers and students who have not the leisure or the opportunity to consult original authorities.

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TROPICAL AFRICA. By HENRY DRUMMOND, LL.D., F.R.S.E. Authorized Edition with six maps and illustrations. New York: Scribner & Welford. Toronto: Williamson & Co. 1888.

We notice this book here simply for the purpose of recommending it to ministers who, at this season, are casting about to find suitable summer reading. We know of nothing, in all the catalogues of "Summer Books," so well adapted for holiday reading. Of course the traditional literature for the summer solstice is light and rubbishy fiction. Publishers have this year, more than ever before, striven to cater to the vagrant humors of the idling public by issuing an immense quantity of light novels in cheap form. The long list of books for summer reading by the best publishing houses contain little but fiction. So, if a man at a summer resort wishes to be in the fashion, he must struggle to interest himself in a, to him, dull and insipid novel with a flashy cover. Of course there are those who have more respect for their own intellectual tastes than they have for Mrs. Grundy's maxims, and they indulge themselves, in the quietness of a summer retreat, in philosophy, theology, history, poetry, travels, according to the dominant tendency of their minds. Such readers know nothing of the *ennui* that is born of novel-reading.

"Tropical Africa" is more fascinating than a novel. The subject-matter and the style make it the book for vacation. On another page of this issue reference is made to it, and extracts illustrative of the style are given. Professor Drummond told us, in an article published in this magazine just a year ago, of his retreat into the heart of Africa, immediately after the publication of his "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," whither he had gone to make a geological and botanical survey. This new book is one of the results of his travels. We commend it because of its popular scientific value, its record of travel in an almost unknown land, its thrilling description of the slave trade of the present day, and its testimony to Christian missionary effort. It is, withal, what every book for summer reading must be, of convenient size, such as can be carried about and read without much physical exertion.

THE THEOLOGY OF THE SHORTER CATECHISM. The System of Theology contained in the Westminster Shorter Catechism opened and explained. Part I.—Belief Concerning God. By REV. A. A. HODGE, D.D. Part II.—Duty required of Man. By REV. J. ASPINWALL HODGE, D.D. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: Williamson & Co. 1888.

Any book that calls attention to the Shorter Catechism and aims at re-awakening interest in its study is to be commended. It is to be deplored that in many quarters in Canada, notwithstanding the elaborate system of Sabbath-school work, there is much ignorance of the Cate-