

Book Notices.

Studies in Oriental Life, and Gleams from the East on the Sacred Page. By H. CLAY TRUMBULL. Pp. xviii-437. Philadelphia: John D. W titles & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$3.00.

It has often been said that the Holy Land is the best commentary on the Holy Book. The more they both are studied, the more apparent does this become. Even to one who for years has been familiar with the East by reading, it is a revelation when for the first time he visits the Orient and notes on every side remarkable confirmations or illustrations of Holy Writ.

In the handsome volume before us the accomplished editor of the *Sunday-School Times* groups and classifies in a very lucid manner his personal studies of the unchanging manners and customs of the Orient. This is not a book of travel, but gives the result of wide journeying and acute observation. "In the nomad life from Chaldea to Egypt," says Dr. Trumbull, "the scenes of the days of Abraham are the everyday scenes of now. Hosts and guests and tents and bread and slaughtered calf and salutations are the same to-day as they were forty centuries ago."

Instead of a bare itinerary of travel, with its incidental illustrations of Scripture, Dr. Trumbull gives what may be called the scientific classification of Eastern manners and customs which throw very striking side-lights, often like electric search-lights, upon innumerable passages of Scripture. It begins with the subject of Betrothals and Weddings in the East, and discusses in turn, Hospitalities in the East, Funerals and Mourning, The Voice of the Forerunner, The Oriental Idea of Father, Prayers and Praying, Primitive Idea of "The Way," Food in the Desert, Calls for Healing, The Pilgrimage Idea in the East, The Samaritan Passover and its Significance,

The Lessons of the Wilderness, and other topics.

Dr. Trumbull's long experience in the elucidation of the Sunday-school topics for the *Sunday-School Times* gives him special facility in selecting and presenting those Eastern usages which can best throw light upon the sacred page. The book has a large number of illustrations from recent photographs, and is supplied with an admirable topical index and also index of texts. It is a very handsome specimen of book-making, and will be very serviceable to ministers, Sunday-school superintendents and teachers, and indeed to all Bible students.

The New Acts of the Apostles, or the Marvels of Modern Missions. By ARTHUR T. PIERSON, author of "The Crisis of Modern Missions," etc., with an Introduction by the Rev. Andrew Thompson, D.D., F.R.S.E. New York: Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.75.

Dr. Pierson, the accomplished editor of the *Missionary Review*, is possessed as are few men with a sense of the unspeakable importance and urgency of the early conversion of the world to faith in Christ. By tongue and pen he ceases not to urge this high commission. This series of eloquent lectures is like a bugle blast summoning a lethargic Church to its privilege and duty. He recounts the glorious triumphs of this century of missions, the new Pentecosts, the new open doors on every side. He exults in the new apostolic succession, "the apostles of the anvil and the loom," the consecrated cobblers, who, sneered at and jeered at by witlings and scoffers, have become the glory of the new era of missions. The new apostolate of woman is illustrated by many noble examples. The vision of the world-wide field, waving white unto the harvest, the voice of the Mas-