

Book Notices.

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. Toronto and Chicago: Revell & Co., Publishers. 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 squired at and jeered at by wittlings 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 Master loudly calling, the new lessons of the converting power and the ministry of the Spirit are strongly presented. The new signs and wonders, the miracles of grace, the new converts and martyrs, the new motives and incentives, the blessed hope and outlook of the future are all urged as reasons for a great missionary revival.

Accompanying the volume is a chromo-lithographic map of the world and chart, which show the prevailing religions of the world, their comparative areas, and the progress of evangelization. Golden stars studded through darkest Africa and sombre Asia, and among the islands of the sea, shine like heralds of the dawn. We wish that every school, Epworth League and Mission Circle would read this book and ponder this map, and then consecrate itself, as never before, to the blessed work of "telling out among the heathen what the Lord our God has done."

Christ in Myth and Legend. Curious Facts, Myths, Legends and Superstitions concerning Jesus, with an Historical Sketch of the False Christs of all Ages. By JOHN W. WRIGHT. Cincinnati: Cranston & Curtis. New York: Hunt & Eaton. 12mo, cloth. Frontispiece. 130 pages. Post-paid, 50 cents.

The current series of International Bible Lessons is concentrating the attention of Christendom upon the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth. Any author who has light to contribute upon a theme never more interesting or commanding more attention than now is sure of a wide reading. Mr. Wright is a

journalist, not unused to putting thoughts in type; and he has given us a most readable book. His object has been "to select from all sources the most characteristic and mysterious of the many scores of legends which all students of medieval literature know were woven around the true story of the obscure birth, conspicuous life, and stormy death of the Saviour of mankind." His accounts of some of the most prominent "sacred" relics, and of the false Messiahs who have arisen from time to time, are full of interest. Teachers and students of the Gospels will find it a helpful volume.

Oliver Goldsmith. A selection from his works. With an Introduction by E. E. HALE. And *Selected Essays of Joseph Addison.* With an Introduction by C. T. WINCHESTER, Professor of English Literature in Wesleyan University. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

It was a happy thought of the publishers to present judicious selections from these two English classics. Many persons who claim to be well-read, know them only by name; and in this busy age it is impossible to read the whole range of eighteenth-century literature, much of which has lost its value, in order to find the gems which it unquestionably possesses. Under the careful editing of Dr. E. E. Hale and of Professor Winchester, of Wesleyan University, these gems are selected and set before us. Professor Winchester's introduction is a model of judicious criticism. Dr. Hale paints a vivid picture of the life and times of that erratic genius, Oliver Goldsmith. He was pursued during much of his life by the twin demons, Drink and Debt. By these his life was shortened and his whole career embittered. Yet, though his poems are now little read, they are often quoted, and much of them is "familiar in our mouths as household words."

Comfort to the Bereaved. By WILLIAM E. MACLENNAN. Cincinnati: Cranston & Curtis. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 25 cents.

This is an excellent little book to give to persons who have been recently bereaved. It is full of comfort and consolation, and realizes the saying, "A word fitly spoken, behold how good it is."

The Kindergarten of the Church. By MARY J. CHISHOLM FOSTER. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: William Briggs.

The child garden, as founded by Froebel, has almost revolutionized methods of instruction in our secular schools. It is now being applied to the Sunday-school. This book is a lucid explanation of its methods as applicable to both the church and the home. Nothing is more needed in our Sunday-school than improvement in teaching, and nothing, we think, will be more helpful to such improvement than a study of this book.

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