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Bible Lands, their Customs and Manners, Narratives of Scripture, by Rev. Henry J. Van Lennep D. D. With maps and wood cuts. Price \$5. 820 pages. This is a standard work on a subject which is always dear to the Christian heart, and of the first importance to Bible Students. Many works have appeared on Bible Lands. Naturally, such books always find a ready sale. But this is the most complete of the kind ever written. The author spent almost a life-time in the East and enjoyed unrivalled opportunities of intercourse with all classes of the people. In the first part we have 12 chapters on physical characteristics of the lands, descriptions of the soil, its cultivation and products, its animals, fishes, birds, insects, &c., with philosophical reflections. In the second part we have customs, mode of life, government, religious houses and men, &c., &c. Colored maps and fine illustrations help admirably to give the student a most comprehensive view of Bible Lands.

Motley's Rise of the Dutch Republic. Price \$1.75. Motley's United Netherlands. \$2.25. We have so strongly recommended these works that, during the past few years, we have sold hundreds of them. And still we say that no work of history, scarcely excepting Macaulay's, combines so many excellencies. To ourselves it was a fascination years ago, and has so continued at intervals to the present. The volumes were published till recently at large expense. They are now so cheap as to be had at every one's command. This is not only the history of a nation, but of the contest between Protestantism and Romanism. The characters, feats of arms, motives of action, and general results described by Motley are beyond measure interesting.

The Turkish Empire, the Sultans, the Territory and the People, by the Rev. T. Miller, M. A., F. R. S., with coloured maps, price 90 cents. Any one desiring to understand the principles lying at the foundation of the present European war, the Provinces invaded and the men interested, should read this book. This is a new edition, its matter brought down to within a few months back.

Erskine May's Constitutional History of England. 3 vols. Price \$4.50. The period covered is 1760-1860. This is the fourth edition of May's History, showing its great popularity. The work is generally admitted to be a very able, philosophical and accurate record of the momentous epoch on which it treats.

The Thorough Business Man, Memoirs of Walter Powell, Merchant, Melbourne and London. Fifth edition. Price \$1.05. Rev. Benjamin Gregory, the author, has faithfully portrayed, in this book, a remarkably shrewd and devoutly Christian business man. We have admired all through this memoir those fine qualities of head and heart, which brought Mr. Powell widely into notice and accumulated for his family great wealth. To young business men this work would be invaluable. It should be placed in the hand of every young merchant.

Hallam's Constitutional History of England from the accession of Henry VII. to the death of George II. Price 1.50. Nearly 1000 pages. The London Times, on the appearance of this work, gave deserved prominence to Mr. Hallam's numerous qualifications for his herculean task, while

it lauded his "History" with ardent commendation. It is emphatically a great work, and always safe as a reference.

The Homilist, xii volume. \$1.60 net, The Metropolitan Pulpit, vol. 1. \$1.50 net, and Cook's Lectures, Price 45 cents. There are a few of these still remaining, a large number having been sold. They deserve a good sale.

DISASTROUS FIRE IN PORTLAND ST. JOHN.

LOSS OF LIFE AND INCIDENTS OF THE FIRE - HUNDREDS OF FAMILIES BURNED OUT.

From the Telegraph, Saturday evening.
At three o'clock this morning, about the hour of our going to press with our large country edition, several buildings were reported to be on fire in Portland. The fire has proved disastrous in the extreme, involving loss of life, much suffering, privation and want at an unpropitious season of the year, and the destruction of a large amount of property, including some public buildings. The streets or parts of streets mainly devastated are Main, Portland, Acadia, Chapel and High Streets.

About half past two the residents in the block bounded by Main, Chapel, Portland and Acadia streets were startled from their sleep by the roar and crackle of that devouring element, fire, which rendered the peal of the fire bell on Portland street so faint that it could scarcely be heard. A man who lived in a house near where the fire had its origin saw the flames and rushed out to give the alarm, but Hugh Sanders was already there and the alarm was quickly sounded.

In the time which had elapsed the firemen had started from their beds and about ten minutes after the first alarm was struck the new steamer was on the spot and put into working operation on the corner of main and Portland Streets where she was kept constantly at work for about two hours, throwing two large streams of water.

The old Steamer came along a few minutes later, and was got into operation a little further down Main street she too being well handled.

But it was soon evident that there was not enough power to serve the remainder of the block or, indeed, keep the flames confined to one block. So about half-past three the alarm was sounded in the city, and the reserve engine sent to render assistance. She was taken up Main street, but it was found impossible to get past the burning buildings. And the horses were turned about and taken around the Fort Howe road, and finally established on Camden street, where she was well manned by members of the different city companies, Chief Engineer Marter and District Engineer Dunlop being in charge.

But still the fire continued in its onward march, heeding not the puny attempts of the firemen to stop its career. On Portland street a grand and successful attempt was made to stop the element, the Portland company fighting desperately to save the houses on the western side and keep the fire from spreading to the large commercial block on Main and Simons streets, occupied by James Williams and others. Notwithstanding the intense heat to which they were subjected, they persevered in wetting the houses and by this means only was the block saved.

BURNING OF THE METHODIST CHURCH.
When the fire spread across Chapel Street the first place it fastened upon was the Portland Methodist Church, which caught on the cornice and steeple and at first burned slowly, but, fanned by the breeze, the flames soon increased and enveloped the entire roof, presenting a grand but dreadful appear-

ance. The boarding on the outside of the steeple quickly burned off, displaying the frame work which fell shortly after into the street, placing the hose-men who were playing on the building at the time in a very perilous position.

PROGRESS OF THE FIRE.

After the Portland Church, etc., were burnt, the flames were spreading in the other direction, down Chapel street towards the water, taking both sides of that street in its career, notwithstanding the fact that the city reserve engine had got to work on Camden street, where she was doing valuable work in wetting the houses and stopping the fire. At half-past six the fire had so far advanced up Main street as to place the new Portland steamer in an exceedingly dangerous position. And it was only a few minutes after that the house on the corner of Main and Portland streets, falling out, causing them to abandon their position and to take up a new one on Simons street, between High and Camden streets. The fire soon extended down Portland street and crossing over to the corner of High street to Mr. W. A. Moore's house, and rapidly spread to the adjoining building and the Temperance Hall.

On the other side the fire was sweeping with terrible velocity down Acadia and High streets; Portland street also burned rapidly to Camden street, which street the devouring element came up and burned both ways. All the dwellings on Portland street as far down as Rankine's wharf, as well as a part of the wharf being consumed.

The usual number of roughs that always characterize a fire in St. John were of course on the spot and endeavored to make as much of a nuisance of themselves as possible.

At the lower end of Portland street the fire presented a very solemn appearance. The houses which had been deserted by their terrified inhabitants were allowed to burn up without the least attempt being made to save them, except at the further end of the street, where the city company was stationed to stay the progress of the dreaded element and keep it out of the wharves and lumber yard that closely adjoined; and right well they did their work, keeping it so well under control that only a very small quantity of lumber was destroyed.

By half-past six the fire was considerably under control at the end of Simons street, though it was still burning briskly at the lower end of Camden street, and at half-past seven the fury of the conflagration was past, and only black embers were now where once had been comfortable dwellings.

A DAY OF PRAYER AND MINISTRATION FOR THE SUCCESS OF METHODIST MISSIONS.

(Circular from the President of the General Conference to the Ministers of the Methodist Church of Canada.)

MY DEAR BROTHER.—The Central Board of the Missionary Society and the Executive Committee of the General Conference of the Methodist Church of Canada, have unitedly and unanimously recommended that the third Sabbath (18th) of November should be set apart as a day on which sermons shall be preached in all our congregations on the subject of missions and special prayer be offered for the blessing of God upon our missionary work. It is also recommended that the first prayer-meeting following that Sabbath should have reference to the same subject.

I have been requested to give notice of this recommendation, (in which I most cordially concur,) to each of our ministers and, through them, to our congregations.

It is not intended that collections should be taken up in connection with these services, except in cases where appointments have been made for the anniversary missionary sermons to be preached the same day. These special services have been recommended to prepare the mind and heart of the Church for the missionary anniversaries and the great work which they are intended to promote.

During the last year there has been some decline in the amount of the Church's contributions to the Missionary Society, while the work on our widespread missions has been prosperous, and new openings for their extension are presented on every side. After the most careful examination of the means at their disposal by the Central Missionary Board, at the late annual meeting, they have been unable to comply with many pressing calls for help, and have been compelled to diminish appropriations, on many parts of the work, already commenced.

Permit me then to solicit your attention to this recommendation of our Executive Committee and Missionary Board, and to express a hope that you will make all needful arrangements to give effect to that recommendation.

The needs of the world, the special needs of those portions of it which Providence has committed to our culture and care, the Divine character of the work itself, the marvellous success of our past labors, the inspired promises of power and blessing under which we act, not to say the command of him whose we are, all impel and encourage us to refuse no sacrifice and to shrink from no labor in following the example of him who went about doing good and gave himself to seek and to save that which was lost; and though our ascended Lord has all power in heaven and on earth, and has only to speak and the idols of the heathen shall be cast to the moles and the bats, the fulness of the Gentiles shall come and the Jews be gathered in, Mahomedanism shall perish and superstition shall be destroyed, the wilderness shall bloom, and the solitary place sing, and the earth be renewed in righteousness; yet as the instrument of this "creating all things new," the Lord Jesus has commissioned the Church, which he has purchased with his own blood, and on which he pours out his Spirit without measure, and to each member of which he says, "For all these things I will be sought unto;" "Pray al ways without ceasing;" "Go work in my vineyard." It is the Church on its knees that has power with God and man, followed by the Church at work in season and out of season; and never will the Church rise to the dignity of its mission, and exercise the power of which it is the depositary, until every member of it is filled with the Holy Ghost, and plans, and labors, and accumulates and gives as diligently and liberally, for the work of the Church as he thinks, and toils and expends for himself and household in regard to intellectual and material things.

I remain, my dear brother, your fellow-laborer and servant in the Church.
E. RYERSON,
President of the General Conference.
Toronto, Oct. 17 1877.

METHODIST TABLE-TALK.

It is said there is much need of immediate liberality towards the Wesleyan Foreign Missionary Society, for the account at the bank is considerably overdrawn. Let us hope that circuit and district treasurers will remit promptly, and subscribers pay their subscriptions earlier than usual. Methodism cannot afford to endanger her foreign work for want of means.

I hear there are more missionaries at home from abroad just now than usual, perhaps a judicious use of some of them at meetings may help to increase the interest in the work they do when they are at work on their stations.

Some sarcastic wag says that the conversation among some prominent Methodists recently turned on the subject of "Lazy ministers and how to make

them work." One person suggested that each circuit should provide the preachers with a book to be called "The Circuit Log," in which each shall enter a correct statement of all circuit work done each day, the number of new sermons studied, the time at which he rose from bed, &c.; this log would be read by the circuit steward at every quarterly meeting and considered as first item of business. The wag says that the proposer of this suggestion is almost certain to be elected as a lay representative to Conference and will probably introduce it in Conference. Our correspondent evidently does not like Lay Representation and thinks that his communication contributes a fine illustration in his favor. I can only say that I should like nothing better than to see and hear what would follow from other lay representatives when this to be representative made his proposal. No, no! objectors are too late. Methodist ministers know they have nothing to fear from Methodist laymen.

In a certain chapel the minister was much annoyed by the irreverent behavior of several young men, who were sitting together. Of meek temperament, he endured this till just before announcing his text, and then quietly mentioned the fact that certain persons in the congregation had apparently forgotten that they were in the House of God. Immediately bats were reached and a procession of young men walked down the aisle, while the preacher said—The portion of Scripture chosen for our meditation is found in the Gospel by St. John, chap. viii. v. 9: "And they which heard it being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last." It was not necessary for that preacher to arrange again for a coincidence.

The President of the Conference is expected to hold a convention for conversation in spiritual matters in Sheffield in November. This will doubtless prove a great blessing, and no one can question that Dr. Pope's presence and influence will be very stimulating and instructive. In some places where conventions were held last year and in 1875 they are not to be reported this year. This is well. It is not desirable that they should lose their exceptional and occasional character.

It is said that the Rev. T. Bowman Stephenson, who is travelling in America, with Mrs. Stephenson and their daughter, is likely to prolong his stay until December.

It is probable a large Wesleyan Sunday-school convention will be held in London early in April. Representatives are expected to be present from various parts of the country.

The Home Missionary Secretaries are now housed in the Centenary Hall, Both Mr. M'Aulay and Mr. Greeves have offices there. This is a convenient arrangement, and as that building was bought not merely for Foreign Mission purposes, but out of general Methodist money for general Methodist use, one cannot see why all Connexional departments should not have quarters in it if they need them.

The Rev. Dr. Milburn (the blind orator), is expected to visit Ireland again in December, having already several preaching and lecturing engagements.

Already people ask "Who will be the next President?" and some even ask as to the next three elections. The names of Dr. Rigg, Mr. Coley, and Mr. Jenkins are freely mentioned. As between the two excellent ministers whose names stand first it is impossible to decide. Certainly Mr. Coley will have far more votes at Bradford than he polled at Bristol.—*London Methodist.*