

FAITHFUL PROMISER, AND ALTAR STONES. By the Author of "Morning and Night Watches." New York: *Carter, Brothers.* Montreal: *B. Dawson.*

The first of these works contained in this neat little volume has long been before the public, and has ministered consolation and comfort to many a Christian heart. It needs no commendation from us. The wide circulation which it has obtained and the estimation in which it is held by all who value sweet meditations on divine things are sufficient evidences of its excellence. The second part of the book styled "Altar Stones," is a more recent publication by the same author. It is a volume of original hymns, simple in thought and diction, and suitable for plain readers. It is written after the manner of Keble's *Christian Year*. Words and scenes of a sacred kind have been made suggestive of thought for each day of the month. The poetry is certainly not of the highest order. It is more remarkable for its piety than its poesy. The versification is in general remarkably good, and some of the hymns, such as the two upon Bethany, are certainly beautiful and pleasing. We cordially commend this book to those who are seeking comfort from the wells of salvation.

The following hymn is a good illustration of the Altar Stones:—

BETHANY.

While some anguish'd hearts were grieving
O'er a loved one's narrow bed,
"Be not faithless, but believing,"
Gently thus the Saviour said—
At His summons,
Yielded up the grave its dead.

Soon shall that same mighty fiat
Issue from His lips divine,
Death shall cease his wanton riot
O'er the spirit's mould'ring shrine;
Earth and ocean
Shall their myriad charge resign!

Be it, Lord, my great endeavour
Now to have that life begun,
Which shall end in bliss for ever,
When this transient world is done—
Life unending
In the kingdom of Thy Son.

Here Thy Church is clothed in sadness,
Walking friendless and alone,
But she waits her day of gladness,
When, with bridal vestures on,
Christ shall meet her,
Seated on His glorious throne.

On that blest Sabbath morrow,
Faith shall be exchanged for sight,
Not one throbbing pulse of sorrow
Shall remind of earth's long night—
Blessed Jesus!
Haste a morning dawn so bright.

LESSONS FROM THE GREAT BIOGRAPHY, BY JAMES HAMILTON, D.D., F.L.S., author of the
"Life in Earnest," &c. New York: *R. Carter & Bros.* Montreal: *B. Dawson.*
12mo. Pp. 319.

A delicious book, sweet as the honey from Mount Carmel, and fragrant as the lily of the valley. In every page we see the hand of a master in Israel. Hard