

clear, that Tennyson has gone back on his record. The splendid visions of his prime have faded out, and he has nothing to speak of to put in their place. The great old man stands amid the wrecks of his time in almost helpless bewilderment. He sees the mighty and conflicting forces of the age, and he seems frightened to move. Like a man where traffic-filled streets intersect, he is confused by the noise and onward rush, he knows not in what direction his course lies, he therefore hesitates.

In the new "Locksley Hall," much of the forceful expression and the old ring of his tuneful days remain. Much that the poet says, and says powerfully, of the materialistic and sordid spirit of our time is only too true. Still, few can be induced to believe that Zolaism will find a welcome in the pure Christian homes of Great Britain and America. It can only produce loathing and disgust. If it were to be recognized as a literary force, it certainly would spread a moral pestilence.

Great distrust of the people is expressed in the new "Locksley Hall." They may be so easily misled. Very true, but are the wise men who aspire to mould popular opinion never themselves misled? What is to be said of those leaders of the people who consciously do their best—or worst—to inflame the popular mind to forward the devices of designing political tricksters. The people are not so much to be distrusted as are those who, for their own ends, make hollow appeals to the passions and prejudices of the people.

The thought that Christ the God-Man is the hope of humanity does not unhappily find distinct expression in the new poem. The great purposes of God are not accomplished in the course of one man's lifetime. The grand glow which the youthful poet saw in the orient might still be seen by the aged bard on the limpid western sky as his own noble life nears its setting. The fact is that he who in youth sang "We sweep into the younger day," has no need virtually to say now "After me, the deluge." While men may come and men may go, the great purposes of God go on for ever. It is only when faith in God gets obscured that men whose hopes once were high assume the rôle of tearful prophets. The grand old English bard was nearer the truth who in visual gloom sang out:

I bate no jot of heart or hope,
But steer right onward.

There is much that is tender and beautiful in the new Locksley Hall. It will be read and admired by many who hold that Tennyson is the representative English poet of the Victorian era. We could have wished that "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After" had been more hopeful and inspiring than it turns out to be.

Books and Magazines.

CANADA OUR HOME. By Rev. R. J. Laidlaw. (Hamilton: A. Lawson & Co.)—The eloquent sermon preached by the popular pastor of St. Paul's before the St. Andrew's Benevolent Society, of Hamilton, has been reproduced in an exceedingly neat pamphlet form.

THE STORY OF OLD WHIDDY; or, How Little Doris began to make her mark in life. By Zala. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—This is a handsomely printed and finely illustrated short story for children. A little girl of ten years tells the story, and tells it well.

ANECDOTES ILLUSTRATIVE OF OLD TESTAMENT TEXTS. (New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son) This is a new volume of the handsome and useful Clerical Library Series. The value of appropriate and well told anecdotes in illustrating sacred truth, and imprinting it on the memory, is generally recognized. The present volume presents a number of anecdotes, new and old, which cannot fail to be serviceable to the Christian minister.

WE have received from the Philadelphia Presbyterian Board of Publication, for which James Bain & Son, Toronto, are agents, a copy of the newly issued book of certificates of membership and demission. It contains an important improvement on the old blanks, in the provision made for the insertion of the names of baptized children. Thus, when parents are dismissed to another church, the names of their baptized children who are not themselves communicants are

included in the certificate, and the names of such children appear upon the stub with the names of the parent or parents.

THE CANADIAN SCHOLAR'S HAND-BOOK on the International Lessons for 1887. By Rev. Edwin W. Rice, D.D. (Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—In addition to a clear condensed exposition of the International Lesson, there is much historical information contained in this cheap little hand-book. There are also maps and illustrations, a short historical sketch of Sunday schools, the Shorter Catechism, Ten Commandments and what is commonly called the Apostles' Creed. From the same publishing firm we have also received a copy of Peloubet's "Select Notes." To reiterate a commendation of this invaluable manual would be superfluous.

STANDARD ECLECTIC BIBLE LESSON COMMENTARY FOR 1887. By Isaac Errett, Prof. J. W. McGarvey and J. W. Monser. (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Co.)—In addition to a concise and lucid commentary on the International Series of Lessons, a special feature of this most useful work is the number and excellence of the coloured illustrative maps, which will prove most helpful to Sabbath school teachers and advanced scholars. There is also appended to the work a complete manual of Sabbath school management, prepared by P. H. Duncan, late Sabbath school evangelist of Kentucky. The work only needs to be known to be appreciated.

THE FAIRFAX GIRLS. By Mrs. Nathaniel Conklin. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—There were four of these Fairfax girls, True and Carol, cousins and nieces, and Beth and Jean, sisters and aunts. The two young cousins live with the two aunts. The story tells the life of these four women, which is quiet and beautiful. The reader at once becomes deeply interested in each of the plain, homely lives. The book has its many lessons for women, younger and older. Young ladies will be profited by it, as it indicates the value of purpose and of character in life, and suggests ways of usefulness and helpfulness. It is one of Mrs. Conklin's best books, and she has written several excellent ones.

ACROSS THE DESERT. A Life of Moses. By the Rev. S. M. Campbell, D.D. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—Though first issued several years since, renewed attention is called to this excellent work, because of its value to Sabbath school teachers and others in the study of the International Lessons of the first six months. Dr. Campbell's work not only tells the story of Moses, as we have it, in the Bible, but reads into this narrative so much about Egypt, and the other countries in which the scenes of the life of Moses were laid, as to make it serve as an admirable commentary on the Scripture record. The book gives not only the biography of Moses, but also tells the story of the children of Israel from the time of bondage till they reached the edge of the Promised Land. We commend this volume especially to teachers and older scholars.

SELECT NOTES. A commentary on the Sunday School Lessons, By Rev. Drs. F. N. and M. A. Peloubet. (Boston: W. A. Wilde & Co.; Toronto: John Young, Bible and Tract Depository.)—"Select Notes" for 1887 includes studies, for the first six months, in Genesis and Exodus, and, for the last six months, in the Gospel of Matthew (both versions side by side). The volume contains four full-page illustrations from photographs, illustrating the lessons; two coloured maps, *Journeys of the Patriarchs* and map of *Palestine in time of Christ*. Also outline map of the *Exodus*. These, with table of Chronology, practical teachings, library references, suggestions to teachers, make a volume more valuable even than any of its predecessors. From the same publishers we have also received Part I. of the Peloubet series for the Older Scholars, International Question Book for 1887, Part II., for Children and Youths, by Rev. F. N. Peloubet, D.D., and Part III., Little Learners' Question Book, by Mary J. Capron.

RECEIVED: QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL; DOMINION CHURCH OF ENGLAND TEMPERANCE JOURNAL (Toronto: A. C. Winton); THE SANITARIAN (New York: 113 Fulton Street); GRAMMAR SCHOOL, a monthly magazine of instructive reading for young people (Boston: The Inter-State Publishing Co.);

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

FROM THE NEW HEBRIDES.

The Rev. H. A. Robertson, of Eromanga, has written the following letter, which appears in the *Presbyterian*, published in the Maritime Provinces:

It is now four months since I began this—a long time to have a letter on hand and unfinished. To-day our boat has gone south for food, to enable our people of Dillon's Bay to supply the east side people, who are coming this week to the sacrament, appointed to be observed first Sabbath.

There has been great drought here for three months, which has all but burned up the native plantations, and this is especially felt in this valley, and indeed all over the west and north sides of this island, where there are no swampy lands for taro, and the yam requires dry soil, but rain occasionally, like our wheat and oats and hay at home. Yomot has arrived to-night, and by Friday there will be several hundred strangers in this valley.

Mrs. Robertson, myself and our youngest child are well, but there is much sickness and many deaths among the natives this year again. Our three children, who are attending school in Sydney, were well when we last heard from them.

A trading vessel from Noumea brought up letters from Mr. Ella, Miss Ella and our eldest daughter, written on the 24th of July. Mr. Ella mentioned that our three children were then well, as also Mr. McKenzie's daughter, who is now quite grown up, though only fourteen years of age this month.

A CRUISE IN THE "DAYSPRING."

When I returned home from the meeting, Mrs. Robertson felt she needed a change, so as the *Day-spring* was going as far as Ambim, and there were few passengers on board going and fewer returning, we went the short trip, and were only three weeks and a half gone. We had magnificent weather and a most delightful trip, and Mrs. Robertson and our child are feeling much stronger for the change.

We called at Erakor, Hav. Harbor, Nguna, Emaï, Tongoa, Epi, and Ambim, and Messrs. McKenzie, Milne, Fraser and Murray were landed, and Mrs. McKenzie and their four children, and Mr. Fraser's two children. Mrs. McKenzie and her children and Mr. Fraser's children were with Mrs. Robertson while we were at the meeting of Synod in Tanna.

DEATH IN THE MISSION.

Messrs. Fraser and Murray, as you know, both lost their wives this spring, and Mr. Fraser's youngest child is very weak.

NEW CHURCHES.

Mr. McKenzie and his young men are putting up an excellent large church; the frame is up. Mr. McDonald has put a fine large church resembling Dr. Geddie's church at Aneityum. Mr. Milne is erecting the church of the New Hebrides. Certainly it is beautifully built, as he is so particular and an excellent workman. I preached to his people in it when north. Our New Hebridean half-washed, half-clad, natives, don't appear to advantage in such a building.

HOUSES AND STORES.

Captain D. McLeod (a native of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia) has built a fine house and store in Havana Harbor on this island, and the French company have a very fine store and house also. They are improving their land, building, etc., with great vigour at present.

A GLAD SIGHT.

One sight during our trip was at Emaï, where we saw over 300 natives who have come out of heathenism within the past two years. What a change since I visited them about five years ago?

Soon after our return, I appointed Daniel Usuo teacher at this station (Dillon's Bay) and he has now been about two years and three months, not only our teacher, but also leading man at this station. He is not unlike Atello in many ways, and when he most appears unlike him is his deficient education; but though now about forty-five years of age, he is making wonderful improvement in his reading and speaking.

He is the second son of the murderer of John Williams, and must have been about a year old when that sad event took place.

Usuo laid the foundation stone, if you remember, of the Martyrs' Memorial Church of Eromanga, in 1880. He is High Chief of Dillon's Bay.

Tuesday, August 31, 1886.