

Death of John Ashworth.

THOUSANDS of our readers will learn with a feeling of sorrow as that for the loss of a personal friend, of the death of John Ashworth, the distinguished Christian philanthropist of Rochdale. The charm of his books brought his readers into loving sympathy with the man, and many of us listened with delight to his words of wit and wisdom during his recent visit to our shores. He was a great lay preacher, who reached the hearts of thousands inaccessible by others. His "Strange Tales" was one of the most marvellous successes of modern times. No less than 10,000 copies were issued from our own connexional press,—a circumstance unprecedented in the annals of Canadian publishing, and in England they sold by the hundreds of thousands. Many through their instrumentality will in eternity rise up and call him blessed.

Book Notices.

We purpose in this department to give Notices of Books suitable for Sunday School Libraries, or Teachers' Libraries. We will be glad if any Superintendent or Minister will send, over their own name, a brief account of any book that they can cordially recommend for insertion in our list of "Winnowed Sunday School Books."

THE LIFE OF CHRIST. By Frederic W. Farrar, D.D., F. R. S., Master of Marlborough College, and Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. Toronto: S. Rose. 8vo. pp., xxix., 472, \$2 50. Large edition, 2 vols., with footnotes and appendix, \$6 00.

More and more, as the ages glide by, do the character and person and work of Christ become the object of keenest interest. He is felt to be the centre of the moral universe. Around Him the great controversy of the times rages. In these latter days, that conflict thickens. All men are taking sides in this controversy. The keenest scrutiny of infidels and

wicked men is concentrated on the life of Christ, to see if they can detect errors or faults in that matchless character; but they "can find no fault in Him." Christian scholars are bringing all their lore to illustrate this holy life. The quickened intellect of the world is more and more directed to the transcendent importance of this subject, and thus is being fulfilled that saying, "And I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me."

The present Life of Christ is unquestionably the best that has ever been written in the English language. Dr. Farrar has peculiar qualifications for his task. His scholarship is at once varied and profound. For years he has had this subject in contemplation, and bent all his studies to its elucidation. He went to Palestine especially to become so saturated with the spirit of Oriental life, and so thoroughly to examine for himself the secret of the Life of our Lord, that he might vividly reproduce it for English readers. He is thoroughly orthodox and evangelical in doctrine, and shrinks not from confronting the infidel in maintaining the supernatural, the Divine element in the Wonderful Life. To Methodists, the book will have an additional interest, as the work of the son of a distinguished Wesleyan minister. The estimation in which the book is held in England is evidenced by the fact, that no less than ten editions have been called for, at the high price of \$7 50. It is, in fact, one of the most remarkable books of the day.

This work is especially adapted for the use of Sunday School teachers and families, as well as for the study of the minister. Dr. C. S. Robinson remarks in the *Sunday School Times*:—"I have never met any help for a teacher or parent in Bible acquisition, which can compare with it." It is better than any commentary for giving a vivid and graphic conception of the human life of our Lord, and is the best possible help for the study of the Gospels. One of its chief charms is the judicious exercise of the imagination, which makes the dead past live again. It reminds us strikingly in this respect of the brilliant Life of Christ by the infidel Renan, but it is as thoroughly orthodox as that was heretical in its teachings. The following extract, descriptive of the boyhood of Jesus, will give some idea of the beauty of style and manner of treatment: "His outward life was the life of all those of his age and station, and place of birth. He lived as lived the other

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