

THE BOOK PAGE

"That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit."

THE MAKING AND THE UNMAKING OF THE PREACHER; The Lyman Beecher Lectures at Yale University, 1898. By William Jewett Tucker, President of Dartmouth College; pp. 221; price, \$1.50; Houghton, Mifflin & Company, Boston and New York.

Dr. Tucker takes the *personality of the preacher* as his theme. He is "intent upon finding out and taking the measure of those forces which are steadily at work toward the making or the unmaking of the preacher, because they are actually determining at any given time the value of preaching." The theme is very carefully treated, and those who wish to be better preachers at sixty than they are at forty or thirty will find much in the book to point out the way.

From the same publishers, **IN THE BRAVE DAYS OF OLD**, by Ruth Hall; pp. 334; price, \$1.25, gives vivid pictures from a period "seldom approached in fiction, and yet rich in notable personages and romantic adventures," the ten years immediately following the death of Queen Elizabeth. It is a book for boys, written in the liveliest style. Giles, the boy hero of the tale, has sufficiently varied and thrilling experiences—present at the death of Queen Elizabeth, giving warning of the Gunpowder Plot, in sea battles in the war between the Netherlands and Spain, with Hudson when searching for the Northwest passage. The volume is thoroughly wholesome, a fine holiday book.

Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, London, sends us **THE LEGEND OF ST. MARK**; Sunday Morning Talks to the Children, by Rev. John Byles. pp. 188; price, \$1.25. It is the third volume of a similar sort by the same author, and an excellent sort it is. History, legend, science, travel, are all laid under tribute to illustrate spiritual truth. Each talk has a well-told story or incident and the lessons follow. It has the merit of being readable. Boys will go through it, and preachers who want to reach and hold the boys.

FROM FACT TO FAITH (James Nisbet & Co., London; pp. 151; price 75c.), from the pen of Rev. Dr. J. Munro Gibson, is an apologetic, but as far as possible from the dry-as-dust, both as to matter and style. Dr. Munro Gibson is a man intensely alive. He is in vital touch with the world about him. He knows the ways of men. He lives close to God and taking as his starting point the facts of daily life, he shows, and after a convincing fashion, that they "are as closely related to the truths of Holy Scripture as is the hard earth beneath us to the ethereal heavens above us."

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE ITALIAN WANDERERS. By Sophia V. Bompiani. A.S. Barnes & Company, New York; pages 175 (with excellent index), price \$1, is a fresh treatment of a people whose story has in it all the elements of the romantic. It is good in this soft age to be reminded of the heroism of the brave mountaineers who, in spite of incredible oppressions and persecutions because of their faith, still survive. The numerous full-page illustrations are unusually well done, and the terse and lively style of the author carries the reader along briskly.

From the same publishers, **FAMILIAR TALKS TO BOYS.** By Rev. John Hall, D.D.; pp. 98; price 75c.; not a new book, but rich with the ripe experience of a lifetime. Dr. Hall was one who had been verily "baptized into a sense of all conditions," and the reader recognizes in what close touch the venerable pastor kept with boy life.

The Presbyterian Committee of Publication, Richmond, Va., is doing a good work for the Southern Presbyterian Church. Four volumes lately issued by the committee are on our table. **AN EXPOSITION OF THE BOOK OF CHURCH ORDER**, pp. 298, price \$1.25, is, as its title imports, an exposition, and it is full and luminous, of the "Book of Forms" of that Church. Some of the methods are, of course, foreign to us; but there is much that covers common ground and it is wholesome reading for all who wish to be thoroughly versed—as every minister and elder certainly should be—in questions of Church government and discipline.

TATONG, The little Slave, by Annie Maria Barnes, pp. 252, price \$1, is a well-told story of Korean life, to which our newly-established mission in Korea should lend increased interest. **GUESSING AT HEROES** and **THE GRANGERS**, by Miss Dickson, are slighter stories (about 100 pages, 50c. each) with a good deal of local colour.

BIBLE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS. By Rev. G. M. Mackie, M.A. (Fleming H. Revell Co.; pp. 165; price, \$1.), is the most recent book of its kind. There always seems room for one more book on Bible times and ways. This volume comes with a strong claim. Mr. Mackie has been for twenty-five years a missionary of the Church of Scotland at Beyrout, Syria. He has had the opportunity for original observation, and has a special eye to local color in his description of the common objects and occupations referred to in Scripture. The thirty-one illustrations really illustrate, besides being well done as works of art. The arrangement of the materials is systematic, and an index of subjects and Scripture texts adds value to the book,