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THE CHURCHMAN

A Monthly Magazine

*CONDUCTED BY CLERGYMEN AND LAYMEN
OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND*

VOL. XI.

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object of showing the superhuman excellence and unapproachable superiority of the Bible could have yielded a happier result than the recent publications by which we have been enabled to compare it with the contemporary record of other faiths, he is well within the mark. Whether we accept his own judgment as that of a cultured believer, who has read the "sacred" books, so far as they have been translated, or prefer that of one not likely to be over-prejudiced in favour of the uniqueness of the Holy Scriptures, Max Müller himself, the result is one that must rejoice the heart of every Christian. The latter has felt bound to apologize for the disappointment which his great life-work—the editing and translation of the sacred books of the East—must cause many expectant readers. He says: "Readers who have been led to believe that the Vedas of the ancient Brahmans, the Avesta of the Zoroastrians, and the Tripitaka of the Buddhists, the Kings of Confucius, or the Koran of Mahommed, are books full of primeval wisdom and religious enthusiasm, or, at least, sound and simple moral teaching, will be disappointed on consulting those volumes" (pages 8, 9). Further, the Professor thus states his own evidently pained wonderment: "We confess it has been for many years a problem to us—aye, and to a great extent is so still—how the sacred books of the East should, by the side of so much that is fresh, natural, simple, beautiful, and true, contain so much that is not only unmeaning, artificial, and silly, but even hideous and repellent" (page 9). Mr. Anderson, of course, holds not only that the Bible far excels these books in all those points which are common to it and them, but that it contains special and unique excellences—that is, the Bible not only comes triumphantly out of the ordeal of comparison, but does not really admit of comparison. "By these" ["the revelation of spiritual truths, and the record of the promises of God"] "it is raised as far above the best of human systems and books of human thought as the sun is higher than the Alps" (page 38).

We have given so much of the brief space at our disposal to the first chapter of the volume before us, that we can only say in general that those parts which specially deal with the philosophical and scientific aspects of the discussion are, on the whole, worthy of so admirable a commencement; and that the last chapter is wisely devoted to a commentary on a fine phrase in the short but charming preface, "Christ is the centre of the Bible."

Having said so much in just praise of a really readable and useful work, we must, in conclusion, speak candidly as to one grave fault in the book. It is sadly wanting in a severely logical order of thought—indeed, we are bold to suggest that the author, when preparing a second edition for the press, should submit it to the candid revision of a not too friendly critic. "The Unique Grandeur of the Bible" is so good that it deserves to be made a great deal better. M. A.

Short Notices.

John Wycliffe and his English Precursors. By Professor LECHLER, D.D., of the University of Leipzig. Translated by Professor LORIMER, D.D. A new edition, revised; with a chapter on the events after Wycliffe's death. Pp. 500. Religious Tract Society.

THIS volume has reached us too late for a worthy notice in our present impression; but inasmuch as the January CHURCHMAN will be issued before the five hundredth anniversary of Wycliffe's death, we are minded

to take our part in recommending so timely and helpful a work. Professor Lechler's, as is well known, is the standard biography; full, worthy of trust, and very able. Dr. Lorimer's rendering of the German, published by Messrs. Kegan Paul and Co. (our copy is dated 1878), has long been out of print. That was in two volumes. We have here a complete reprint of Dr. Lorimer's translation, revised and rearranged; much improved. The notes—numerous and valuable—are placed at the foot of each page. Additions have been made; *e.g.*, a chapter containing a summary of the events connected with Wycliffe for the half-century succeeding his decease (taken from Dr. Lechler's "*Die Nachwirkungen Wiclifs*"). Certain omissions, also, have been judiciously made. As the work stands, then, it is excellent. A critic who compares the present volume with either Dr. Lorimer's volumes or the German original, is sure to admit, we think, that the learned editor of the Tract Society merits hearty thanks. The volume is in every way convenient, is admirably printed, has seven interesting illustrations, and is exceedingly cheap. We heartily recommend it.

To a single point in the work—one of importance—we may call attention, in few words. It was long ago asserted, and ultra-Church writers of the present day repeat the assertion, that complete English translations of the Bible had existed before Wycliffe's time. Thus, Sir Thomas More had seen old manuscripts; Thomas James, also. And Archbishop Usher dated an alleged pre-Wycliffite version about 1290, while Wharton (for a time) believed its author was John of Trevisa. But it was a delusion. The beautiful old manuscripts were copies of Wycliffe's. Never before Wycliffe's day had "THE CHURCH," or the Bishops, or one Bishop, or any learned dignitary, translated the Word of God into the vulgar tongue. "It was no small sign of Wycliffe's malice," said the Primate and his suffragan Bishops, in 1412, "that he devised the plan of a translation of the Scriptures into the mother tongue." The earliest translation of one book of the Bible into Old English dates from the fourteenth century (William of Shoreham's *Psalter*). Professor Lechler sums up the whole case clearly when he says:

The whole result of this period, as well of the Anglo-Saxon as of the Norman and the Old English tongues, stands as follows:

1. A translation of the entire Bible was never during this period accomplished in England, and was never even apparently contemplated.

2. The *Psalter* was the only book of Scripture which was fully and literally translated into all the three languages—Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Norman, and Old English.

3. In addition, several books of Scripture, especially of the Old Testament, were translated partially or in select passages, as by Ælfric, leaving out of view poetical versions and the translation of the Gospel of John by Bede, which celebrated work has not come down to us.

4. Last of all—and this fact is of great importance—in none of these translations was it designed to make the Word of God accessible to the mass of the people, and to spread Scriptural knowledge among them. The only object which was kept in view was partly to furnish aid to the clergy and to render service to the educated class.

Thoughts and Questions about Holiness. By the Right Rev. J. C. RYLE, D.D., Lord Bishop of Liverpool. Pp. 80. Hunt and Co.

This little book is very full, very rich. The teaching of such a divine, on such a subject, is specially welcome just now. Of misty and mischievous teaching as to holiness there is a large supply; but of sound, practical teaching—Scriptural truths expressed and expounded in plain, impressive language, for general readers—the supply is somewhat scanty. The Bishop of Liverpool has done good service in publishing this book.

tract : and we trust it will be widely circulated, as it merits, for instructing and establishing believers who have been perplexed, or who have been somewhat careless and indolent.

The Bishop writes, of course, for mere English readers ; but he is careful to point out "that the same Greek word which our English version renders 'sanctification' in 1 Thess. iv. 3, 4, is rendered 'holiness' in 1 Thess. iii. 13,¹ and 1 Thess. iv 7." And his lordship might have added that this is the very word which our version renders "sanctification" in 1 Cor. i. 30, and "holiness" in Heb. xii. 14. In Heb. xii. 14 this noun comes after the strong verb "*Follow*."² The pen of Inspiration wrote : "Christ Jesus was made unto us, *ἀγιασμός*." The pen of Inspiration also wrote : "*ἐδώκετε . . . τὸν ἀγιασμόν*." Yet well-meaning expositors are to be found who say that the holiness of converted people is by faith only, and that there is no place in it for personal exertion.

As to language which gives an extravagant and unscriptural importance to the idea contained in the expression, "CHRIST IN US," the Bishop of Liverpool writes with force as follows :

"That 'Christ dwells in our hearts by faith,' and carries on His inward work by His Spirit, is clear and plain. But if we mean to say that beside, and over, and above this there is some mysterious indwelling of Christ in a believer, we must be careful what we are about. Unless we take care, we shall find ourselves ignoring the work of the Holy Ghost. We shall be forgetting that in the Divine economy of man's salvation election is the special work of God the Father,—atone-ment, mediation, and intercession, the special work of God the Son,—and sanctification, the special work of God the Holy Ghost. We shall be forgetting that our Lord said, when He went away, that He would send us another Comforter, who should 'abide with us' for ever, and, as it were, take His place (John xiv. 16). In short, under the idea that we are honouring Christ, we shall find that we are dishonouring His special and peculiar gift—the Holy Ghost.

"Christ, no doubt, as God, is everywhere,—in our hearts, in heaven, in the place where two or three are met together in His name. But we really must remember that Christ, as our risen Head and High Priest, is *especially* at God's right hand, interceding for us until He comes the second time ; and that Christ carries on His work in the hearts of His people by the special work of His Spirit, whom He promised to send when He left the world (John xv. 26). A comparison of the ninth and tenth verses of the eighth chapter of Romans seems to me to show this plainly. It convinces me that 'Christ in us' means Christ in us 'by His Spirit.' Above all, the words of St. John are most distinct and express : 'Hereby we know that He abideth in us by the Spirit which He hath given us' (1 John iii. 24)."

England's Training. An Historical Sketch. By the author of "Essays on the Church." Pp. 260. Seeley and Co., 46, Essex Street, Strand.

We heartily welcome a new work by the author of "Essays on the Church ;" and so good a book as "England's Training," by such a writer, is sure to be read and recommended by many of our readers. It is interesting all through, presenting in a small compass much valuable matter ; as to arrangement and expression, admirable. A minor merit is large, clear type. These are the divisions :

¹ This is a clerical error. In 1 Thess. iii. 13, the word is *ἀγίασμένη*. But in 2 Thess. ii. 13, it is *ἀγιασμός*.

² "Follow . . . the sanctification," is the rendering of the Revised Version.

- I. England's beginning.
- II. Reformation commenced.
- III. Progress of the Reformation.
- IV. Declension.
- V. The Revival.

Writing within three weeks of the 500th anniversary of Wycliffe's death, we take, as is natural, a quotation from the second division of this book :

"Since his illness in A.D. 1379, he had experienced a paralytic attack in 1382, probably the second of the kind ; and it had left him, as he says, 'lame and infirm.' Yet, what were his employments two years before this illness and two years after it ?

" 'First and foremost of all things—(he might reply)—the Bible, the chapter of the Gospels, or Epistles, which I was yesterday re-examining. Then before noon there will be two of my poor priests calling upon me for instructions. Where to direct their steps, what friends they will find in this or that village, and how "daily bread" shall be provided. Two or three short sermons are ready for them ; and I have found an old garment which will be very acceptable to the younger of the two. At twelve I must be at the church ; and in the afternoon I must examine a copy of the *Triologus*, upon which James has been many weeks at work, and which he is just finishing. If I can find time I must look at that work which they sent me from Oxford last week ; and, besides, I have two calls to make upon poor sick women.'

"In a word, Wycliffe, in these last weeks and months of his life, was still the Rector of Lutterworth ; still a parish priest ; still discharging his parochial duty ; so that when at last the messenger was sent to call him to 'Come up higher,' it was upon the floor of his church that the summoned one was found. But he was also the translator, he was also the director of 'the poor priests,' he was also during the same period pouring forth most of his important writings, so that 'the thought naturally arises, How was all this possible ?' Professor Burrows finds the explanation in 'The intense energy, the extraordinary power, and the resolute will of the man, who felt that he was drawing near the end of his life ; and yet was not too old to apply with effect the lessons of experience which he had acquired in the course of it.'"

Chosen, Chastened, and Crowned. Memorials of Mary Shekleton, late Secretary of the Invalids' Prayer Union. By her sister, M. S., author of "St. Peter's Commentary on Psalm cxix.;" "Biblical Geography in a Nutshell," etc. Pp. 195. Nisbet and Co.

One cannot coldly criticize such a book as this. Its character the very title-page would reveal ; but in further illustration a quotation from the book may be added. The Rev. W. H. Krause, in his first visit to their Dublin home, asked Mrs. Shekleton of the spiritual welfare of her children ? "Thank God," she replied, "they all know the Lord ; but, Mr. Krause, this will never satisfy me." "Never satisfy you," he exclaimed ; "many mothers would be satisfied if they could say that all their children knew the Lord." "No," she said, "I want more : I want the Lord to use them *individually* in His service." "The Lord perform thy petition !" was Mr. Krause's reply.

More books, especially more *little* books, are needed for Invalids. For the sick who have not much education, the Rev. W. O. Purton's "Trust in Trial" has been found very useful : meditations, short and simple, on verses of Scripture, with appropriate hymns and prayers ; probably unique. Many invalids will derive help and comfort from the volume before us.

Samuel Gobat, Bishop of Jerusalem: His Life and Work. A Biographical Sketch, drawn chiefly from his own journals, with Preface by the Right Hon. the Earl of SHAFTESBURY. Nisbet and Co.

Of the four hundred pages of this book more than two hundred are occupied by the Bishop's autobiography, written at Jerusalem during the years 1869 to 1873. It ends in 1849. The second portion of the work is a Memoir (1846-1879), the work of other hands: it contains copious extracts from the Bishop's correspondence. For our present purpose it will be sufficient, without criticizing any statement in the Memoir, to quote the main portion of Lord Shaftesbury's preface:

This volume (says the venerated Earl) has one great merit to begin with. It is short, compact, and very full of the most interesting and useful information. Autobiographies and private journals (specially in modern days) are open to a good deal of suspicion. In autobiographies we cannot generally expect that the writer will disclose what is really descriptive of himself, if it be not to his honour; and in journals kept during the last forty years (so frequent has become the issue of such things), almost everyone who makes his entries acts, consciously or unconsciously, under an impression that his thoughts will—certainly in some cases, and possibly in others—be revealed to the public.

But the autobiography of this excellent Bishop Gobat is transparent as glass. He says what he thought, he states what he felt; he goes through all the various phases of his opinion and actions with child-like simplicity, writing only for himself, and for none other, having nothing that he wishes to divulge, and nothing that he wishes to conceal. . . . The latter part of the Bishop's life, his career at Jerusalem, has been completed by other hands. It is, however, of real value and importance.

Sermons. By J. LECKIE, D.D. Pp. 370. Glasgow: Jas. Maclehose and Sons. 1884.

These Sermons are suggestive and strong. Seldom indeed do we meet with real pulpit discourses which are so robust and, at the same time, rich in sound teaching. Dr. Leckie's sermons read well—very well. In particular to young men of culture, touched a little with the sadly prevailing scepticism, they may be of much service. But by most thoughtful persons, perhaps, they will be welcomed.

The Gospel and the Child. By A. S. LAMB, Scotch Advocate, of the Inner Temple, Barrister-at-Law. Pp. 260. Nisbet.

One must admire the aim and spirit of this work; at the same time, one can't but doubt whether it is likely to be much read. The religious education of children is a most important subject, and the author is deeply in earnest. Here and there is a specially forcible passage.

Our Maoris. By LADY MARTIN. S.P.C.K.

This is a very interesting little book; and we gladly recommend it as worthy of a very good place in a Missionary library. "It is not an unfitting time," says the Preface, "to bring before the public some notice of the Maori people, gathered from diaries kept by the writer during a residence of thirty-four years in New Zealand. This is a faithful attempt to describe them as they were—a people just emerging from barbarism, with many faults, but also with great capabilities."

Our Boys and Girls. Edited by the author of "Great Britain for Little Britons." With thirty illustrations. Wells Gardner, Darton, and Co.

This is a pretty and pleasing little volume, and the younger girls especially will like it much. There are thirty stories, simple and wholesome. Here and there one wishes an easy word instead of a long and difficult one.

The Chantry Priest of Barnet. A Tale of the Two Roses. By Rev. ALFRED J. CHURCH, M.A., Author of "Stories from Homer," etc. With sixteen illustrations. Seeley and Co.

Among the high-class (ably written, and tastefully got up) gift-books for which Messrs. Seeley are famed, Professor Church's "Stories" have for several years taken front rank—"Stories" from Virgil, from Herodotus, Livy, and so forth. The accomplished author has done well, perhaps, to turn to other lines; and certainly, in his "Tale of the Roses," he has drawn a picture which is very attractive, if not altogether accurate—a picture of the period in its social, literary, and religious aspects. His sketches of country life in Shropshire, of Eton school-life, of Oxford and St. Albans, are full of interest. "Thomas Caxton" is good, and "Joan Eliot" is excellent.

The Gospel History for the Young. Lessons on the Life of Christ, adapted for use in Families and in Sunday Schools. By WILLIAM F. SKENE, D.C.L., LL.D., Historiographer-Royal for Scotland. Vol. III. Edinburgh: David Douglas. 1884.

The third volume of this excellent work is as suggestive and, if we may use the term, as *readable* as its predecessors. The learned author's style is clear and chaste. There is not the slightest attempt at word-painting; but the narrative throughout will interest a thoughtful reader, for it has a certain freshness, and is never "dry" with detail. As to its suggestiveness, a few instances may be given. On page 37 readers are informed, or reminded, of a peculiarity which distinguishes the narratives of St. Luke from those of St. John. St. Luke rarely mentions the exact place where the events happened which he records. Thus, *e.g.*, he merely says, Jesus entered "into a certain village," where a woman named Martha received them into her house. From St. John we learn that the village of Martha was Bethany. Again, the saying of Thomas, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him," is well brought out. ("Die with him," *i.e.*, with *Lazarus*, is an exposition to which the present writer once had to listen.) Again, on page 47 the weeping of Mary and of the Jews is distinguished from that of the Lord: "Jesus *wept*"—*shed tears*, is a milder term, and is used here only. Again, on page 61 Dr. Skene refers to the *Prophets* of the New Testament (Matt. xxxiii. 34; Luke xi. 49; Ephes. iv. 11, 12, etc.), and gives explanation. He thinks that the Seventy were Christian "Prophets." While heartily recommending the volume before us, and the preceding volumes, we may give a word of praise as regards the type and paper.

Heroes and Heroines of Nursery History. Hildesheimer and Faulkner. *Out of Town.* By FRED. E. WEATHERLY. Illustrated in colour by Linnie Watt; monotypes by Ernest Wilson. Hildesheimer and Faulkner.

"Heroes and Heroines" is a charming little volume, and the little folks will reckon it dainty and delightful. The coloured pictures are very amusing; so is the chatty narrative about "Tom, Tom, the Piper's Son," Mrs. Hubbard, and the little man whose bullets were made of lead. In an artistic point of view, "Out of Town" is one of the best Christmas books for children we have ever seen. The pictures are beautiful, and do not lack finish.

Illustrated Poems and Songs for Young People. Edited by Mrs. SALE BARKER. G. Routledge and Sons, Broadway, Ludgate Hill.

One of the choicest "Christmas Books" we have seen. It is full of pleasing and appropriate illustrations. The pieces of poetry—from the best poets—have been chosen with much skill and judgment. The volume has a very tasteful cover.

The Conquest of Canaan. Lectures on the first Twelve Chapters of the Book of Joshua. By A. B. MACKAY, Lecturer in Sacred Rhetoric, Presbyterian College, Montreal; author of "The Story of the Cross," "The Story of Naaman," etc. Pp. 400. Hodder and Stoughton. 1884.

Mr. Mackay, a brother, we believe, of Dr. Mackay, of Hull, whose vigorous evangelistic writings are so widely known, has done well to publish these Lectures. We remember reading some eloquent passages in his book, "The Story of Naaman," of which the present work is a worthy companion. Mr. Mackay's style is robust, deeply in earnest, and "hard-hitting." Yet his exposition is both suggestive and spiritual. The book, we may add, is well printed.

The Lord of the Marches; or, The Story of Roger Mortimer. A Tale of the Fourteenth Century. By EMILY SARAH HOLT. Pp. 220. J. F. Shaw and Co.

Roger Mortimer, fifth Earl of March, born at Usk 1373; Viceroy of Ireland 20 to 22 Ric. II.; declared heir of the Crown in Parliament 9 Ric. II. (his mother Philippa was only child of Lionel, Duke of Clarence, son of Edw. III.); killed in skirmish, Kenles, Ireland, 1398; buried at Wigmore: this is the "Lord of the Marches" whom this "Tale of the Fourteenth Century" pictures a Don Quixote. This ably-written tale (*that* of course), rich in historical illustration, has many touches of pathetic interest, and will repay more than one perusal. At this season, we must add that the book has a very tasteful cover, and is an excellent prize or present for a young lady.

Gates and Doors. By Mrs. A. RUSSELL SIMPSON. Pp. 124. James Nisbet and Co.

Mrs. Simpson has consecrated her facile pen to her Heavenly "Master's use;" and this little book bids fair to do as good a work in His service as its predecessors, some of which have been favourably noticed in the pages of THE CHURCHMAN. It consists of twenty short chapters, each occupied with devout and edifying thoughts, on the *gates* and *doors* (metaphorical or actual) referred to in Holy Scripture; as, for instance, "Jesus the Door;" "the Door of the Sepulchre;" "the Chamber over the Gate;" "the Door of Heaven." The author remarks in her preface: "Old gates sometimes need new hinges. We mean this little book to be something like this for the Bibles of our young people, to help to open these gates more easily and widely, on the land of light to which they lead." Full of anecdote and illustration, Mrs. Simpson's pleasant pages are well calculated to fulfil their author's design.

Petland Revisited. By the Rev. J. G. WOOD, M.A., F.L.S. Longmans, Green, and Co.

Mr. Wood needs no introduction to the readers of THE CHURCHMAN; and with regard to his present work we need say little more than that in it he does himself justice. "Pret," a cat with a good deal of character, is excellent; so is "Roughie," with other canine friends. The hedgehog, chameleon, coati-mondi, and other pets, have their own ways of doing, which are pleasingly portrayed. The illustrations are of high finish. As to type and paper also this is a charming gift-book.

We heartily recommend, as a very good gift-book, *True Tales* (Hodder and Stoughton): "Tales"—to quote the title-page—"of Travel and Adventure, Valour and Virtue," by JAMES MACAULAY, M.D., M.A., Author of "All True," "Grey Hawk," etc., and Editor of the *Leisure Hour*. This interesting volume has thirteen illustrations, and a tasteful cover.

Aunt Judy's Annual Volume is sent to us by Messrs. Bemrose. How many of the older girls will gladly welcome their old friend! This interesting magazine seems quite up to its high average, which is saying a great deal. There is a coloured frontispiece, which goes with a charming story by Lady Lindsay; and the volume is tastefully got up.

A review of Dr. Stoughton's very interesting volumes, *Religion in England from 1800 to 1850*, is unavoidably postponed.

From Messrs. Suttaby and Co. (Amen Corner) we have received, as usual, that long-esteemed pocket-book, *A Christian Remembrancer*.—Messrs. Bemrose and Son (23, Old Bailey) have sent to us their excellent Almanack-tablets for the wall; *Daily Calendar*, and *Scripture Calendar*.—The Religious Tract Society's Pocket-Books and Almanacks are good as usual.

Mr. Elliot Stock has sent to us the *Annals of After Work* and *The Teacher's Storehouse*; cheap, and useful.

Dearer than Life (Religious Tract Society) is a well-written "Tale of the Times of Wycliffe." The pictures of social and religious life have interest. This is a good prize or present.—*Hampered*—"A Tale of American Family Life"—is pleasing and wholesome.—*Hampered* is cheaper than the other volumes.

To Part I. of *The Life and Words of Christ*, by Dr. GEIKIE (Cassell and Co.), we have much pleasure in inviting attention. Of Dr. Geikie's great work it is not necessary to write a word. The eminent publishers are resolved, one sees, to bring out the new, popular issue in a worthy form.—We gladly recommend the first number of a new volume of that excellent periodical, *Cassell's Family Magazine*.—The *Golden Centre*, the *Annual of the Quiver*, is a capital sixpennyworth.

A new edition of Dr. Geikie's *The Precious Promises*, and *Old Testament Characters*, have been sent to us by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton; both admirable books.

The first number of *Book-Lore* seems very good. (Elliot Stock.) *Book-Lore*, a Magazine devoted to Old Time Literature (with which is incorporated *The Bibliographer*), is sure to find appreciative readers. We notice a review of that very dainty and interesting volume, "A Smaller *Biblia Pauperum*," published by Mr. T. Fisher Unwin, which was recommended in the December *CHURCHMAN*.

From Messrs. Hildesheimer and Faulkner (41, Jewin Street) we have received several specimens of their admirably finished illustrated books for children: *Children's Voices*, *The Song of the Bell*, *Little Miss Mari-gold*, and, smaller and cheaper, *Tom, the Piper's Son*. The pictures, in colours, are charming.

Always a favourite with our juveniles, with the smaller boys as well as with girls, the *Annual of Sunday Reading for the Young* will take a good place in the present season's Christmas books. (Wells Gardner,

Darton, and Co.) The volume—in all ways attractive—has a pretty cover, and it is cheap. £ There is an illustration, large or little, on almost every page.

Of *The Fireside Annual* we can only repeat the praise which has been given, year after year, in these pages. The characteristics of the magazine are well known. The much-esteemed editor, Mr. Bullock, has done good service, earnestly and steadily, in several branches of literature, particularly as regards periodicals; and he deserves the thanks of all Evangelical Churchmen. The yearly volume of the *Fireside*, as usual, has a handsome cover. An excellent Christmas gift. The *Annals of Home Words* and the *Day of Days* we also strongly recommend.

The second issue of the "Foreign Theological Library" (Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark), for 1884, are these volumes: *Ewald's Revelation*; and *Rabiger's Encyclopaedia of Theology*, vol. i.

Of Archdeacon Farrar's *The Early Days of Christianity*, Messrs. Cassell and Company have issued a "popular edition." To very many it will prove useful; it is cheap and convenient; admirably printed; not too bulky.

The author of "Belt and Spur" has written *Stories of the Italian Artists*, from Vasari (Seeley and Co.). There are sixteen illustrations, mostly in colours. "I have tried in these stories," says the author, "to give an idea of the liveliness of the Renaissance in Italy. . . I have simply followed Vasari, and tell the tales as nearly as I can in his own words." As to Raphael, the author well remarks that Vasari was such a devoted disciple of Michael Angelo that his judgment was almost sure to be biassed.

The annual volumes of the *Leisure Hour* and the *Sunday at Home* are as welcome as ever. No sign of "falling off" is anywhere apparent—on the contrary, there is plainly manifest an ability, with zeal and discretion, to keep up to the times. Handsome volumes, a treasury of interesting and informing matter, well-illustrated, they will prove specially popular in any parochial or lending library. In the monthly Magazine *Notices of THE CHURCHMAN* both periodicals have been often commended, and we now content ourselves with heartily recommending the *Annals*. The esteemed editor may well be congratulated on the success of his labours.

An admirable gift-book is *In the East Country*. By Mrs. MARSHALL. Seeley. It is a pleasure to read and to recommend a Tale by this graceful and gracious pen. The literary merits of Mrs. Marshall's books are by no means small, and the refined culture is that of true devotion. The full title of the book (which has pleasing illustrations) is, "In the East Country with Sir Thomas Browne, Kt., Physician and Philosopher of the City of Norwich." We are glad to have so good a sketch of the author of the "Religio Medici."

For the fourth time we have the pleasure of recommending *The Clergyman and Church Workers' Visiting List* (J. Smith and Co.); an excellent clerical pocket-book.

Messrs. George Routledge and Sons have sent us, as usual, *Every Boy's Annual*, *Every Girl's Annual*, and *Little Wide Awake*. These

volumes appear to be quite up to the high average so long maintained ; full of interesting and wholesome reading. Very attractive in every way ; handsome gift-books. In the Annual for Boys a friendly critic notices especially "Escaped from Siberia," "Adventures in the Euxine," and "The White Chief in the Umzivubu Caffres." Two other books, dainty little gift-books, have reached us from the same firm : Kate Greenaway's *Language of Flowers*, and *Almanack for 1885*.

From Messrs. Collingridge (148, Aldersgate Street) we have received, as usual, the Annual of *Old Jonathan*, a good and very cheap parochial book, and *The City Diary*.

The *Hand and Heart Annual* (7, Paternoster Square), a good Temperance book, merits a word of hearty praise.

Messrs. Campbell and Tudhope (45, St. Paul's Churchyard) have sent us some capital Cards for Sunday-school children and for general use. *Words in Season* are highly finished Fern Cards ; *Sure Pathway*, *Wells of Salvation*, *Our Salvation*, are Scripture Cards ; very tasteful and very cheap.

A companion volume to *The Jackdaw of Rheims*—the very handsome gift-book noticed in the last CHURCHMAN—is *The Lay of St. Aloys* (Eyre and Spottiswoode). "The Lay of St. Aloys," a legend of Blois, by T. Ingoldsby, with the old letters, and new illustrations of ERNEST M. JESSOP. Exceedingly amusing ; full of spirit and artistic point.

Too late for a worthy notice in our present impression has reached us *A City Violet*, welcome as a new book by the author of "A Nest of Sparrows" (Seeley). A dip here and there shows it is not an unworthy companion of that admirable Tale.

THE MONTH.

THE declaration of the Royal Assent to the Franchise Bill was made on Saturday the 6th,¹ and both Houses adjourned to the 19th of February. The Bill had been read a second and a third time almost without debate ; and, in the House of Commons, the Redistribution Bill was read a second time without division. Private conferences between the

¹ "For Mr. Gladstone," says the *Standard*, "as he stood with the other members of the Lower House who had obeyed the summons of Black Rod, it marked the completion of the first part of a work which he must regard as the crowning achievement of a great career. We are not concerned to ask how far the difficulties with which he had to contend were created for him by his own followers, and whether in every stage of the dispute his own course was a worthy one. If there were errors at the outset and midway, they have been atoned for by the calm wisdom and self-control by which at the close an honourable settlement was secured."