

'The Prophet's Badge.'

IN the Editor's notes for July there is one on the above subject. It is not at all an unfeasible idea that the prophets of the Old Testament had marks or badges to distinguish them from other people. What we find in China may be taken as an illustration, if not as a confirmation of the custom.

The Buddhist priest, besides wearing a distinctive dress, bears special marks upon his body. From the day the boy or young man is received into the temple, his head is kept clean shaven. After serving a novitiate, he is admitted into the order of the priesthood. On that day indelible marks are made upon his body. These marks cannot be concealed by any dress, for they are made upon his forehead.

The one about to be admitted kneels before

the idol. Three small heaps of incense are laid upon his forehead, and these are set fire to. The man must kneel till the incense heaps burn done, and thus burn an indelible mark on the head. This ordeal is repeated as the man rises in the priesthood, till he bears nine scars upon his scalp.

The Taoist priest has no mark cut or burned into his flesh. He neither shaves his head like the Buddhist, nor plaits his hair into a cue like the common people. His hair grows long, and is twisted into a knot on the top of the head. When he wears a hat, the top-knot appears through a hole in the crown. His dress is also distinct from the Buddhist's. From these peculiar marks or badges, we can always tell the servants of the different cults from the common folk.

WM. DEANS.

Ichang, China.

Entre Nous.

The Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels.

—The publishers announce that the first volume of the *Dictionary of Christ and the Gospels* will be issued on the 24th of November.

Literature.—This is the literary month. There are books published all the year round, but this is the month in which they have difficulty in finding standing-room. An attempt has been made to touch the salient points in all the best of them. For it is just in such a month as this that the book-buyer needs direction most.

There are books coming next month also. There is one by Professor Driver on Jeremiah, one by Professor Burkitt on the Gospels, one by Pfeleiderer on Primitive Christianity, and one by Sir William M. Ramsay on St. Paul.

Professor Burkitt's book has just arrived. It is full of surprises. Dr. Sanday will review it.

The Great Text Commentary.—The best illustration this month has been sent by the Rev. Frederick Senior, Epworth House, Petersfield, to whom a copy of Walker's *Gift of Tongues* and of Zahn's *Bread and Salt from the Word of God* has been sent. Illustrations for the Great Text of

January must be received by the 4th of December. The text is Lk 6¹².

The Great Text for February is Lk 7⁴⁷—'Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.' A copy of Patrick's *James, the Lord's Brother*, or of Dawson Walker's *Gift of Tongues*, or of Moulton's *Grammar*, will be given for the best illustration. Illustrations must be received by the 4th of January.

The Great Text for March is Lk 9²⁸—'And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.' A copy of Adams' *Sermons in Accents* and Reid's *Jesus and Nicodemus*, or of Walker's *Christian Theism and a Spiritual Monism*, will be given for the best illustration. Illustrations must be received by the 1st of February.

Those who send illustrations should at the same time name the books they wish sent them if successful.

Printed by MORRISON & GIBB LIMITED, Tanfield Works, and Published by T. & T. CLARK, 38 George Street, Edinburgh. It is requested that all literary communications be addressed to THE EDITOR, St. Cyrus, Montrose.