

## At the Literary Table.

### THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

STONES ROLLED AWAY. BY HENRY DRUMMOND.  
(*Bagster*. Crown 8vo, pp. 184.)

The late Professor Drummond had a perpetual feud with the newspaper reporter, and mostly won it. But in America the reporter seems to have had the best of the battle. Here are seven of his addresses, reported, printed, and published in America, and now issued in this country in a very attractive form by Messrs. Bagster. They are highly characteristic. In America Professor Drummond was more himself than in Scotland. They are also highly stimulating, most provocative of thought, sometimes a little provocative of contradiction.

As one of their 'Guild Text-Books,' Messrs. A. & C. Black have published an edition of the Rev. George M. Mackie's *Bible Manners and Customs* (6d.). It is the best book on its subject in existence—and we know all the rest very well. Its only fault is its brevity.

To those who feel the pressure of the scientific difficulties to religion, we heartily commend Mr. Griffith-Jones's *The Ascent through Christ*. It has had a great reception, and now Mr. James Bowden, the publisher, has issued it in a new edition at a smaller price (crown 8vo, pp. 495, 3s. 6d.).

THE WORLD'S EPOCH-MAKERS: BUDDHA AND BUDDHISM. BY ARTHUR LILLIE. (*T. & T. Clark*. Crown 8vo, pp. 233. 3s.)

We knew that Mr. Lillie was a Buddhist (in the sense we speak of a Grecian), and his choice for this volume in the series was natural. The risk was that he would simply popularise for us some of his previous writings. He has completely and triumphantly avoided that risk. This is a new book, and it takes us right into the heart of Buddhism (even of Buddha himself, so far as his heart can be discussed) by original and loving research. In the early disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ we observe their constant surprise—so great is this salvation, so wonderful He who brought it. Buddha is not as Christ, and he will

not make us followers. But precisely this is the note of all knowledge of Buddha and Buddhism—constant surprise at the greatness and originality both of the man and the system. There are touches in the book we do not like—little revelations of Mr. Lillie's ignorance of better Scriptures than the writings of Buddhism. But it is for Buddhism we go to this book, and we get that most loyally.

Mr. W. B. Clive of the University Tutorial Press has published a new edition of Mr. J. S. Mackenzie's *Manual of Ethics* (foolscap 8vo, pp. 492, 6s. 6d.). Its general merits are already known to us all. This edition contains a new chapter on the 'Authority of the Moral Standard,' which increases the bulk of the volume considerably. We are glad to receive this new chapter, and rejoice in the success of the book. We cannot study ethics too much, and we all hope soon to be able to practise it more.

To those who have to select their Scripture Lessons, it sometimes happens that a passage from the Old Testament and one from the New expressing the same thought can scarcely be found. Mr. M. W. Armour has published, through Messrs. Dent, a little book which will provide what is desired at once. He calls it *The Temple Treasury*. There are two small volumes, bound beautifully in red leather, and beautifully printed. Their first purpose is no doubt to serve for private or family reading. The portions chosen are quite short, and there are Scripture references on the margin. It is a good idea, worked out with patience and even enthusiasm.

Mr. Frowde has published at the Oxford University Press a new edition of the Bible, which is to be called *The Two-Version Edition*. It is the Authorized Version, with the differences of the Revised Version printed in the margin. It is cleverly done, and it must have cost enormous mechanical labour. But we cannot call it a success. Far uglier but far more useful is the American edition which contains the two readings on the

same line. We should as soon use a Parallel Bible as this (indeed it is a Parallel Bible we always do use, and we shall continue it), for it is just as easy to examine both columns as to scrutinize a column and its margin. But the American edition *compels* attention to the changes, and gives them at the same glance. If Mr. Frowde had come to terms with the American publishers and issued their edition here, he would have saved himself great labour and provided us with a more serviceable Bible. Of course it is a model of workmanship, delicious to handle, and delightful to read.

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THY KINGDOM COME. BY THE REV. T. LLOYD WILLIAMS, B.A. (*Wells Gardner*. Crown 8vo, pp. 214. 3s. 6d.)

It is sometimes difficult to discover why sermons have been published, and yet more what is the use of them after they are published. Mr. Williams frankly tells us that this volume was published because some of those who had read previous books of his wanted another, and the use of it we find without difficulty in a most earnest persuasive advocacy of the work of the Kingdom of God abroad. They are missionary sermons. They are strikingly forcible appeals for more men and more money and more faith,—appeals sent home by telling anecdote and fine Christian forbearance.

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Continuing his 'Heroes of the Covenant,' the Rev. W. H. Carlsaw, M.A., has now issued the *Life and Times of Donald Cargill* (Paisley: Gardner, fcap. 8vo, pp. 140, 1s. 6d. net). It is the most successful of the series. Donald Cargill is here admirably portrayed, and not Donald Cargill alone, his friends also, and his enemies, and he had his share of both. Mr. Carlsaw is an enthusiast, knowing his subject intimately, and yet he is able to write judicially. The sermons also are well chosen, and well worth reading.

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STUDIES OF THE PORTRAIT OF CHRIST. BY THE REV. GEORGE MATHESON, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Vol. II. Crown 8vo, pp. 367. 6s.)

There is extraordinary mental detachment in this book. There is no living theologian or exegete (except possibly Dr. Parker) who brings to the study of the Bible so original a mind as Dr. Matheson. That there should be occasional fancies, untenable positions, even irreconcilable doctrines, is not surprising. Nor is it very deplor-

able. For orthodoxy is less than life. But, indeed, there is no prominence of idiosyncrasy. There is never the smallest suggestion of originality for its own sake. There is no trumpeting of self in any shape or form. What is original is so because the author's mind is original. And even when it does not commend itself as sound, it stimulates thought and even touches into devotion. Together these two volumes of Dr. Matheson's *Studies in the Portrait of Christ* will rank as one of the most devout and stimulating of all the long series of Lives of Christ which this century has produced.

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Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton have published new editions of other two of Dr. Matheson's books, *The Lady Ecclesia* (crown 8vo, pp. 332, 6s. net) and *Sidelights from Patmos* (crown 8vo, pp. 350, 6s.). Both are on their way to become classics. The allegory of *The Lady Ecclesia* is of especial charm.

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THE SPIRIT OF GOD. BY THE REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 246. 3s. 6d.)

This month has produced more than one book on the Holy Spirit. Mr. Campbell Morgan's is on the most familiar lines of the Keswick teaching. It is not a strong book, either doctrinally or historically, and can scarcely be said to touch the problems of its great subject. But for very beginners and ordinary people generally it will be found profitable. The things spoken in the Bible about the Holy Spirit have often been gathered together in this way, and it looks highly promising, but we seem to get no nearer the personal or ecclesiastical possession and power of the Spirit. Is it possible that we are giving Him too much attention? His work is hidden. It is solely the recommendation of Christ to our conscience and our life. He takes of the things of Christ and shows them unto us, and that is all He has to do. Is it possible that we are making the things of the Spirit blot out the things of Christ, that we are thinking of the Spirit when we ought to be reflecting as a mirror the glory of the Lord?

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SHORT STUDIES IN HOLINESS. BY THE REV. JOHN W. DIGGLE, M.A. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 214. 3s. 6d.)

A volume of Practical Divinity. Its subject is the one most important practical subject that can

be written upon. Archdeacon Diggle has written upon it not merely beautifully but (as our fathers would have said) experimentally. He has written both for and out of experience. Why is it, he asks, that so few Christian persons desire to be holy? It is certainly strange. Mr. Diggle believes it is because they think holiness means austerity; as if the holy people were those who always choose the disagreeable thing to do, and then take it out in making themselves disagreeable. That is not holiness. And much of Mr. Diggle's book is given to showing us that holiness is a beauty and a joy. It is a combination, rarer than it should be, of the theological treatise and the sermon—orderly thought and winning appeal go together.

THE BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT. BY EZRA P. GOULD, D.D. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. 237. 3s. 6d.)

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ARABIA THE CRADLE OF ISLAM. BY THE REV. S. M. ZWEMER, F.R.G.S. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Post 8vo, pp. 434. 7s. 6d.)

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Messrs. Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier have published the 'Dying Speeches' of the United Presbyterian Synod and the Free Church Assembly. That is to say, the speeches of their last Moderators. Dr. Robson's title is *Our Last Synod and the Last of our Theological Hall* (crown 8vo, pp. 96, 1s. 6d.), the second part of the title being due to the presence in the volume of his speech at the close of the Theological Hall in April. Dr. Ross Taylor's title is *Religious Thought and Scottish Church Life in the Nineteenth Century*, a large subject, which is treated in a large and impressive manner.

Mrs. A. R. Simpson is ready in good time with her Christmas booklet. She calls it this time *These Three* (Oliphant, crown 8vo, pp. 64, 1s.). It is a pleasant fireside chat about the graces of Faith, Hope, Love.

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS AS TO CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE. BY THE REV. F. T. LEE. (Boston: *Pilgrim Press*. Crown 8vo, pp. 261.)

It may not be pleasant, but it ought to be profitable to be reminded of our mistakes in following Christ. They are very many, and they are often very avoidable. This is the best account of them we have ever seen. In a way it is a volume of systematic and practical theology, only it is all negative—the things we should *not* believe, the deeds we should *not* do. There are preachers who fear that their subject will not hold out, and they begin by telling their audience what they are *not* going to say. This book will be a blessed discovery to them. For it will fill up the time with real profit, and (if the preacher manages it as well as this author does) with considerable pleasure too.

THE SUPREME LEADER. BY F. B. DENIO, D.D. (Boston: *Pilgrim Press*. Crown 8vo, pp. 278. \$1.25.)

We fear that *The Supreme Leader* is an unwise title. By suggesting to our minds Browning's *The Lost Leader* it carries them away from its subject, which is the Holy Spirit. But it is a wise book. Dr. Denio is no doctrinaire—and

that is much to say of a writer on the Holy Spirit. His mind has gone out unhindered towards the Scriptures and the facts of Christian experience. He has exercised great pains, and he possesses a good manner of writing. Finally, he has read carefully what we believe to be the best literature on the subject.

The result is a book on the Nature and Work of the Holy Spirit of distinct merit. It contains four 'Studies': the biblical teaching, the teaching of Christian experience, the work and person of the Spirit, and the Spirit in relation to Christian life and service. The scope is thus well defined, and within that scope it gives us a well ordered, easily learned account of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. It is interesting to notice the *recent* books on his subject which Dr. Denio recommends. They are Walker's *The Spirit and the Incarnation*, Starbuck's *Psychology of Religion*, Clark's *The Paraclete*, Inge's *Christian Mysticism*, and Robertson's *The Holy Spirit and Christian Service*.

CHINA. BY ROBERT K. DOUGLAS. (*Fisher Unwin*. Crown 8vo, pp. 456. 5s.)

'The Story of the Nations' has passed its fiftieth volume. This is the fifty-first. The hunger for information, so widespread in our day, is met and satisfied, and there is no necessity for severe and prolonged study, which is so distasteful. The narrative is always easy, it can sometimes be read like a novel; and then there are the illustrations which we can look at and gain much knowledge from without reading a word of the narrative. Professor Douglas is a great authority on China, and he has met all the requirements of the series. It is at once a learned and a popular book. Furthermore, it deals chiefly with the present century. That is a fortunate feature, in view of the present crisis. For we can learn here all the steps that led up to the crisis, and form our judgment on their wisdom or their folly. And we can really see what the crisis is. So the book is likely to have a great circulation, and it deserves it.