

were removed. But in that verse the anointed of Jahweh is a hero called from without, for it is said, 'whom I have held by his right hand.' Consequently the expression 'to his anointed' would lack the closer definition it needs, were not the apposition, 'to Cyrus,' added. The view, moreover, that the two expressions, 'his anointed' (45¹) and 'my servant Jacob' (v. 4^a) cover the same subject, has everything against it and nothing in its favour. All the features of vv. 1-3^a support the interpretation which finds in the hero mentioned there a non-Israelitish prince who was conducted by the living God of Israel to great

political successes, and so received the commission to free the servant of Jahweh from captivity. There is no proclaiming here of 'a mission of Israel to Israel' (Cobb, p. 90).

Finally, the verdict that the last twenty-seven chapters of the Book of Isaiah were not written by the prophet of the year 701, cannot be shattered even by the ironical remarks of Professor Cobb on the rapid advance of critical theories (p. 96 f.). The false extremes of criticism cannot throw suspicion on its reasonable assumptions, which put forward nothing but what is based at once on material and formal indications.

New Gift and Reward Books.

MESSRS. NELSON have published the following books for the Christmas and New Year season:—

- In Fair Granada.* By E. Everett-Green. 5s.
Held to Ransom. By F. B. Forester. 5s.
Jim's Sweethearts. By E. L. Haverfield. 2s. 6d.
Great Explorers. 2s.
Dickie. By Mrs. Hamilton Synge. 1s. 6d.
The Queen's Shilling. By Geraldine Glasgow. 1s.

Miss Everett-Green's *In Fair Granada* is a handsome volume of 450 pages, bound in blue and gold. It is one of her series of historical tales. It is a tale of Moors and Christians.

Held to Ransom is more modern and more literary. It cannot be said to be more stirring, for both are steeped in adventure. Its heroes and heroines, strange to say, are Spaniards also. It is bound in a paler blue, set off with æsthetic brown and black. Both books are illustrated, of course, but Miss Everett-Green's has the novel feature of two coloured illustrations.

Jim's Sweethearts are, of course, 'grown-ups'—mostly. For Jim is only seven. He is a brave, truthful little boy, and is often puzzled to find that though the truth tells twice it sometimes must not be told once. His mother enjoys a somewhat tearful responsibility in the upbringing of so manly a boy; but his friends at the Vicarage find all things in him to be loved.

The *Great Explorers* are Marco Polo, Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, and nine more. Their story is told with much brevity, and the marvellous old illustrations, if seen by any ordinary boy, will speedily create an appetite for its wonderful narratives.

Dickie is a beautiful little circus-girl. She is beloved by an ill-tempered, high-spirited horse named 'Black Boy.' She alone can manage the horse, who, indeed, manages himself when she is with him. They have conquered a temper together, perhaps, for she too has had one. Their

story is very pleasant, and there are many interesting circus people besides them.

The story of *The Queen's Shilling* we seem to know before we read it.

Besides these, Messrs. Nelson have published four picture books at 1s. each.

Messrs. Blackie & Son have published the following:—

- With Roberts to Pretoria.* By G. A. Henty. 6s.
To Herat and Cabul. By G. A. Henty. 6s.
The Dragon of Peking. By Captain F. S. Brereton. 5s.
The Doctor's Niece. By Eliza F. Pollard. 3s. 6d.
In Quest of the Giant Sloth. By Dr. Gordon Stables. 3s. 6d.
The Boyhood of a Naturalist. By Fred Smith. 3s. 6d.

Mr. Henty's volumes, which lead this attractive list, both deal with camps and glory. Both are handsomely bound with olivine edges, the Boer war being in brilliant military red, the story of the first Afghan war in naval blue. They are not histories, though the history of both campaigns has, no doubt, been carefully studied for facts and incidents, and the countries themselves for local colour. They are stories, boys' stories. Both books, therefore, possess the double interest of public achievement and private concern. They are written in that vivid entrancing style which makes the readers of Mr. Henty's books hold their breath with excitement, and they are both characteristically illustrated.

The Dragon of Peking, bound in green and red and yellow and gold, with olivine edges, is a tale of the Boxer revolt in China. If the war had not been going on in South Africa our boys would have known far more about that terrible revolt than they do. But stories like this will bring it home to them,—its wild extravagance, its heart-rending scenes of suffering, its heroic endurance even unto death.

In *The Doctor's Niece* we are at home again. At least we are nearer home. Its scene is France, its heroine

thoroughly French, and most pathetic and heroic. It is a story of home, and home is reached at last, though through much tribulation, and there is peace and rest.

Dr. Gordon Stables has had many adventures in his lifetime, but surely they are as nothing to those he has invented for his little heroes and heroines. *In Quest of the Giant Sloth* sends little boys and girls through the most wonderful experiences, but it does not matter what they set out to accomplish, they always accomplish it and come back smiling.

The Boyhood of a Naturalist is the most instructive of all Messrs. Blackie's books, yet it is without a dull page. We do not know who Fred Smith may be,—it is not the author's own name,—but he must have had a glorious boyhood, for it is his own boyhood he describes here, and he must surely have grown into a famous naturalist.

Woodland, Field, and Shore.

Mr. Oliver G. Pike has written a book which will delight the lovers of nature, and give them an interest in outdoor things even in winter. He has not only written it, but he has also most richly illustrated it, and the Religious Tract Society has given it the best possible paper and printing and binding, and reproduced two of the full-page illustrations in the best style of colour-printing. It costs 5s. net.

The Awakening of Anthony Weir.

This is Silas Hocking's new story. It was Anthony Weir's moral nature that was asleep, clergyman though he was. It was the touch of true love that awakened it, though his mother's prayers prepared the way. It was a true awakening and not too late for the duties of life though somewhat late for its enjoyments. (R.T.S., 3s. 6d.)

Heather's Mistress.

Heather and Bluebell were twin sisters who lived in the country with their grandmother and two old servants. The grandmother died, and Abigail the old faithful servant was much distressed when they were enticed to London and its gaieties. But they came back to their dear old 'mistress' in time; first Heather, Bluebell much later, after marriage and sorrow. The book is by Amy le Feuvre. (R.T.S., 3s. 6d.)

The Gold that Perisheth.

To say that *The Gold that Perisheth* is by David Lyall is to give it a circulation at once. It is a domestic tale, for there is both comedy and tragedy enough in most family circles to thrill us with. It is not the comical side of life however that this great writer is impressed by. Happiness is understood and well described, comicality is lost in the paths of the things that men and women dare and endure. The tragedy is deep enough, and although the last chapter says 'All's well,' we know that much is lost that never can be found again. (R.T.S., 3s. 6d.)

An Artist's Walks in Bible Lands.

The Religious Tract Society has the honour of having published the finest book on Palestine, if not the finest book on travel, this season. It is the work, both pen and pencil, of the late Mr. H. A. Harper, who knew Palestine intimately, loved it, understood it, wrote about it, and sketched it. Reading this book and examining its artistic pictures they who never saw 'that goodly land' will learn to understand and love it. The publishers have produced a work fit to be laid beside the same author's *Walks in Palestine*, and higher praise of workmanship is scarcely possible.

Shires of England.

In the year 1897 the Bishop of London, the late Dr. Mandell Creighton, published a volume which he called *The Story of some English Shires*. It covered seventeen counties, and told their story both historically from the very earliest times till now, and also geographically from great city centre to open weald or down. The book has now been republished by the Religious Tract Society (8vo, pp. 384, 6s.), and contains an additional chapter on the county of Cambridge. This permanent library form of the book is most welcome. The information it contains may all be found somewhere else, but here it is related in a most unassuming manner, in a pleasant, continuous narrative, and with the most scrupulous accuracy of fact. Bishop Creighton's purpose seems to have been to leave on his reader's mind a general but distinct impression of each county's peculiarities. He has succeeded that each county takes its characteristic place in the mind as clearly as it occupies its position on a coloured map.

The Story of Joseph.

Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton have published some simple chapters by the Rev. J. R. Miller, D.D., on the life of Joseph, with its application to modern lives (2s. 6d.). The book is very attractively printed, and will no doubt be one of the most popular Christmas presents.

Dr. Parker's Pulpit Bible.

Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton have published a handsome quarto edition of the Authorized Version under the title of *The Pulpit Bible*. It is edited by the Rev. Joseph Parker, D.D., minister of the City Temple. Dr. Parker writes a short preface which he calls 'My last Will and Testament.' He also contributes brief homiletical notes to almost every verse throughout the Bible. These notes are printed in small type on the margins, right opposite the verse they annotate. They form the distinctive feature of the *Pulpit Bible*.

The notes we say are homiletical. This must be understood or the work will be utterly misjudged. They explain no obscurity of allusion, they identify no sites, they suggest no new translations. Their sole intention is to 'improve' the statement of each verse, that is to say, to state its

religious meaning, or at least to suggest some religious purpose to which it may be turned.

Now Dr. Parker is a remarkably clever man, and this is the line of his greatest cleverness. But the striking thing about these homiletical notes is that he has schooled himself not to say clever things, in order that he might say things that would be useful to young preachers.

But here is an example. Let us choose the passage (Gen. 19¹²⁻²¹, occupying one column of the book) which describes the visit of the angels to Lot in Sodom.

Verse 13—The ministry of destruction. Fire succeeds water. Disregarded voices,—experience, revelation, testimony.

Verse 14—The preacher has often been mistaken for a nocker.

Verse 16—Angel-driven! Expulsion may mean salvation! God writing His signature in capitals!

Verse 17—Do not make a pastime of deliverance! Flee! Be energetic! Lose not a moment!

Verse 18—The prayers of ignorance! We offer them to-day.

Verse 19—Cities preferred to mountains. Divine mercy stooping to human weakness. Judgment waiting.

Verse 20—Where God can accommodate man He will.

Verse 21—God sometimes yields to man. It is an error to oppose human desire to divine judgment.

Notable Masters of Men.

There is an idea at present that the doctrine of self-help has been pressed too far. Nevertheless, we should read and heartily recommend another such book if another Samuel Smiles would arise and write it. Mr. Edward Pratt's *Notable Masters of Men* comes very near it. The story of the successful men whose lives it relates and portrays it presents is undoubtedly made inspiring and ennobling, for it is clearly shown that their nobility did not lie in the love or acquisition of money. It is a well-bound, handsome prize or present. (Melrose, 3s. 6d.)

Boys of Our Empire.

The problem for an editor of juvenile literature is how to combine interest and edification. It is one of the most difficult problems of our day. But the issues at stake are so tremendous that it is worth all the determination and patience which it involves. A year ago *The Boys of Our Empire* was started with this commendable purpose clearly before the mind of its publisher, Mr. Andrew Melrose. The year's numbers make a heavy handsome volume. Its title has been well chosen and never forgotten. It is a book for British boys. Every week introduces a new champion in some British sport, every week has its stories of adventure and its obvious jokes, and every week excludes everything that sensitive parent or suspicious guardian might disapprove of.

The Sunday School Union has published:—

Into Stormy Waters. By Mrs. Henry Clarke. 1s. 6d.

The Captain's Flags. By W. E. Cule. 1s. 6d.

Catharine of Siena. By Florence Witts. 1s.

Stories from the Pilgrim's Progress. 1s.

The New Playfellow. By Gertrude E. M. Vaughan 1s.

Marley's Boy. By Jennie Chappell. 9d.

Geordie's Victory. By Margaret S. Haycraft. 9d.

Into Stormy Waters is a girl's story, *The Captain's Flags* a boy's. The first is a story of the home, the second of the school. Both are very pleasantly written with wholesome purpose, and suitably illustrated. *The Story of Catharine of Siena*, and the *Stories from the Pilgrim's Progress* are also well illustrated, the illustrations in the latter being sometimes quaint and original. *The New Playfellow* belongs to the 'Red Nursery' Series. The illustrations this time are so charming that their author must be named, Florence Meyerheim. *Marley's Boy* and *Geordie's Victory* are excellent prizes for the younger pupils.

The Animals of the Bible.

Mr. Gambier Bolton has written an account of some of the leading animals of the Bible, and illustrated it by photographs from life. He does not say that he went to Palestine to find the living animals, some of them indeed are not to be found there now, but that does not matter. The little book, which is published by Messrs. Newnes at 1s. 6d., is both entertaining and useful.

Times of Retirement.

Messrs. Nisbet, in a beautiful Christmas volume, have published a series of devotional papers which Dr. Matheson recently contributed to *St. Andrew* (3s. 6d.). They are very short, but they are as thoughtful and thought-suggesting as anything Dr. Matheson has written. And Dr. Matheson alone is able to rescue our generation from the charge of inability to write devotional literature that will last.

The Wide World Magazine.

The seventh volume of the *Wide World Magazine* contains its issues from April to September (Newnes, 6s. 6d.). Its leading feature is Conan Doyle's History of the great Boer war, of which it contains nine graphic chapters, illustrated by maps and photographs. But every page palpitates with thrilling narrative and amazing illustration. There is no need for adventurous youth to risk life or limb in war or wild beast chase, the utmost possible excitement of either can be had at the fireside, by some good uncle simply presenting a copy of this volume of the *Wide World Magazine*.

Bergen Worth.

A strong American story—strong in character and strong in incident. It is love that brings out manliness, and other deep passions are disclosed. But perhaps the keenest interest in the book arises from the part played by the men and things of God. It is not a religious novel, but religion is in it, religious sentiment and religious practice. Bergen Worth is a hero to be remembered. Wallace Lloyd's next book will be looked for. The publisher is Mr. Fisher Unwin.