

In Tennyson "doubt still is the foe over whom faith wins an uncertain victory." It is of Wordsworth, as well as of Shelley and Keats, that she says, "Not one of them ever reached the perception of personality in man or God." Putting aside the question of the correctness of her judgment, that is surely a strange Apostolic succession to be intrusted with the most essential faiths of the race. And the final outcome is hardly entitled to convey the satisfaction she professes to find in it. The faith which she sees in Tennyson, noble as it is, is certainly not adequate for an ultimate resting-place; nor will that of Browning seem sufficient for a complete victory of the Spirit. But the author would herself be the first to say that the point reached is only the preparation for a clearer message and a higher attainment, of which, indeed, her book is a prophecy.



The Round Table for 1895 (Harper & Brothers, New York) gathers together all the good things with which this children's publication has cheered, delighted, and educated its readers for the past fifty-two weeks. *A B C*, an alphabet for children, by Mrs. Arthur Gaston (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago), is a quaint, artistic book with rough edges, broad margins, and old-fashioned illustrations. The book cannot fail to arouse the artistic instincts. Each page is devoted to an illustration in which a letter of the alphabet is prominent. Under the illustration is a rhyme setting forth the value of that letter in some well-known word. *Eric, Prince of Lorraine; or, The Valley of Wishes* (Macmillan & Co., New York), is a fairy-story book which begins with a plot on its first page; it has a scheming uncle with attendants, a lovely mother, a dear sister, a baby who is prince and ruler. The ingredients are in right proportions for a really, truly fairy story. *The Carved Lions*, by Mrs. Molesworth (Macmillan & Co., New York), is a charming story that opens in an English home and carries us through a strange and beautiful land of dreams, or a fairyland, or heaven. It is a book of healthy, happy struggle and triumph, and, best of all, love of little children for home and the home circle. *Bessie and Bee*, Mrs. Brine's latest book (Hunt & Eaton, New York), is the story of two little friends and their happiness. *The Children's Book of Dogs and Cats*, by Frederick J. Boston and Elizabeth S. Tucker (Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York), is for the wee little ones. The book is beautifully illustrated in color, and meets the needs of the little ones who do not read. *A Child of Tuscany*, by Marguerite Bouvet (A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago), is a pretty story of child-life in a new field. The story is dramatic to readers of ten to fourteen. A nursery feast is assured for three hundred and sixty-five days in the year where the bound volumes of "St. Nicholas" are. The monthly numbers are delightful, but the numbers gain by being placed in cloth covers. The charm of "St. Nicholas" is in the broad appeal it makes to the children of all ages, and the happy blending of amusement, entertainment, and instruction.

A New Theory of Baptism. By the Rev. E. R. Downing. (Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Company, Kansas City.) The thesis of the writer is, "Should not water baptism, as a superannuated symbol of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, be abolished?" We judge him to belong to some one of the sects which stand strenuously for baptism as they understand it. His claim for liberty of interpretation is also strenuously made, although it lands him in some astonishing conclusions, as in reading John iii., 5, "Except a man be born of water, *even* the Spirit," etc. That his work has met with favor in some quarters seems to be evident from its passing into a second edition. Quaker-like discarding of the sacrament is a natural recoil from exaggerated claims for it. The author's conclusion, however similar to that of the Friends, is reached by an elaborate and rather wearisome argument upon historical and exegetical grounds, rather than those dear to the intuitionist. His conclusion that "water baptism is an antiquated canon of the Jewish Church," and that "the one prime and only baptism of the Christian Church" is "the cleansing power and agency of the Spirit," might be granted without at all lessening the value of the sacramental ordinance as a simple symbol. The book is marred by dreadful orthographical errors, some of which are too recurrent to be chargeable to the perversity of the types.

Our readers who may enjoy the gossip of the stage will welcome Mr. C. E. L. Wingate's charming volume, *Shakespeare's Heroines on the Stage* (with Illustrations from rare old Prints). Mr. Wingate is full of stories, which he introduces appositely and relates with grace. While he is much occupied with the praise of ladies long dead, he speaks worthily of those who yet

live, and makes the women of the drama to live before us. We fail to find a dry or dull page in the whole book. Incidentally it is a record of the interpretations that have been given to Shakespeare's women, and as such it becomes a sort of commentary on his plays. (T. Y. Crowell & Co., New York.)

Mr. Herbert Small has compiled a *Handbook of the New Public Library in Boston* which is a model of its kind. The significance of this institution is perhaps more important than that of any other public library in America. In Mr. Small's little book we learn not only about the architecture and decoration of the building itself, but about the distinctive features of the library, its newspaper, periodical, catalogue, delivery, librarians', trustees', children's, patent, photographing, and music rooms, its card-catalogue and book-stack, its printing-office and bindery. (Curtis & Co., Boston.)

The "Thistle" edition of *Robert Louis Stevenson's Works*, already commented upon at length in these columns, has now been completed by the publication of the sixteen volumes. Special attention ought to be called to the sixteenth volume, because it contains forty or more new poems written by Mr. Stevenson during his residence in Samoa, many of them as striking and characteristic as any which came from his pen. This edition is one of the finest pieces of book-making which this country has produced. (Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.)

A neatly printed illustrated edition of Mr. Barrie's best two books, *Auld Licht Idylls* and *A Window in Thrums*, are sent to us by R. Fenno & Co., of this city.



Literary Notes

—A few weeks since, at the riverside village of Teddington—near which is Mr. R. D. Blackmore's home—the book-stall clerk at the railway station stuck up a poster advertising "Lorna Doone, by a Local Author." When requested to remove it, he complained, declaring that he had already sold ever so many copies through it.

—It is announced that Messrs. Burrows Brothers, of Cleveland, are about to begin the publication of a complete reprint of the rare and celebrated "Jesuit Relations," which contain valuable material concerning the early history of Canada and our Northern frontier States. The set will comprise sixty volumes. The original text will be reproduced in facsimile, with a careful English translation by Mrs. Jane Marsh Parker. Only 750 copies will be issued.

—The Rev. John Watson, the author of "Kate Carnegie," now being published in the Magazine Numbers of *The Outlook*, was born in England, but spent his childhood at Perth and at Stirling, Scotland, and his college days at Edinburgh. Before he became the minister of the Sefton Park Presbyterian Church, Liverpool, where he is now preaching, he was minister of the Free Church in Logiealmond, in Perthshire, Scotland. Logiealmond is now well known as "Drumtochty."

—It is telegraphed from London that, in reply to a request that he sign the address of British literary men to American authors asking the latter to do all in their power to prevent a war between Great Britain and the United States, Mr. Alfred Austin, the new Poet Laureate, writes professing admiration and respect for the American Government and people, but saying that their recent attitude was unfair and unfriendly. He, therefore, at the present moment, cannot approve of a body of Englishmen addressing a body of Americans in language which might be construed as savoring of timorous complaisance.

—Colonel Thomas Wallace Knox, the author of deservedly popular boys' books of travel, died suddenly last week. Colonel Knox was a New Hampshire boy. When he was about twenty-five years of age, he went to Colorado to seek gold, and there became a reporter on the Denver "News." When the war broke out, he served in two campaigns in the Southwest, at the same time being the war correspondent of the New York "Herald." Afterwards he came to New York and did general newspaper work for a short time, soon being commissioned to take a journey round the world as correspondent for the New York "Tribune" and other papers. In 1875 he went to Ireland and telegraphed to America the score of the international rifle-match at Dollymount, by means of an invention of his own, indicating by the use of the Morse code the spot at which each bullet struck the target. This he developed into a system of topographical telegraphy which he sold to the Government for the transmission of weather-maps. It was not as a correspondent, however, but as an author that Colonel Knox was best known. All of his books are worth reading, but his "Boy Traveler" series has the greatest fame.

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The Religious World

As has already been mentioned in The Farewell to Dr. Ecob Outlook, the Rev. James H. Ecob, D.D., who for fifteen years has been pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Albany, has accepted a call to the First Congregational Church in Denver. Dr. Ecob is well known not only for his work as pastor, but also for his frequent contributions to periodicals, religious and secular. On the occasion of his leaving Albany the church of which he has so long been pastor tendered him a reception, which was in many respects almost unique. The large building was beautifully decorated, and thronged not only with the members of his own congregation, but with many of the most prominent citizens of Albany. The chair was taken by Judge Learned, who in his opening address paid a feeling tribute to the work which Dr. Ecob has done in that city. Letters were then read from many who were prevented from being present, and most hearty and generous tributes came from Bishop Doane, of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Burke and Father Waldo, of the Roman Catholic Church, and Dr. Abbott and Mr. Mabie, of The Outlook. Afterwards addresses were delivered by Dr. Battershall, of the Episcopal Church of Albany, Dr. Selden, of the Reformed, Rabbi Schlesinger, of the Jewish Synagogue, Dr. Sawen, of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Melvil W. Dewey, State Librarian, and Dr. A. H. Bradford, of Montclair. At no similar gathering has the unity of feeling been more manifest, or the regret at losing a pastor deeper or more widespread. The addresses and letters were ungrudging in their praise of the work which Dr. Ecob has accomplished in Albany. He was spoken of as a "true prophet," a man of almost unique sincerity and spiritual power, and a preacher who had impressed himself upon the whole life of the great city in which he has lived. The reception was a credit alike to the church which gave it and to the pastor who received it. Dr. Ecob, in his reply, said that if he had appreciated the depth of the feeling of regret at the step he was taking, he did not know what the result would have been. The church in Denver is to be heartily congratulated. Dr. Ecob is in the prime of his powers, and one of the ablest and most vital preachers in the whole country; without a trace of sensationalism; with a fineness of literary finish which few preachers ever approach; with the intensity of a Hebrew prophet proclaiming the essential truths of the Christian revelation. He goes to Denver not simply to be pastor of the First Congregational Church of that city, but, as he finely puts it, to be "one of the pastors of the Church of Christ in Denver." The number of men who regard the Church as one, and their duty as being not simply to the local fellowship, but to the whole body, is happily increasing, and among them Dr. Ecob is a recognized leader.

Presbyterians and Christian Endeavor At the last National Christian Endeavor Convention in Boston the Presbyterian Endeavorers at their denominational rally appointed a committee to consider the relation of the Presbyterian Church to the Christian Endeavor movement. The committee is so representative that we will give its names in full, as follows: The Rev. Henry C. McCook, D.D., the Rev. J. A. Rondthaler, D.D., the Rev. Henry T. McEwen, D.D., the Rev. Pleasant Hunter, D.D., General James A. Beaver, the Rev. Samuel J. Niccolls, D.D., the Rev. Howard A. Johnston, D.D., the Rev. James M. Patterson, and the Rev. George B. Stewart, D.D., the latter being Chairman of the committee. The committee has been seeking information, and has found that there are over 7,000 Christian Endeavor Societies in the Presbyterian Church, and that over \$55,000 was given to the home and foreign boards by these young people during the last year. The committee has made some special inquiries, and has received answers from 114 Presbyteries. These Presbyteries report 106,000 members, with 32,000 members in the Junior Societies, and contributions of \$30,000 to home and foreign boards. In three cases the member of the Presbytery signing the report expressed some criticism of the societies, but in the remaining 111 reports there were most cordial and enthusiastic

expressions of appreciation of the work which they are doing. These facts are gleaned from an article by the Rev. George B. Stewart, D.D., in the "Evangelist" of January 9, and he adds: "These figures tell one story, and tell it with an emphasis that is impressive. The story is that the Christian Endeavor Society is the young people's society. It outnumbers all others 33 to 1 in the Presbyterian Church, and enjoys the confidence of pastors and Presbyteries. Evidently Christian Endeavor has come to stay in the Presbyterian Church."

Dr. Judson Smith and Foreign Missions The Rev. Judson Smith, D.D., is now the senior Secretary of the American Board. The last number of the "North American Review" contains an interesting article from his pen, entitled "Foreign Missions in the Light of Fact." It is an able discussion, and well worth the careful attention of those who minimize the value of Christian work among unchristian peoples. He reduces the objections to missions to four classes, as follows: "They assert that the aim of foreign missions to Christianize all nations is absurd and incapable of execution; or that foreign missions are in the hands of unfitted and incapable men, who can never carry them through to success; or that the methods employed are so unreasonable, so ill-adapted to the end, that they provoke opposition and hatred rather than confidence and love; or that, at any rate, they have accomplished nothing, and can never win any real success. These criticisms are fatal if they are valid; fatal not alone to foreign missions, but to the whole Christian scheme." In answering these objections Dr. Smith very properly shows that the whole advance of Christianity has been a missionary movement. From the time that St. Paul went to Cyprus and Asia to the latest missions of any Board of America, Christianity has been a missionary religion, and the history of the last eighteen hundred years is practically the history of missions. He then shows how broad is the field of the missionary, and that education, literature, civilization, while they spring up in the track of his work, are all tributary to it. He declares that missionaries do not aim to Americanize or Europeanize the peoples of the Orient; that they do not interfere with local politics; that they do not attempt reforms in countries like Turkey and China; but that they do attempt to Christianize all peoples, and to fill them so full of the Spirit of Jesus Christ that they shall do what is required in the lands in which they live. He pays a well-deserved tribute to the great missionaries of the Church in many lands, and calls attention to facts which cannot be disputed regarding the changes which have taken place in those countries where Christianity has been preached. According to his estimates, there are in the missionary churches over one million communicants who have been won to Christ as the result of missionary labors, and at the present rate of increase this number is doubling in less than ten years. He also shows that no other ethnic religion is increasing with a like rapidity. The outlook for the future is exceedingly encouraging. More than three thousand young men and women in the colleges and seminaries of America are now personally pledged to this service, and more than \$5,000,000 are yearly devoted to this cause by American Christians alone. The whole article is well worth reading. From personal observation we are able to bear testimony to the truthfulness of many of its statements. The day has gone by for any to sneer at the work of foreign missions. Those who do so do it to their own discredit, for statements like the above show how little they have studied the problems of which they are speaking.

The Federation of the Churches The Rev. R. M. Patterson, D.D., in a recent number of the "Independent" has been making interesting use of the recently published statistics of the churches. The figures are as follows: 127,906 ministers, 179,311 congregations, 24,218,180 communicants in the United States. Dr. Patterson utters this exclamation: "What a lamentable exhibition in the number of organizations into which they are divided! 151 in all." That means practically 151 different sects in this Nation alone—a startling fact! The evangelical churches number 110,000 ministers, 160,000 congregations, and 16,000,000 communicants. These figures, he says, are put too