

—*Manual of Preaching, Lectures on Homiletics*, by Franklin W. Fisk, Professor of Sacred Rhetoric in Chicago Theological Seminary. As a Manual for students, this is not easily excelled. It condenses the author's studies and lectures which have accumulated during the last twenty-five years. It is compact, well-ordered, sensible, discriminating, and in every respect helpful. It treats of the analysis and synthesis of a sermon, taking up in a clear, forcible way the most important practical questions relating to the use and abuse of Texts, the choice of a Text, the Introduction and Exposition, the Subject with its Division and Development, the Conclusion, Illustration and Style, the sources of Materials, methods of Invention, Arrangement, Composition and Delivery. There is no such manual for beginners in the ministry. Nor can anything be more important for them, while in the Seminary, than those practical exercises in which the Professor himself is an acknowledged master, perhaps the prince of teachers. The book is handsomely printed. We discover in it only a few slight errors. We cannot see why so many capitals are put in its "Contents," not only to nouns, but to adjectives and verbs. We are wearied somewhat from chapter to chapter, by its formal, mechanical way of marking divisions. We might wish that it were more full of learning, or rich in suggestion. It abounds in the most commonplace remarks and discussions. But it contains a world of common sense, and it is well adapted to those who need guidance from the very outset in learning how to preach—which Vinet, Van Oosterzee and Phelps are not. For beginners it excels also, we think, the treatises of Shedd and Hoppin, while yet for advanced readers it may not be on the whole so valuable. The author hopes that it may be "of some service to others in the ministry, who, amidst pressing duties, may find time to look over its pages." Of course he refers to those—perhaps the great majority—who have paid little or no proper attention to homiletical principles. But when one leaves the Seminary, ought not homiletics as a special study to be over? His greatest difficulty will arise from a want of Biblical knowledge, or evangelical experience, or personal magnetism, or divine inspiration. With an over-mastering love of the truth and of the people to whom he should preach it, will he not acquire homiletical skill by practice, and acquire it best without any special study of rhetoric or of other men's sermons? We doubt at least whether any memory of rules or study of models will "keep a minister from deteriorating," or make his discourses so effective as a blessed unconsciousness of all literary arts or professional manners. But first of all he should be thoroughly trained. We are tempted to conclude with Van Oosterzee: "All homiletic rules regarded aright, might be reduced to this one: *Be yourself*: in other words, seek to be a real man, a real Christian, a real theologian; and then speak—after being as many-sidedly and harmoniously, as possible, prepared and developed for this work—in such a way as your sanctified individuality, in connection with the nature of the subject and the need of the moment, enables you to speak;" or better, if we may take with Goethe the layman's lower point of view: "Worn out, friend, is every theory, but fresh the golden tree of life." (New York: Armstrong & Son.)

—*Wall Street in History*, by Mrs. Martha J. Lamb, is a series of papers originally prepared for the *Magazine of American History*, here brought together in a sumptuous and lavishly-illustrated volume. Mrs. Lamb has the historical sense which enables her to vitalize the past in her presentation, and the faithful industry which draws from every storehouse of old and new for material. Wall Street is here delineated from its first brush-fence to its present gold-vaults, and its full treatment leads to a brief but comprehensive survey of New York; for the first fifty years a walled city, small and provincial; during the Revolutionary period the seat of fashion, aristocracy and state government, and for six years also the national capital, with President Washington a familiar figure in the streets, in his chariot drawn by six white horses; the third and last period treating fully of the financial institutions which have made Wall Street famous throughout the civilized world. It would indeed be fortunate if every town, village and city in America might find historian so accomplished. Much valuable material must be rescued from oblivion speedily, if at all. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.)

—*A Short History of Christian Missions*, from Abraham and Paul to Carey, Livingstone and Duff, by Geo. Smith, LL. D., is a very useful little compend. Of course a duodecimo volume of 226 pages on so immense a subject must be rather "scrappy;" but the material is well distributed, and will afford the Bible-classes and youth for whom it is designed, as much information as could well be crowded into so small a compass. (Edinburg: T. and T. Clark. New York: Scribner & Welford.)

—*Pagoda Shadows, Studies from Life in China*, by Adele M. Fields. Rev. Joseph Cook commends Miss Fields' little work (of 282 pages) in a cordial introduction. She had the advantage of ten years' residence in the Flowery Kingdom and a knowledge of its language. She has been engaged in a very peculiar and successful effort to train the Chinese women, when converted to Christ, in evangelistic work for their own sex. They are in many respects—especially in freedom from caste and, in general, from the harem—more favored, or rather less cruelly wronged than their sisters in any other heathen nation. Miss Fields gives a most graphic picture of domestic and social life among them. (Boston: W. G. Corthell. \$1.00.)

—*The Essentials of English*, by Alfred H. Welsh, is another contribution to the careful and accurate study of our mother-tongue. Protesting against the rules and principles laid down in the old grammars, Mr. Welsh presents the development and construction of "the grammarless tongue" with somewhat more conservatism than does the author of that familiar phrase. The chapter on "Word Formation" is especially valuable; suggestive for older students than the school or college pupils for whom the work is primarily designed. Indeed, there is much in it to commend it to the general reader. The opening chapters give an admirable survey of the history of the language. Of its fitness as a text-book, we cannot here speak at length. Some faults, with many excellences, we might specify. (Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. \$1.50.)

—*Domestic Problems*, by Mrs. A. M. Diaz, is a book which considers all the phases of these problems which have been so much discussed during the past few years. One of the most important is stated in the opening sentence: "How may woman enjoy the delights of culture, and at the same time fulfil her duties to family and household?" Mrs. Diaz offers some practical suggestions for its solution that must prove of value. Perhaps the greatest charm of the writer consists in her sympathetic comprehension of all a woman's varied trials and responsibilities, and the petty annoyances of her daily life. To read this graphic description of them will doubtless be a great comfort and help to many over-worked women who have seen no way of lightening their burdens. Some chapters contain adjurations to husbands to treat their wives more considerately. A correspondent of the New York *Tribune* suggests that second marriages be rendered illegal, so that a man, knowing he can only have one wife, will take good care of her. Some of the chapter headings are pertinent: Culture Proved to be a Need of the Child-trainer; Reasons for a Change; the Slaves of the Rolling-pin; A Word to the Men-folks, etc. (Boston: J. R. Osgood & Co.)

—Dr. Richard Newton's juvenile religious works are known in many lands and tongues. Few have his rare gift of enforcing Christian instruction through interesting narrative. His latest volume, *Bible Promises*, consists of eleven brief children's sermons, rich with illustrations, which while they entertain, faithfully fulfil their purpose in impressing the central truths. It is a suggestive book for pastors and Sunday-school teachers, and a good addition to the Sunday-school library. (New York: Carter & Bros. Chicago: F. H. Revell. \$1.25.)—From the same publishers, we have the tenth of Mrs. O. F. Walton's excellent juveniles, *Shadows, Scenes and Incidents in the life of an old Arm-chair*. The tales are told by the chair itself after the style of the ever-popular "Karl Krinkens Christmas Stocking," and many of the "shadows" are drawn with much distinctness and tenderness. As in all the author's books, the moral and religious element is prominent. (\$1.00.)

—Mr. Scudder is on hand early this year with his ever-welcome Bodleys, this time *The Viking Bodleys*, who make excursions through Norway and Denmark, find out all about the manners, customs, history, legends and great men of these countries, and then impart what they have learned to their readers in the most charming way. This is the eighth of the Bodley Books, and is in no way inferior to its predecessors. They form a delightful little

library of themselves. It is finely illustrated, of course. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.50.)—Prof. John S. White, who last year gave "Plutarch," to the boys and girls, has done them a similar service this year by preparing for them a uniform edition of *Herodotus*. As in the former case, so now, Herodotus is allowed to tell his story in his own way, with only the weeding out of some redundancies and things irrelevant. The editor has performed his work with great judgment and taste; and both of these books ought to, and doubtless will, become standards for boys and girls. (New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons. Chicago: S. A. Maxwell & Co. \$3.00.)—Mr. Thomas W. Knox is also early in the field with his *Voyage of the Vivian to the North Pole and Beyond*, in which he has gathered various facts and incidents pertaining to the different Arctic voyages from Frobisher down to Greely, and woven them into a continuous narrative of Arctic adventure. Mr. Knox needs no introduction to the boys, and they will find this volume as entertaining as its predecessors. (New York: Harpers. Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co. \$2.50.) All of these three books are intended for the holidays, and all of them combine information and entertainment in a remarkable degree.

—*The Ice Queen*, by Ernest Ingersoll, will be found especially charming to boys and not by any means devoid of interest to girls. It describes a novel journey from a village to the city of Cleveland, a hundred miles distant, undertaken by four young people who were not easily dismayed by obstacles; Katie, Aleck and Jim Kincaid, with their friend Thucydides Montgomery, whose elaborate name "had been cut down very early in life to Tug." These young folks were orphans who expected to find friends in the city. Being too poor to afford railroad fare they determined to skate over the frozen lake, drawing a boat mounted on a sledge to meet emergencies in case the ice should break. Of course such a catastrophe occurred to afford adventure. The voyagers were cast on a deserted island where they stayed for a month, supplementing their store of food by snaring birds and catching fish. The January thaw enabled them to return to the main land and they finally reached their destination where they all found work and in time came to be prosperous and honored citizens. (Chicago: Jansen, McClurg & Co. \$1.00.)

—*Captains of Industry*, by James Parton. This is a book which cannot easily be praised too highly. In many respects, and for what it attempts to do, it is the best piece of work Mr. Parton has yet done. Many of the articles were originally published in the New York *Ledger* and the *Youth's Companion*. These are sketches of the successful men of modern times, both in England and in this country. It is a book which we should be glad to see in the hands of every boy and lad in the country. The facts are set forth in the most charming style, and while the materials here employed must have cost the author much time and labor, the reading of it is exceedingly easy. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.25.)

—Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., of Boston, have brought out a beautiful volume of 150 pages, which they call *A Wonder-Book for Boys and Girls*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne, with illustrations by T. S. Church. The names of author and artist, when coupled with such publishers as these, Houghton & Mifflin, will at once commend the volume in higher terms than can be done by any words of ours. It is a beautiful, elevating, and in every way useful book for young people. (\$2.50.)

—*A History of the United States of America, preceded by a narrative of the Discovery and Settlement of North America, for the Use of Schools and Academies*, by Horace E. Scudder. A careful examination of this book, with a view to the administration of it to a small class of boys, has inspired decided admiration. The author is a noted writer for youth, whose style is simple, clear, uninvolved and precise. He has a keen eye for the minor parts of history, and for the logical links that underlie its progress. These he has brought out with great skill, including the relation of these facts to the life and progress of European history. The illustrations, maps (most systematic and helpful analysis for review, with chronological tables), are of the greatest value. Teachers and parents will delight in such a text-book, which is certainly in advance of any similar production that has fallen under our eye. (Philadelphia: J. H. Butler. \$1.50.)

—*Life of Grover Cleveland*, by Deshler Welch, is perhaps as fair a telling of the story as an ardent admirer can be expected to give. The author states that he has had the "personal encouragement" of Cleveland himself, and the

"suggestions of his private secretary." The unsavory parts of his history do not appear. It is one of the Lovell's Library series. (20c.)