

**Heroes of the Nations. Gustavus Adolphus and the Struggle of Protestantism for Existence.** By C. R. L. Fletcher, A. M. G. P. Putnam's Sons. New York & London. 1890. 12mo. pp. xviii, 316. \$1.50.

Mr. Fletcher here gives us the result of a critical and painstaking study of the life and character of the great defender of Protestantism, the Lion of the North, as depicted by the best Swedish and German authorities, the King's letters, and all available contemporary literature bearing on the momentous "Thirty Years' War." He has also carefully read, among modern authorities, the "History of Gustavus Adolphus. By John L. Stevens, LL. D.," noticed in the *QUARTERLY* for April, 1888. From all these sources, he has, with wonderful facility of condensation, brought into the compass of his limited number of pages a most satisfactory account of the state of affairs in Europe and the critical condition of Sweden, when Gustavus at the age of seventeen years, ascended the throne; his war with Poland, and the great advantages in subsequent German campaigns, of his capture of Prussian and Polish ports; his genius in

strategy and tactics which made him an innovator in warfare, taking rank with the greatest Europeans of modern times, Frederick the Great and Napoleon ; his struggle against inadequate resources ; the brilliancy of his victories ; the unparalleled manner in which he kept his troops in hand both in success and in defeat ; and his heroic death on the field of his greatest prowess and victory. Very rarely, if ever, is a clearly connected recital of events extending over such a long period, brought into such small compass. If writers of subsequent volumes in this interesting series reach the high level of excellence attained by Mr. Fletcher, the publishers may be sure of creating a demand for the volumes which will be most gratifying to their ambition.

**The Story of the Nations. The Jews Under Roman Rule.** By W. D. Morrison. New York. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1890. 12mo. pp. xxx, 426. \$1.50.

To the student of the New Testament this is an important and interesting volume. As a compilation and re-setting of reliable statements concerning the Jews in the days of Christ's personal labors in Palestine, made in voluminous and expensive books, it will prove a treasure house to the average preacher whose income does not permit him the luxury of a large library, but who cannot afford to be without the information here given. The understanding of the New Testament and the ability to satisfactorily explain it to others, depends in no small degree, on a knowledge of the times, the government and the people in the Holy Land at that period. Mr. Morrison has by conscientious and thorough study and with great care told the story of the Jews under Roman rule, from the time the all-conquering eagle first stretched his wings over Judea to the date of the utter destruction of the National life of the once highly favored people, — a period of about three hundred years, from B. C. 164 to A. D. 135.

Religious rites, ceremonies, doctrines, sects, modes of worship and various customs alluded to with more or less frequency in the Gospels, are fully described, as they are not in any other single volume of which we have information. The political condition of the Jews, the limitations of their authority imposed by Roman law, and its effect in dividing them into various parties, some quiescent and others rebellious and turbulent, are clearly explained, thereby throwing light on the treatment which Jesus received at the hands of representatives of these differences, and on many of the incidents of his trial and crucifixion, as also on many expressions in his discourses.

We heartily commend the volume as a useful one for all preachers.

All the volumes noticed under the head of "Contemporary Literature," will be found on sale at our Publishing House.