

The Biblical Illustrator. By the Rev. Joseph S. Exell. (A. D. F. Randolph & Co. \$2.00 per volume.) The fifth volume of this new series carries the work to the end of chapter vii of the Gospel by St. Luke. The other volumes published are St. Matthew, St. Mark, Galatians and Ephesians. In design the work resembles that published by the Rev. Dr. J. Glenworth Butler, and is the latest product of the tendency toward an encyclopediac and illustrative kind of commentation. Matter of all kinds is gleaned from all sources and combined in the illustration of every point of the text. The effect on the reader of going over the mass of illustration thus combined on any one particularly suggestive passage is electric rather than thorough. It fills him full and makes him tingle in all his awakened powers with the joy of the discoverer. Such a compendious aid at hand must be of the greatest usefulness, especially if the student combines with it the well-used and systematic commentary. When once he has fixed on the text the true meaning, *The Biblical Illustrator* may be relied on to furnish all he can possibly ask for in the way of "anecdote, smiles, emblems, illustrations, expository, scientific, geographic, historical and homiletic." In the presence of so much assistance he will be a vigorous and happy man if he does not permit his own powers to go to sleep. —*The Lord's Prayer; A Practical Meditation.* By Newman Hall, with an introduction by Theodore Cuyler, D.D. (Scribner & Welford. \$2.00) Six years ago the first edition of this work came to us from the well-known preacher and author, whose "Come to Jesus" had been translated into many languages and reached a circulation of 3,000,000 copies. The new volume was received with much favor, and met the wants of great numbers of readers who did not find their needs met by any of the current expositions. The present edition differs little from the first except in some minor matters of form, in which it has gained by condensation and in the addition of an introduction by Dr. Cuyler, in which he pours out his heart in admiring notice of the work of his friend. Warmly as he expresses himself, his utterances will find an echo in the hearts of the readers of the book who take it up for that which it has to offer—practical aid in the religious life.—The latest volume in Prof. Mandell Creighton's meaty brevities, the "Epochs of Church History," is *The Arian Controversy*, by H. M. Gwatkin, M.A., Lecturer and late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge. (A. D. F. Randolph & Co. 50 cents.) This series now numbers fifteen volumes. The work done on them is the best; and put in popular form with the omission of all needless, irrelevant and unimportant matter.

Vitus Bering; The Discoverer of Bering Strait. By Peter Iauridsen. Revised by the author and translated from the Danish by Julius E. Olson, Assistant-Professor of Scandinavian languages in the University of Wisconsin, with an introduction by Frederick Schwatka. (S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago. \$1.25.) This volume is for the most part a vindication of Vitus Bering, as this author spells the name and not *Behring*, his work as a navigator and geographical discoverer and as a man. As such it is addressed particularly to the student of history and of historical geography. It is, however, more than spiced with adventure and in addition contains much to interest Americans in relation to our world of wonder and mystery in Alaska. The volume contains in a series of supplementary chapters a sketch of the heroic arctic expeditions made between 1731 and 1743, in five or six different directions through the unknown terrors of the Siberian coast and the Northern Sea. Bering discovered America from the east in July 1741. He had started in 1780 a plan which, unparalleled at the time, remains among the holdest and most sagacious in the history of geographical exploration. He proposed to sail from Kamchatka to explore and chart the whole western coast of America and crossing the Pacific to do the same for the coast of Siberia from the Obi to the Lena. The story of his adventures, his courage, his struggles

with the unknown terrors of the land and sea make the impression of a very large and heroic man. His explorations along the American coast after he sailed through the Straits which bear his name are full of interest and contain much matter for our historical geographers.

People's Commentary on the Gospel According to Luke. By Edwin W. Rice, D.D. (American Sunday-School Union. \$1.25) This volume is the seventh published under the "Green Fund." It contains the texts of the Authorized Version of 1611, the Revised of 1881, and the American readings and renderings. Dr. Rice has written similar commentaries on Matthew and Mark. He has edited the Sunday-School Union publications for many years, and the "Scholar's Hand Book on the International Lessons." He prepared the geographical articles in "Schaff's Dictionary of the Bible," and that on "Sunday-schools" in the Schaff-Herzog. In addition to the points named above, we note the topical subdivision of the text and the generally convenient arrangement of the Commentary for use and reference. The exposition is simple, direct and sensible, with plenty of good illustration and application. The historical, critical and scholarly work is well adapted to the purposes and uses of a popular commentary. It is well illustrated with maps, drawings and sketches.—*Dr. Peloubet's Commentary on the International Lessons for 1890.* (Ward & Drummond, New York; W. A. Wilde & Co. Boston.) This Commentary, prepared by F. N. Peloubet, D.D., and M. A. Peloubet, now well known and regularly expected, requires no further notice in our columns than to say that the annual volume on the International Lessons of the coming year has appeared with notes "explanatory, illustrative, doctrinal and practical," with illustrations, maps, pictures, chronology and harmony of the life of Christ, suggestions to teachers and literary references.

An Introduction to the Study of Shakespeare by Hiram Corson, LL.D., Professor of English Literature at Cornell, deserves attention as an attempt to introduce the reader to the study of Shakespeare's Plays as plays. The sketch of his personal history, etc., is brief and good, and the critical papers are packed with knowledge and good sense. We cannot, however, re-echo the author's intimation that the comparative frequency or infrequency of rhymed lines and of what he calls "extra-end syllables" are not to be accepted as giving some clue to the date of composition. The volume contains a series of brief studies on a few of the plays, together with a few pages of examination questions. It is neither exhaustive nor systematic, but is richly worth the attention of students and readers of Shakespeare. (D. C. Heath & Co., Boston. \$1.50).—*Tales from Shakespeare*, by Charles and Mary Lamb, is one of the works which later genius has contributed to the illustration of an earlier genius. As long as Shakespeare is read by the elders, the Mary and Charles Lamb Tales from Shakespeare will be read by the youngsters who can desire no better introduction to the great dramas. The edition before us is published by A. C. Armstrong & Son, with an introduction by Alfred Ainger, which is none the worse for having been written some few years ago. (\$1.50.)

Belief. By George Leonard Chaney (Roberts Brothers, Boston. \$1.00.) This book hardly vindicates its right to its title as a book of *belief* as contrasted with *unbelief*. The author is ever in the woods. He comes now and then in his wanderings into bits of sunshine; but he is not able to map their position in his moral geography, much less to extend them over the broad area of life and goes on as much in the woods as ever, but quite at home there and discoursing in sweet, thoughtful and serene confidence. He never comes farther out of the woods than to write as we read on page 74:

"With me the truth concerning Jesus has come to this (and I have only a curious, scholarly or professional interest in any other discussion about him)—all is told to me in this, that Jesus revealed the truth that the way of spiritual life is unselfish love, and that it is a way in which men can walk, God helping them. That is all. And it is all."

We call it a dark and tangled thicket that a man is in when he can see no more than that.

Untrodden Peaks and Unfrequented Valleys. A Midsummer Ramble in the Dolomites. By Amelia B. Edwards. (George Routledge & Sons. \$2.50.) The presence in this country of the distinguished author of this volume makes the publication of this Second Edition at least opportune. The first edition appeared in 1878. In the same

year came out the author's "One Thousand Miles up the Nile," which in connection with her remarkable and fruitful Egyptological activity was destined to give celebrity to her name. The first edition of "Untrodden Peaks" was dedicated to the author's "American Friends in Rome." The second is dedicated to "My American Friends in all Parts of the World." The changes made in it leave the narrative portions unchanged and relate in the main only to such corrections or additions as will render the book more useful to travelers.

The Good Things from Life are published in the Sixth Series, by Frederick A. Stokes & Brother. The collection is very amusing. The "Aztec Fragments" are particularly droll and effective.