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AMONG THE BOOKS.

THE 'AUSTRAL LIGHT.'

A few weeks ago we expressed our pleasure at the announcement that the *Austral Light* would be continued under a new proprietary. It was started about seven years ago by a number of Catholic gentlemen in Melbourne, who worked gratuitously since then to ensure its success. To Mr. O'Meara especially great credit was due for his untiring efforts as editor. Finding that the public appreciation of the magazine was not equal to the labour bestowed upon it, the original founders decided to give it up. It was not destined, however, to cease publication, for the necessity of a Catholic periodical, racy of the Australian soil, was fully recognised, and accordingly an influential company, representative of the clergy and laity of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, was formed for the purpose of continuing the magazine. That their efforts will be crowned with success we doubt not, if the first number of the new series is to be taken as an example of the manner in which the *Austral Light* is to be conducted in the future. The number before us contains a variety of articles on subjects which cannot fail either to interest, instruct, or amuse its readers. The *Austral Light* has been considerably enlarged, and the illustrations are a special feature. The editor-in-chief is the Rev. Father O'Reilly, C.M., who will have the able assistance of the leading Catholic writers in the Australasian Colonies, many of whom have promised contributions. As the price has been fixed at the exceedingly low rate of 5s 6d per annum, post free, the magazine should quickly secure a very large circulation.

CATHOLIC TRUTH SOCIETY.

We cordially commend to the notice of Catholic schools, convents and colleges the latest addition to the St. Edmund's College Series of Scripture Handbooks. This is the Gospel of St. John, with introduction and notes by Dr. McIntyre, Professor of Scripture at St. Mary's College, Oscott. Dr. McIntyre's introduction is a scholarly one, and his copious annotations on the sacred text are marked by a combined fulness and lucidity that come as a surprise on any person who opens this unpretentious volume for the first time. The commentator knows well the value of words. He does not waste them, and his crisp, brief sentences are throughout crammed full of fact and suggestive thought. His chief authorities are Knabenbauer, Meyer, Kaufen, Cornely, Battifol, Salmon, and Davidson. Dr. McIntyre has done his work with careful thoroughness within the limits of his space. He has placed the youth in our schools and colleges, and adults as well, under a great obligation. The Holy Father has blessed and indulged the reading of the Scripture by the laity. We hope that they will take advantage of such inducement to the study of the Good Book. Dr. McIntyre has done much to make part of the task easy, and we trust that the admirable Series of Scripture Manuals to which he has contributed may speedily set aside those so-called 'annotated' Bibles hitherto published, which were rather a deterrent than an inducement to the reading of the Sacred Text.

The *Condition of English Catholics under Charles II* is another important volume recently issued by the Catholic Truth Society. It is translated and amplified from the original French of the Comtesse R. de Courson, which received the singular distinction of being the first book written in French by an Englishwoman that has been 'crowned' by the Académie Française. Lingard is generally followed in this work, and his testimony is corroborated in many instances by quotations from the works of Hume, Green, Gardiner, Macaulay, Strickland, and other non-Catholic writers of eminence. The book presents in the compass of some 250 pages demy 8vo the facts of a stirring period of English history for the reasonably full treatment of which the reader would otherwise have to refer to many-volumed and less accessible works. The treatment of the alleged 'Popish Plot,' of the persecutions of the priesthood and the laity, and of the unhappy fate of the persecutors, is all well and temperately told. The value of the book is enhanced by a good index.

The Catholic Truth Society has also brought out a very compact and useful *Bird's-eye View of Church History*. It is written, as the author tells us, in order to induce the reader to look on the whole story as on a picture of the special dealing of God with His Bride, the Holy Catholic Church. The idea is sustained throughout and the little book will be found useful both for the Catholic primary school and the general reader who has no leisure or no inclination to peruse more bulky manuals of Church history. In the same style and binding the Society has issued two opuscula of Fra Girolamo Savonarola. Those who know him only as a dema-

gogue or reformer will welcome the translation of his little ascetical works on the Lord's Prayer and the Angelical Salutation. The great Dominican treats the Lord's Prayer as a subject for (1) reading, (2) meditation, (3) prayer, and (4) contemplation. The little book possesses a practical value to the devout as well as a curious interest for the historian.

'THE SECRET OF THE SEA AND OTHER COLONIAL STORIES.'

This is the title of a very readable volume of short tales by 'Lux,' the *nom-de-plume* of a Christchurch lady, and published by Messrs. Simpson and Williams of the City of the Plains. It would be hardly correct to call all the items, which go to make up the substantial volume of 420 pages, tales, for some of them might be classed as reminiscences, and very pleasant reading they are. The tales are told in a most entertaining manner, and although there is a moral taught in nearly all of them, still the author manages to do so without offending the susceptibilities of the reader, who likes not to be preached at, especially by an anonymous writer. The tales are told in a natural, simple style, without any straining after effect; and yet many of them—evidently sketches from real life—have all the frame work for a whole volume of fiction in themselves, had the writer cared to add the garnishing and wealth of detail, which are the special features of many such works now-a-days. The writer is evidently a close student of human nature, and her stories are told in a manner which engages the attention of the reader from start to finish, and the book is laid down with a feeling of regret that the fortunes or vicissitudes of the hero or heroine had not been detailed at greater length. The volume is well printed, neatly bound, and should become a general favourite, especially when we consider the great run which many works of fiction have in these days, with little to recommend them save that they have the name of some well-known writer on the cover, and are issued by a London publishing house with a big reputation.

Push is a good thing; everyone admits that. You've doubtless heard of the youngster who applied for a billet. The employer said, 'Well, my boy, what's your motto in life?' 'Same as you've got on your electric doorbell, sir—Push!' The small boy got the job.

They're doing a good bit of lively pushing at Ladysmith just now, and before long the British troops will have 'pushed' the Boers into a 'cocked hat.' It's a pretty stubborn thing that can resist the steady strain of British 'push.'

Sometimes the pushing has to be kept up for a good long spell before it begins to have the effect desired, but in the long run the opposition is bound to give in. If you only give it time the continued drip of a drop of water will wear a hole in a stone! Fact!

Look at the results, for instance, in the case of Hondai-Lanka Tea. For a long time it was an uphill task. The trade were quite willing to sell high-grade teas, but they couldn't see the fun of doing with smaller profits than the common-blended brands paid.

Well, as we simply couldn't give the superlative quality and allow big profits we decided to stick to the quality, and—just push! What's the result? Grocers have now found that the increase in their sales, and the satisfaction given to their customers, more than made up for the slightly smaller profits in Hondai-Lanka Ceylon Teas, and now dozens of grocers are pushing our teas, to the exclusion of 'Sky Rocket' and other well-known blends. Another fact! We are still pushing hard, and we've got big way on now, and are getting on rapidly towards the top. That's the only place where there's room for Hondai-Lanka Teas. If you've any 'cuteness at all you must see it will pay you to use these Teas.

The Hondai-Lanka Ceylon Brands, Mahamajah, Baranhenyia, and Diamond Jubilee, are all of exquisite quality, rich—so rich and syrupy that they go far further than blends—and are guaranteed to give satisfaction to the most fastidious. Your grocer may be one of those behind-the-time men who do not stock them; but if you 'push' enough he'll soon supply you with our Teas.

Just keep your eye on us and you'll see the result of 'push.' Our sales are continually rising, steadily but surely, and if you know a good Tea when you taste it we'll soon have you supporting us in our work of 'pushing' this purest and finest of Tea into every household in the South Island! Agent for Southland, Mr. D. Roche, Invercargill; Waimate, Messrs. Manchester Bros. and Goldsmith.—* *

MR. P. LUNDON, Phoenix Chambers, Wanganui, is still busy putting people on the soil. He has also hotels in town and country For Sale and To Lease. Write to him.—* *