

than scientific statement will require. He points out, on occasion, the bias and error of some of his predecessors in this field. He takes the view that Mohammed was a shrewd builder of empire. It is of Mohammed "as a great man, who solved a political problem of appalling difficulty" rather than as the founder of a great religion that this volume treats. Due regard is had for the part played by the religion in the solution of the problem, but it must be understood that the work is not primarily a study in religion. The work is well done and will be of great value to all students of Islam and of its Prophet. It is an interesting fact that recent students are returning to the older view that Mohammed was a deceiver in the claims of revelation, though the spirit of the charge is quite different from that of a century ago. Such is the attitude of this author.

W. O. CARVER.

### **Egypt Burma and British Malaysia.**

By William Eleroy Curtis. Published by Fleming H. Revell Company. 1905. 400 Pp. Price \$2.00 net.

Mr. Curtis' reputation makes necessary now only the announcement that he has produced a book of travel and it is taken for granted that it is of the first order in description and information. He has not yielded to the temptation, natural under the circumstances, to do careless work, though it must be admitted that a little more time and pains would sometimes meet appreciation in his readers.

In this volume three countries, to speak freely, are grouped for no other reason than that the author's convenience was thus suited. Egypt comes in for fullest and best treatment, occupying 250 pages. Burma gets fair consideration in 100 pages with six chapters, lacking logical relation or comprehensive combination, but touching matters of prime interest.

British Malaysia is a title to cover what remained of

a journey, though the author never grows uninteresting nor fails to inform.

The illustrations are of high quality.

W. O. CARVER.

### **The Land of the Gods.**

By Alice Mabel Bacon. Published by Houghton Mifflin & Company, 1905. Pp. 267. Price \$1.50.

This volume is made up of ten stories setting forth characteristic Japanese superstitions. The legends of folk-lore and superstition are full of interest in themselves and are told with great charm and skill. No explanations are given and no theorizing—just the plain tales woven about living characters with all the thrill, and sometimes horror, of the utmost reality. It might readily be supposed that the author believes every word of the wierd stories with a faith surpassing that of the Japanese.

One would err if he inferred that belief in the superstitions here set forth is universal in Japan, but an intelligent reader will find delight and learning in the volume.

W. O. CARVER.

## VIII. OLD TESTAMENT.

### **The Priestly Element in the Old Testament.**

By William Rainey Harper. Revised and enlarged edition, 1905. Pages 292, 8vo. cloth; postpaid \$1.25. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago and New York.

This book is a delight to the eye in its orderly arrangement of general topics and sub-heads, its paragraphing, the use of different fonts of type, the employment of bold-face type, italics and all other devices known to the printer's art. The pages have wide margins, on which the biblical references find a suitable place opposite the paragraphs to which they are related. Three valuable appendixes present lists of the more important words in the vocabulary of worship, classified lists of important books and a conspectus of the newer literature (since 1901) on