

helplessness is most felt. Never before or since in humanity has righteousness been perfectly victorious as in Him. Never before or since in the whole range of being has any one felt as He did all the sin of man with all the conscience of God. This is what He offers to do, what He claims to do: to remove our sins by bearing them Himself, and for the sake of that bearing to proclaim them, as from God, forgiven. The claim itself and the love in which it is made are them-

selves divine. But it is further accredited by His sinlessness; by His correspondence with the age-long instincts of the race; by His fulfilment of the hopes of every religion; and by the fact that He has satisfied whatever heart of man has trusted Him and taken Him at His word. If, as conscience tells us, the true God is the God who drew this Ethiopian to Jerusalem, then we can no more doubt than this Ethiopian did, that that true God was in Jesus Christ.

At the Literary Table.

Several books must be left over this month, some to receive that fuller notice which they deserve. As:—

The Jews under the Roman Empire. Story of the Nations. By W. D. Morrison, M.A. T. Fisher Unwin.

The Two Kinds of Truth. T. Fisher Unwin.

Life and Writings of Vinet. By L. M. Lane. T. & T. Clark.

Church and State. By A. Taylor Innes. T. & T. Clark.

After the Exile. By P. Hay Hunter. Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier.

The Seat of Authority in Religion. By Dr. Martineau. Longmans.

The Hereafter. By J. Fyfe. T. & T. Clark.

The Song of Songs. By the Rev. W. C. Daland, A.M.

Besides the theological and sermon pamphlets mentioned below, we must draw special attention to some small books which have given us pleasure.

Thoughts on Baptism, by the Rev. W. Barry Cole (London: Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, & Co., 1889, 2s.), is a beautiful crown octavo of 130 pages, bound in parchment. It is as absorbing within as it is enticing without—no toy, but a book to be reckoned with.

Two smaller books, by William Thynne Lynn, B.A. (*Bible Chronology* and *Brief Lessons on the Parables and Miracles of our Lord.* London: George Stoneman), are the very thing that Sunday-school and Bible-class teachers are searching for.

The Forward Movement (a pamphlet of 16 octavo pages, to be had post free for 2½d. from the author, the Rev. H. W. Horwill, M.A., at 6 Lockyer Street, Plymouth) will give readers the very best account of that movement which is to be had. And it is time more of us knew the meaning of that movement.

Notes on Dealing with Inquirers, by Charles Shirreffs, secretary Aberdeen Y.M.C.A. (32 pages, 16mo, price 1d.; 12 copies post free), we wish very specially to commend. The author enjoys the three C's—Conversion, Consecration, Capacity; the booklet is built on the three R's—Ruin, Redemption, Regeneration.

The Scriptural Doctrine of Sacrifice and Atonement. By Alfred Cave, B.A., D.D. New edition, revised throughout and partly re-written, 8vo, 550 pp. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. 1890. 10s. 6d.

This is a new edition after the manner of the Germans, where the whole book is revised and corrected, increased here and shortened there, and brought up to date in every particular, so that it is practically a new book. The additions are mainly two—(1) an important section (pp. 301–325), dealing with the New Testament doctrine of Atonement as a whole; and (2) a short and very skilful classification of theories of the Atonement (pp. 371–376). Amongst the theories classified we find that of Dr. Freeman Clarke, and the reference is to a later edition (1889) than we have seen of his *Orthodoxy: its Truths and its Errors*. So also full justice is done to Dr. Simon's new book, *The Redemption of Man*, of which the perfectly accurate remark is made in one place, that "Dr. Simon does not present any theory of the Atonement, biblical or otherwise, but only contributions to such a theory—some of which, as the discussion on 'The Anger of God,' are invaluable." Dr. Cave himself, on the other hand, does present a theory (after a delightful exposition, greatly needed, of the uses and abuses of the word "theory" itself)—a theory behind which lies a wide and accurate knowledge of previous theories, and in front of it an impartial and scholarly survey of Scripture doctrine. Let readers judge—the book is most readable—is this not now the best systematic study of the Atonement in the English language?

The Scottish Sabbath School Teachers' Book. Grade I., edited by the Rev. Thomas Nicol, B.D. Grade II., edited by the Rev. Professor Alexander Stewart, D.D. Grade III., edited by the Rev. Professor James Robertson, D.D. Three vols., 8vo—488, 485, and 490 pp. Edinburgh: R. & R. Clark. 1890.

In the issue of the EXPOSITORY TIMES for June, Dr. Stewart gave a most interesting narrative of the origin and general aim of these volumes, and his statement was supplemented on one point by Dr. Robertson. It remains for us now to record our impressions of the manner in which the work has been executed. But we shrink from the attempt. We quite agree with Dr. Stewart, that "only by subdivision could so extensive a task have been undertaken in the space of less than nine months"; but how is it possible to pro-

nounce an intelligible and conscientious judgment on the work of "thirty-five different hands," amongst whom it was found necessary to divide it? We believe we are safe, and we hope not too profound, in saying that the execution is of varying degrees of merit; but an attempt to rank the writers in order was a failure. Again, we are on the line when we say that occasionally the writer's individuality is pretty strongly marked; but again an attempt at dipping in here and there and guessing the writer's name proved but a partial success. One thing, however, we are convinced of: some of the writers must have kept in mind the teachers, and some the scholars. Sometimes the notes may be committed and reproduced as they stand; sometimes they must be worked up by the teacher. We greatly prefer the latter method, and we are bound to say it is the more common way by far. On the whole, these three handsome volumes are such as any Church might be proud to own and acknowledge. We understand that they are to be issued at a merely nominal price, so that every teacher may secure a copy. The Church could not make a more precious gift. We believe that she has not entered on a nobler enterprise for many a day.

The Wider Hope: Essays and Strictures on the Doctrine and Literature of Future Punishment. By numerous Writers, Lay and Clerical, including Archdeacon Farrar, the Very Rev. E. H. Plumptre, D.D.; the late Principal Tulloch, Rev. William Arthur, Rev. Henry Allon, D.D.; Rev. James H. Rigg, D.D.; the late Rev. J. Baldwin Brown, &c. With a paper "On the supposed Scriptural Expression for Eternity," by Thomas De Quincey; and a Bibliographical Appendix of Recent Works on Eschatology as contained in the British Museum. Crown 8vo, 436 pp. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1890, 7s. 6d.

Having given the complete title of this volume, and added its pages and its price, what more need we do? Any one can see that it contains a great deal of promiscuous feeding; and even those who possess a file of the *Instructor*, and of the *Contemporary Review*, with Farrar's volumes on their shelves, are not likely to regret that it has been gathered into one dish. There are amongst these essays some of the ablest which the great discussion of this subject, twelve years ago, called forth.

The Framework of the Church: A Treatise on Church Government. By W. D. Killen, D.D., President of Assembly's College, Belfast, and Principal of the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland. 8vo, 355 pp. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1890, 9s.

Cardinal Newman, in one of his Littlemore books, speaks of certain persons who were "known at once to be saints by their smell." This is, no doubt, the "odour of sanctity" literally applied; and much as we may deprecate the extensive use of such a test of sanctity, it must be admitted that there is a something of a very delicate and impalpable nature which marks true saintship, and even against appearance. So is it with that which is the reverse of saintship; and so

is it with books as well as men. Hence we must hold that Dr. Killen's book does not satisfy us, notwithstanding its unimpeachable orthodoxy, notwithstanding that we can scarcely detect a flaw in its arguments, notwithstanding even that we believe it is right in its conclusions. Still there is something wrong—a tone, a touch, an odour that clings to it and prevents our full enjoyment of it. Dr. Killen will probably refuse to take Cardinal Newman and his words as evidence. We are reminded of an incident, however, in which a countryman of Dr. Killen's own played an important part. A Good Templar having unfortunately got intoxicated, went up to the lodge-room one night in that condition. He knocked at the door and gave the pass-word. But the Irish guardian, with some mother wit, had placed his nose where it might have been expected his ear would be. "Dennis," said the new-comer, "why don't you open the door? Haven't I got the right pass-word?" "Yis, sor," bawled Dennis, within hearing of the whole lodge, "ye do be having the right pass-word, but, sor, ye have the wrong shmell."

And yet Dr. Killen's book is an able one, a painstaking capable discussion of the scriptural form of Church government, and by no means to be neglected by one who wishes to be "up" in that greatly agitated subject. There is just this about it—we wish, we do wish he were not always quite so sure.

The Gospel and Modern Substitutes. By the Rev. A. Scott Matheson. Crown 8vo, 319 pp. Edinburgh and London: Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier, 1890, 5s.

We like this book exceedingly. Its spirit is admirable, its scholarship is competent, and its style is simple and forcible. The "Modern Substitutes" with which it takes to do are Agnosticism, Science, Positivism, Socialism, Pessimism, and Art. As substitutes for the gospel they are shown to be utterly inadequate, for we long

"for a God whose face
Is humanized to lineaments of love;
Not one who, when my hand would clasp his robe,
Slips as a flash of light from world to world,
And fades from form to form, then vanishes
Back to the formless sense within my soul,
Which evermore pursues and loses him."

Alongside of the gospel there is shown to be no place for them, for Christianity is most exclusive. But all that is good and true in every one of them, Mr. Matheson boldly lays claim to in the name of the gospel, for Christianity is most comprehensive. This is the purpose of the book—to reclaim these "substitutes" from their antagonism, an antagonism into which they have sometimes been driven "by the narrow dogmatisms and shallow optimisms of their day," and give them their place, cleansed and purified, in the great gospel of righteousness and prosperity and peace for man and for men. Deeply interesting are the chapters on Heredity and Social Grievances, and the "patience of hope" which encircles and absorbs the pessimistic nightmare. It ought to be a great success.

The Story of Daniel: His Life and Times. By P. Hay Hunter, Minister of Yester. 4th edition. Crown 8vo, 357 pp. Edinburgh and London: Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier, 1890, 5s.

A book which has run into the fourth edition in so short a space of time has got beyond the reviewer's praise or blame. And, unlike Dr. Cave's *Doctrine of Atonement*, previously noticed, the new editions are exact reprints of the first. So much so, that the author, with commendable frankness, says in the special preface to this fourth edition: "Since this book was written, I have been led to modify my views on certain historical points, chiefly as the result of further discoveries made in the field of Assyriology. I have, however, left the text unaltered, as these points seem to me relatively unimportant." This acknowledgment will at once make it manifest that Mr. Hunter's standpoint in this volume is not that of the severe critic. "The Hebrew prophet is regarded as a historical personage, and the incidents of his career are recounted as matters of history." In other words, good scholarship and an easy pen have produced an interesting book for general readers, earnest and helpful, without descending to discuss the minutiae of philology and archæology. As a boy's school prize at this holiday season, nothing better could be found.

Revelation and the Bible. A Popular Exposition for the Times. By the Rev. W. D. Thomson, M.A., author of *The Christian Miracles and the Conclusions of Science*. Fcap. 8vo, 270 pp. Edinburgh: Macniven & Wallace, 1890, 3s. 6d.

This is a popular book also, but not as Mr. Hunter's *Daniel* is popular. This will not do as a boy's school prize, but it will afford great pleasure to thinking men. It grapples with the question which recently has agitated Scotland, and which is at the foundation of the present agitation in England—the connection between God's self-revelation and its medium, the Bible. It grapples with that question in a fearless though reverent spirit, with knowledge and large charity. Will it lift up its head above the crowd of bitter, half-informed disputants? We earnestly hope so. If some wealthy and wise layman would cast this bread upon the waters, he would find it after many days.

Present Day Lessons from Habakkuk. By the Rev. P. Barclay, M.A. Crown 8vo, 202 pp. Edinburgh: Macniven & Wallace, 1890, 3s.

"It is surely desirable," says Mr. Barclay, "to make our people, as far as we can, conversant with every part of the Word of God." Few things are more desirable. But under present conditions, how many men dare attempt it? Dr. Parker has attempted it. Dr. Broadus has actually accomplished it, we are told, to the admiration of all,—gone over the whole Bible in a gigantic course of lectures, with success. Perhaps more of us could do it, at least some considerable portion of it, had we the courage to try. Here is Mr. Barclay, with no claims to uncommon scholarship or eloquence, leading a congregation in ten lectures

through one of the least known of the minor Prophets, and actually making the Prophet and his times live before them, and teach them important present day lessons. He did well to publish the course. There is much that is valuable in it, and nothing to be ashamed of.

THREE THEOLOGICAL PAMPHLETS.

- (1) *The Old Testament: its Place and Authority in the Christian Church.* By the Rev. A. F. Simpson, M.A., Professor of Bible Languages and Exegesis, Theological Hall, Scottish Congregational Churches. Edinburgh: Andrew Elliot, 1890, 24 pp., 3d.
- (2) *The Origin of Scripture on its Divine and Human Sides.* By John Wilson, M.A. Edinburgh: Macniven & Wallace, 1890, 52 pp.
- (3) *Dr. Bruce on the Kingdom of God: A Review.* By Rev. Peter Richardson, B.A., Dailly. Glasgow: David Bryce & Son, 1890, 22 pp.

We simply mention these pamphlets, chosen out of a large number received, as the best. They are well worthy of the attention of those who are interested in their respective subjects.

THREE SERMONS.

- (1) *Sin Condemned by the Mission of the Son: A Sermon preached before the Free Synod of Aberdeen, on the 8th of April 1890.* By the Rev. Robert A. Mitchell, M.A. Aberdeen: D. Wyllie & Son, 1890.

The text is the classic one, Rom. viii. 3, 4, and the sermon is unusually powerful. Particularly striking is Mr. Mitchell's incidental exposition of the words, "[Jesus] died unto sin once."

- (2) *Character Building: Two Sermons for Children.* By the Rev. Charles Anderson Scott, B.A. Aberdeen: D. Wyllie & Son, 1890.

Mr. Scott's texts are 2 Pet. i. 5-7, "Add to your faith virtue," etc., and 1 Cor. iii. 11-13, "Other foundation can no man lay," etc., with Eph. iv. 13, "Till we all come unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." The first he calls "The Building Plan," and the second, "The Material and the Model." If the texts are unusual for children's sermons, so are the sermons themselves,—quite original, but we should say most interesting and helpful to children. Mr. Scott's dedication is, "To my Friends and Teachers, the Children of Queen's Cross Church."

- (3) *Gethsemane.* By Samuel Walton Kay. Southport: James Ingham, 19 pp., 6d.

A fine sermon. The last heading is, "The Victory of the Cross was gained in Gethsemane." It is beautifully printed, and well worth its price every way.

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