

They would come from the east, and the west, and the north, and the south to its call, and even they who hesitated to bind themselves to a crusade so arduous would love it, and long to be worthy. Does one say it is too ideal, too unpractical, too quixotic? That no church could stand and work on such a basis? For three too short years the Church of Christ had none else, and it was by holy living, and not by any metaphysical subtleties, the Church lived, and suffered, and confessed for the first three centuries of the Christian era.

JOHN WATSON.

### RECENT BIBLICAL LITERATURE.

SERMONS.—Foremost among the sermon literature of the present season must certainly be placed the remarkably handsome volume of *The Anglican Pulpit Library*, Sexagesima to Good Friday (Hodder and Stoughton). The editor of this volume modestly conceals his name; but, whoever he is, he certainly knows a good sermon. In the present volume we not only meet the welcome names of well-known preachers, but are also introduced to new names which must inevitably become well known. Mr. Winnington Ingram may especially be mentioned as a preacher who cannot but make his mark. As a representative selection of the preaching of to-day this volume has a present and permanent value.

Messrs. Isbister & Co. have added to their "Gospel and the Age" series some new volumes. One of these is Dr. R. F. Horton's *The Teaching of Jesus*. This volume is less revolutionary but more original and generally attractive than its author seems to believe. In his preface he leads his readers to suppose that he has done little more than popularize Wendt's *Teaching of Jesus* and Beyschlag's *New Testament Theology*. These works have made a deep impression upon Dr. Horton, as they must indeed bring unusual stimulus and instruction to all inquiring minds. But when he is prompted by his admiration to affirm that "few, even among theologians and preachers," have before these writers made a study of the teaching of Jesus we must demur. He would have been

nearer the mark had he said that few have made a *systematic* grouping of the teaching of Jesus; and thus no doubt there has been a loss. But when one thinks of the libraries which have been written on the Parables, the Sermon on the Mount, the Eschatological Discourse, the Words of the Lord, it seems somewhat too sweeping to say that the teaching of Jesus has not attracted attention. There is however much to be gained by the systematizing of this teaching. But even this has already been vigorously attempted for more than a generation. Putting this aside, however, Dr. Horton has given us an excellent volume, animated by that freshness of enthusiasm, sincerity, and force which are inseparable from himself and from his utterances. He is most helpful precisely in those parts of his book where he is least indebted to Wendt and Beyschlag; and he is weakest where he should be strongest, in his discussion of Christ's teaching regarding His death. He neglects one or two passages bearing on this subject which to some theologians seem to carry us considerably farther than Dr. Horton goes. Also, is it not a little audacious to say that John misunderstood the words of Christ on two occasions? But we have no pleasure in finding fault with a volume which deserves a cordial welcome and can only do good.—Another volume of this series is *Temptation and Toil*, by W. Hay M. H. Aitken, M.A. It contains two series of addresses, the first at a recent mission, the second to working men at their dinner hour. Both are excellent. The first course is especially valuable as presenting with extraordinary impressiveness the human nature of Christ.—The editor has been fortunate in securing also a volume by Dr. J. H. Bernard, entitled, *From Faith to Faith*. The sermons it contains were preached for the most part before the University of Dublin; and while, as need scarcely be said, they have the scholarly air of university sermons, they are of general interest. Attention may especially be called to one on "Evolution and the Incarnation."—The same publishers issue a course of studies on the Sermon on the Mount by the Right Rev. W. Boyd Carpenter, D.D., D.C.L., entitled, *The Great Charter of Christ*. The Bishop of Ripon has a singular faculty for bringing out the reasonableness of Christian claims. He has also an enviable gift of putting his meaning in a memorable form. Pleasanter sermons to listen to, there could not well be. Bishop Carpenter chose as the subject of his Visitation

Addresses in June last, *Some Thoughts on Christian Reunion*. These are now published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. Many books on this theme have been issued during the last two years, but nothing so wise and catholic has appeared. Fundamental principles are here laid down which other writers, blinded by ecclesiastical prejudices, have entirely overlooked. It is the best contribution that has yet been made to the subject.—Messrs. Macmillan also issue *The Truth and the Witness*, by M. B. Williamson, M.A., in which the various witness to the claims of Christ is examined. An intelligent account is given of the Witness of the Father and of the Son, of Works, of the Prophets, of the Scriptures, of the Disciples, of the Holy Spirit. The volume contains much clear and exact thinking. With the same publishers Dr. Barry, formerly Bishop of Sydney, issues his Hulsean Lectures on *The Ecclesiastical Expansion of England in the Growth of the Anglican Communion*, an excellently written manual of English Church missions, containing a mass of facts and much wise observation regarding the adaptation of Christianity to races on lower and higher planes of civilization. Messrs. Macmillan also publish yet another volume by the late Dean Church, *Pascal and other Sermons*. The essay which gives its name to the volume is scarcely up to the level of Dean Church's work; but that on Butler is excellent, and the sermons are in some instances, though not in all, worthy of the most cultured preacher of the last generation. But why publish such unguarded utterances as occur in his sermon on "the Episcopate in Christian History"? "Only this [Episcopate] has been everywhere where Christianity has been; only this belongs peculiarly to Christianity as a whole."—Whoever has read previously published sermons by Prebendary Eyton will be sure to inquire for and to read his new volume, *The Temptation of Jesus and other Sermons* (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.). The first five are on the Temptation. They display a close and keen consideration of the subject, a clear apprehension of the temptations of modern life, and a remarkable aptitude for touching the conscience without abandoning his fineness of method.—*The Seven Churches in Asia*, by Alexander Mackennal, D.D. (Elliot Stock), should be welcome both to lay and clerical readers. Each of the Asian churches is considered as a type of the religious life of to-day; thus Ephesus is the strenuous church, Thyatira the sentimental, Sardis the fickle,

and so forth. Dr. Mackennal always speaks to purpose, and in this volume the reader will be struck with the relevance and felicity with which he uses illustrations from poetry and history. —*Union with God* is the title of another series of addresses by J. Rendel Harris (Hodder and Stoughton). These addresses are characterized by the same spirituality and devoutness of tone as those already published. Here and there also occur little jets of incisive exegesis. They seem to be prompted mainly by the desire to deliver Christian people from the thralldom of what he calls "minimum Christianity." Hence he does not always escape the opposite snare of perfectionism. And to all who collide with the Westminster Confession of Faith the apologue of the locomotive and the cow may be commended.

The Religious Tract Society has published Mr. Williams' *Personal Reminiscences of Charles Haddon Spurgeon*, a volume which is full of the wit and wisdom of the great preacher and humorist. Mr. Williams enjoyed his friendship for many years, and faithfully represents him as he was in his rural rambles, in the pulpit, among his students, and as a friend. He also prints some of his letters and "sermon sayings." The volume is well illustrated, and in all respects desirable.

The *Sunday Magazine* for 1895 (Isbister & Co.) contains a serial story by Christabel R. Coleridge, and several shorter stories; several Biblical papers, among which are twelve by the Bishop of Ripon; talks with notables; historical, missionary, and natural history papers; Sunday evenings for the children, and poetry. The illustrations are excellent, and altogether it would be hard to find a better book for family use. The same firm issues the annual volume of *Good Words*, in which we have not only Crockett's "Men of the Moss-Hags," but one of Clark Russell's most exciting tales, "Heart of Oak." Other contributors are the Editor, Andrew Lang, Sir Robert Ball, Dr. Stalker, Sir Herbert Maxwell, Baring-Gould, and many more. Inside and out the volume is a most attractive one, and the reader will find something in it for every mood. The editor may be congratulated on maintaining year by year the character of a magazine which has seen so many contemporaries born and die.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co. send us the opening number of another year of *St. Nicholas*, which is as racy and as beautifully illustrated as ever. *The Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine* has attained

its twenty-fifth anniversary, and all intelligent persons who value wholesome and bright reading must wish it long life and unabated vigour. Messrs. Macmillan now publish the *Jewish Quarterly Review*. The appearance is attractive, and the articles will interest non-Jewish readers as well as those for whom they are primarily intended.

From the same publishers we have received two most acceptable reprints, both issued in the Eversley form; the one is the classic *Ecce Homo*, the other the late Dean Church's *Beginning of the Middle Ages*—two books whose value is likely to be appreciated for many years to come, and which it is a delight to read in the virtually perfect adaptation to hand and eye, which is associated with this beautiful series. Messrs. Macmillan & Co. also publish a second and cheaper edition of Mr. Illingworth's Bampton Lectures on *Personality Human and Divine*, one of the most original, satisfactory, and beautiful contributions to philosophical theology in this generation.

MARCUS DODS.