Döllinger's Letters.


The original of this intensely interesting little volume did not appear in Germany until June 1890, some five months after the venerable author's death. It is a collection of papers and letters, some of which had been already published at intervals in a more or less fugitive manner, while others had never seen the light, although the writer had told certain friends that he intended "some day" to publish one or more of them. Those who had the happiness of knowing him, know what a snare that "some day" was to him. He lived so long, and to the last was so capable of thought and work, that there always seemed to be time for carrying out his numerous literary projects. Procrastination with him was never an excuse for idleness; for idleness to him was misery. But it was an excuse for refusing to put into shape what he believed could be put into still better shape after even more material had been amassed. As his great pupil and friend has so well said of him, "He knew too much to still better shape after even more material had tended "some day" to publish one or more of them."

The translator does not give his name; but he has done his work well. In one respect he has made an addition to the original. He has been able to discover that the very characteristic reply written by Döllinger to some clerical correspondent in February 1868 is addressed to Dr. Westmayer, Rector of S. Peter's, Munich. When Professor Reusch published the reply last year, the letter to which it was the answer could not be found.

**Requests and Replies.**

1. Is it possible for me to get a sufficient knowledge of Greek to read the New Testament without a teacher? If so, what book would you recommend to a beginner as being simple and easy for self-teaching?

2. Whose system of "Christian Ethics" do you think the best?

3. What work on "Inspiration" is there published—cheap, yet reliable?—J. B.

1. I doubt the possibility of gaining effective knowledge of Greek without teaching of some kind. Mere ability to read and construe would give little advantage over the reader of English only. There are correspondence classes which give instruction. If the attempt is made without teaching, good books to begin with are Morris's Greek Lessons, Part I., 2s. 6d.; Part II., 1s. (Longmans).


3. Given, The Truth of Scripture (Clark, 6s.) gives the old view succinctly. There is no book, so far as I know, which presents the whole subject in the light of recent study. W. D. Thomson, Revelation and the Bible (Macniven & Wallace), Fisher, Nature and Method of Revelation (Unwin), are brief, suggestive discussions. Sanday, The Oracles of God (Longmans), also shows the direction which thought on the subject is taking.

J. S. Banks.