

LITERATURE.

STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF NEW TESTAMENT APOLOGETICS. *By the Rev. James Macgregor, D.D., Oamuru. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: The Fleming H. Revell Co.*

The object of this volume is to give an historical sketch of the manner in which the matter of religious proof has been dealt with (1) by Christ (2) by the Apostles and (3) by their followers in post-Apostolic ages. Two beneficial results, it is claimed, flow from a study of the apologetic methods which have been followed in the past. In the first place, the fact, that Christ, the Apostles and their followers have offered proof in favor of Christianity, produces a strong conviction that such proof is available. In the second place, as a history of ancient warfare may serve to kindle patriotism and love of freedom, in those who have discarded methods and weapons formerly used, the modern defender of Christianity may receive stimulus and inspiration, from a study of the manner in which the defence of Christianity has been conducted in the past. Moreover it is possible that there is one apologetic, essentially the same in all ages, which may be studied with advantage as it has appeared from time to time in the history of Christianity.

The first book of this work deals with the apologetic methods of Christ and the Apostles. Beginning with the teaching of Christ in relation to apologetics, our author seeks an answer to the question: What does our Lord teach concerning the sources and grounds of Christian evidences, or the manner in which these evidences are to be adduced? The answer is found in the instructions of Christ to the disciples and in His own practice.

Is apologetics a Christian duty? How is this duty to be gone about? These questions are dealt with in the discourse recorded in Luke 12: 1-12. It is not concealed from the disciples, that their allegiance to Christ may endanger their lives. In the presence of death they are enjoined to maintain an unflinching calmness. Such a demeanour is possible for them, because they have the support and direction of the Holy Spirit. They are to endure trial and answer their opponents, as in the presence of the triune God.

In discussing the practice of Christ as regards the defence of Christianity, while Dr. Macgregor insists upon the value of His appeals to prophecy, whether found in the Old Testament or uttered by Himself, and to miracles, he lays special emphasis upon the Lord's personal testimony to the truth of Christianity. If we assume that Christ knew whether He was the Divine Son of God or not—and there is no warrant for making the contrary assumption that He was