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## DR JORDAN'S NEW BOOK \*

We quote the following from a recent number of the Glasgow Herald in regard to "The Philippian Gospel," by W. G. Jordan, D.D.

It is little more than a year ago since we recorded our impression of a book by Professor W. G. Jordan on "Prophetic Ideas and Ideals," and now we have pleasure in extending the same cordial welcome to a series of his meditations on St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians. Dr. Jordan has been for several years a professor of Old Testament exegesis, but he is on congenial soil when dealing with the character and teaching of the great Christian apostle, and in these short expositions the reader will find much that is both suggestive and stimulating expressed with charm and lucidity. There is no parade of learning, and yet the competent scholar will detect the evidence of careful study of the original Greek as well as of wide general culture. The book breathes a spirit of devout sincerity, and is evidently the work of one in deep sympathy with the many-sidedness of St. Paul's mind. Were we to single out any trend of thought we should say that what gives special value to these "meditations" is the emphasis laid on Christian experience as a definite fact in man's spiritual life which must be accounted for and not simply ignored or explained away. The Christian church emerged into history as a body of believers united not merely by a common faith but by a common experience. They believed themselves in living actual communion with the risen Christ. The nature of this experience is well expressed by Dr. Jordan in the following words:—"The great thought that runs through the teaching of Paul is the vital union of the believer with Christ, a union now of spirit and life which will grow into a union of character and destiny. Though he dwells on

\*"The Philippian Gospel." By W. G. Jordan, D.D., 3s 6d. (Edinburgh: Fleming H. Revell Company)

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the two sides of historical reality and spiritual power it is the actual present grasp that Christ has upon his personal experience that, more and more becomes prominent and significant in his thought" (p 186). And then, again, he elsewhere remarks (p 42) that "those who laugh at this experience as an unreal thing, as a feeble mysticism which will not stand the searching light of science, simply show the shallowness of a scepticism which seeks to ignore one of the mightiest powers that the world has ever known." This seems to us of utmost importance in an age when the minds of men are so much occupied with criticism. Is this direct, personal communion with Christ a reality or only a form of hallucination? If the latter, then the finest types of character and the most fruitful work in the world are the result of mental disease. It is one of the best features of Dr. Jordan's book that it brings us into contact with this throbbing life, and helps us to see that it is the most significant thing in the spiritual history of mankind. It is a fact not to be explained away, and probably during the next few years will be recognized as the true strength and startling point of Christian apologetics. We cordially recommend his little book on a great theme.

## TOO MUCH JEREMIAH.

"O give me back the days of youth, when I, I too, was young," is the cry of the despondent poet who consciously has reached "the sere and yellow leaf." To which we add,—now that another dismal commencement season has come and gone,—Give us back the jubilant orations of our lads and lasses in whose "bright calendar" there is no such words as fail. What if the boys and girls did put a surplus of the lights in their lamentations. God bless them for it. We have had during the past month several hundred orations from several hundred of our prominent "statesmen, orators and divines;" and if anywhere anybody has seen anything over which to shout "Hallelujah," his report therefore has failed to reach our ears. Our paragraph writers were accustomed to make merry over "the boy who knows it all" and "the sweet girl graduate," but we cannot get along without them. We vote their immediate return to the commencement stage. We are tired of Jeremiah. We are dying to hear Isaiah shout again, "Arise and shine, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee." We are sick of our "problems." Trot out some young and brave knight to talk to us a little while about our blessings. We can stand a touch of pessimism now and then in a sermon,—just a trifle, mind you, even there,—but we have no use for it where young men and young women are stepping off into active duties of the greatest age since man was created. Many a beardless boy with the light of heaven in his eye possesses after all a wiser philosophy than the solemn faced and ponderous college president who hands him his diploma with an ominous shake of the head.—Interior.

## SUDDEN DEATH OF PROF. CAMP- BELL.

Monday's Globe contained the following: Rev. John Campbell, LL.D., until a few weeks ago Professor of Church history and apologetics in the Presbyterian College, Montreal, died very suddenly at his summer home, "Yoho Island," Lake Joseph, Muskoka, on Saturday morning. Dr. Campbell had retired, apparently in good health, after spending an enjoyable evening with a party of friends who had come over from the island of Mr. W. B. McMurrich nearby. In the morning, as he failed to respond to the usual calls, Mrs. Campbell entered his room and found him lying in bed dead, there being indication that he had passed peacefully away in his sleep.

Dr. Primrose was immediately summoned from his residence, only a short distance away, but on examination he stated that Dr. Campbell had been dead for some time, having succumbed to a clot of blood on the brain. Friends of deceased said that he had not been himself, since the last meeting of General Assembly in June, at which, owing to the appointment of Prof. Scrimger to the Principalship of Montreal College, Prof. Campbell handed in his resignation, but his condition was not in any way regarded as serious. On Friday he had appeared somewhat distraught but he did not complain, and in the evening he seemed to thoroughly enjoy the presence of the party from the neighboring island. Prof. Campbell had moved to his summer home in June, where his wife and youngest son, Gerald, were with him.

Deceased leaves three sons—Dr. R. P. Campbell, Superintendent of the Montreal General Hospital; Dr. John Campbell, who obtained his medical degree about a year ago, and who is now surgeon on a steamer which at the present time is on the West African coast, and Gerald, at home. There are two brothers surviving—Mr. Wm Campbell of Toronto and Mr. T. Nelson Campbell of Atlin, B.C., and three sisters—Mrs. J. Herbert Mason of Toronto, Mrs. Junor, wife of Rev. K. F. Junor, M.D., of New York, formerly missionary to Formosa, and Mrs. J. S. Ewart of Winnipeg.

Rev. Dr. John Campbell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1840, son of the late James Campbell, for many years a well known publisher in Toronto. He entered a business life in New York, and afterwards in Toronto until 1861, when he matriculated at the University of Toronto, gained there many scholarships and prizes, and graduated in 1865 as prize man of the year with the Prince of Wales prize and two gold medals. He studied divinity at Knox college, where he also took the Prince of Wales' prize. He was sergeant of No. 6 Co., Q. O. R. at the battle of Ridgeway, 1866. Having completed his theological course in Edinburgh he became in 1868 minister of Charles Street Presbyterian Church, Toronto. He served as Senator, and also examiner in the University of Toronto, and in 1873 was appointed professor of Church history and apologetics in the Presbyterian College, Montreal. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 1895 was one of the com-