

THERE is certainly abundant room for Professeur Gretillat's *Exposé de Théologie Systématique*, the second instalment of which lies on our table (4). The first volume, *Méthodique*, was issued in 1885. The author has decided to postpone the second, *Apologetique et Canonique*, until he has completed the *Dogmatique*, one moiety of which constitutes the volume before us. It contains "Prolégomènes de la Dogmatique," i.e., definitions, methods, history, etc.; "Théologie Spéciale," which is limited to discussions concerning the Being and Nature of God as revealed in the two Testaments; and "Cosmologie," which treats not only of the creation of the world and man, but of the nature of angels, fallen and unfallen, of the fate of man, of providential government, and, first and foremost, "de la prédestination ou de la Prothèse divine." This arrangement differs from those commonly adopted by British theologians, but it is clearly logical, and enables us to study the doctrine of fore-knowledge and fore-ordination in a much calmer and more philosophical atmosphere than is often the case. Representing the evangelical orthodoxy of the French Reformed Churches, M. Gretillat adopts strictly Calvinistic principles. He puts them earnestly, but with a stringency that is almost out of date this side of the Channel.

Throughout the volume we have been impressed with the crispness and terseness of the divisions, and the lucidity and exactness of the definitions. M. Gretillat faces the scientific and moral problems raised by his subjects with rare courage and skill. His discourse of Providence, though comparatively brief, is full and very suggestive. The book has close upon 700 pages and a considerable quantity of small type, but there is scarcely a wasted line or word. As far as the method and general treatment go, this may be called a model treatise on systematic theology, worthy to stand side by side by the standard authority of American and, to a scarcely less degree, English Presbyterian Churches—the *Systematic Theology* of Dr. Hodge. M. Gretillat is less comprehensive than Dr. Hodge in his exhibition and examination of doctrines which he rejects; he rivals the American theologian in careful exposition of the Scriptures; but his great merit is the thoroughness and skilfulness with which he places himself *en rapport* with the thought and tendencies of the time, and yet preserves his reverence for and deference to Holy Writ.

(4) *Exposé de Théologie Systématique*. Par A. Gretillat, Professeur de Théologie à la Faculté Indépendante de Neuchâtel. Tome Troisième, Neuchâtel: Attinger Frères. 1888.