

after entering the ministry, to prepare the discourses which are here given to the public. "Convinced," he says, "that the Book of Esther is too little known, even to serious readers of the Bible; persuaded that those whose minds are fairly awakened to it will ever afterwards regard it as one of the most interesting portions of the Word of God; and hoping that these Lectures may serve to call the attention of some to this portion of the inspired pages, to impart interest to many of the incidents which a casual reader might deem of little importance, and thus to enforce the lessons or inspired wisdom after this volume itself has been laid aside, he would lay this publication within the reach of Christian readers." We need not speak of the interest which attaches to the Book of Esther, but we can say that its chief lessons are here presented in a judicious form. Both from the nature of the subject, and the manner in which the work is executed, it is eminently fitted for usefulness.

GRACE AND GLORY, or the young convert instructed in the doctrines of the grace, being a sequel to the "Gospel Fountain." By James Wood, D.D. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication. 18 mo. pp. 317.

This is one of the excellent "series for youth" published by the Board. It is intended to explain, defend, and enforce the most important doctrines of revelation in a manner suited to the young. It contains seven plain but interesting conversations on the following important doctrines: Predestination, or grace in its origin; "Regeneration, or grace implanted in the heart and manifested in conversion"; "Repentance, or grace producing godly sorrow for sin, and a new and holy life"; "Grace abounding, or penitent sinners welcome to Christ"; "Adoption, or grace constituting converted sinners children of God"; "Grace and comfort, or the doctrines of grace a source of true happiness to believers"; "Grace consummated in glory, or the issue of grace in the heavenly world."

The work is one which we should rejoice to see more abundantly supplied to our Sabbath schools, containing the solid nutriment of doctrinal truth presented in an agreeable form. But older readers may likewise obtain benefit by its perusal.

THE PASTORAL OFFICE; embracing experiences and observations from a pastorate of forty years. By the Rev. Reuben Smith; 18 mo. pp. 105. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication.

This little work from the pen of an aged minister, contains an instructive view of the work of the ministry, its nature, authority, and requisite qualifications, with an account of the author's call to the ministry, his installation, and his first charge. The subject is important, particularly in the United States, where such a state of things exists, as that unfolded by the following statements of the author. "A writer in one of our periodicals has told us from his own observation, that out of 120 pastors in four Synods, 108 had been dismissed in six years; and that two congregations had three pastors apiece in the same time! We have also read that in 1300 congregations in Massachusetts, 300 dismissions had taken place in one year." But the work will be found both interesting and profitable any where, especially to young ministers, particularly from the experimental character of the remarks.
