

Whitelaw on St. John. It is only some seven or eight years since Dr. Whitelaw all at once obtained a foremost place among living exegetes by the publication of the *Pulpit Commentary on Genesis*, to which he contributed two introductions, the exposition, the homiletics, and indeed the bulk of the work. That valuable book has already passed through eight editions, and has commanded a larger sale than any of the other volumes of the ponderous series to which it belongs. And now the author himself has furnished conclusive evidence of the justice of the commendations which have been so liberally bestowed upon his former work by giving us this *Exposition of the Gospel of St. John* (1), constructed upon the same plan, and marked by all the diligence, erudition, and judicial thinking which characterize his *Genesis*.

In the "Prolegomena," which embrace fifty-eight pages, Dr. Whitelaw discusses with marked ability, candour, and logical acumen, the usual questions of the authenticity, authorship, composition, purpose, and plan of the Gospel. This introductory section, in common with the entire book, is a marvel of condensation.

The exposition proper reflects on its every page untiring industry, grammatical scholarship, exegetical skill, sound judgment, and independence of thought. Dr. Whitelaw has spared no pains; he has consciously evaded no difficulty; he has read and digested the leading commentaries on John that have preceded his own; and he can give a reason for every interpretation which he prefers.

The sermon outlines, which constitute the remaining department of the book, frequently exhibit remarkable felicity of textual division. Always devout, they are not pious exhortations merely, but popular expositions which are well fitted to make a congregation acquainted with the teaching of the Evangelist. While the treatment is uniformly logical, it is often also striking and memorable. No clergyman who undertakes to expound from the pulpit any part of the Fourth Gospel will consult Dr. Whitelaw's Homiletics in vain.

Taking this handsome volume as a whole its author is to be congratulated upon having provided both preacher and student with one of the most excellent and serviceable commentaries for practical use which have yet been written on this important and difficult book of Holy Scripture. We trust that Dr. Whitelaw will continue his labours in this field of scholarly activity.

(1) *The Gospel of St. John: an Exposition, Exegetical and Homiletical.* For the use of Clergymen, Students, and Teachers. By the Rev. Thomas Whitelaw, M.A., D.D. Glasgow: James MacLehose & Sons.