

limited nature of its material resources in former times, have been felt by many Scotsmen to afford but a small range for the play of a romantic spirit, and have consequently driven many in whom that spirit was strong into foreign lands. It is also unquestionable that the inheritance of the national spirit, which they have carried with them, has given them a force to clear a way for themselves through the obstacles of nature and the entanglements of society, wherever they have gone, from the time when nearly every European university boasted of its Scotch professor, till the present day, when Scotsmen or their descendants are found occupying prominent situations in the United States and in all the colonies of Great Britain."

Slight as our notice necessarily is, we have said enough to indicate that this volume will reward perusal. It is thoughtful, discriminating; and in its numerous illustrative extracts presents an attractive summary of the national song and ballad, to which, more than to any other influence, we owe both Burns and Scott; and which still serve to keep alive the patriotic glow of national sympathy, and the honest pride on which the sterling virtue of self-respect has so often fixed its secure basis among the Scottish wanderers in many lands.

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THE HEAVENLY VISION; and other Sermons. (1863-1873.) By the Rev. Wm. Cochrane, M.A., Zion Presbyterian Church, Brantford. Toronto: Adam, Stevenson & Co.

It has been the fashion of late years to make much of the decline of pulpit influence, and to infer from it a corresponding decline of spirituality in the age. There can be no doubt that the sermon or homily no longer occupies the prominent position it once filled. People do not now sit at the feet of their spiritual guides as Paul sat at the feet of Gamaliel, or as the Church of Ephesus grouped about the venerable form of the disciple whom Jesus loved. But the same is true of oral instruction of every kind, and true of preaching perhaps to a less extent than any other form of it. On the other hand, the press, which has become the world's great schoolmaster, has been instrumental in extending the sphere of the preacher's influence. He is enabled now to address congregations too vast to be contained in any temple made with hands or to be swayed by the thrilling tones of any human voice. No one can take up one of the religious critical periodicals, the *British Quarterly* for example, without being struck by the voluminous literature which, having first been delivered from the pulpit, have passed through the press into the outer world. In such periodicals again as *Good Words*,

which numbers its readers by the hundred thousand in all parts of the globe, addresses delivered originally to limited audiences by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dean Stanley, Dr. Blaikie or Mr. Dale, make their way into the hearts and consciences of vast multitudes far and remote from the preacher and one another. It is, therefore, a mistake to suppose that the office of the Christian ministry has ceased to be an active power in the world. It is only the mode of its action which has been changed; and what it has lost in one direction has been made up an hundred fold by its gains in another. The publication of sermons has a salutary influence on the clergyman himself; it is a direct discouragement to slovenliness in preparing looseness of thought or carelessness in diction.

Although it does not fall within our province to criticize volumes of this description, we take pleasure in commending Mr. Cochrane's work to Christian readers. The sermons it contains are of unusual ability, and passages might be quoted which have the ring of true eloquence. The language is uniformly well-chosen and the tone of thought, within the limits of evangelical Protestantism, liberal and Catholic. The sermons are, for the most part, of a practical character, either exegetical, unfolding the Christian virtues, or admonitory, exhorting the hearer or reader to bring forth the fruits of sound faith in a well-ordered life. Occasionally, as in "The Numberer of the Stars," we have a well-argued chapter in defence of Theism; in other places, particularly in the sermon "Fearing when entering the Cloud," there are proofs of a liberality of feeling, quite distinct from latitudinarianism, in dealing with honest doubt. Mr. Cochrane is a well-known and highly esteemed minister of the Canada Presbyterian Church, and if the brief reference to this collection of his sermons should induce any of our readers to study it for themselves, they will not be disappointed.

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CLARENDON PRESS SERIES: Burke's Select Works, edited, with introduction and notes, by E. J. Payne, B. A. Fellow of University College, Oxford. Vol. I. Thoughts on the Present Discontents. The two Speeches on America. Oxford at the Clarendon Press.

The Clarendon Press series of educational works, published under the auspices of the University of Oxford, which now includes a large number of volumes in various departments, may be exceedingly useful to us in the Colonies, as well as to the schools of England. But its usefulness depends not only on the ability, but on the discretion of those to whom the preparation of the works is confided, and above all on their perfect neutrality and abstinence from