

parallel might have been added in John Mark the evangelist who had traits of character peculiar to himself. Those who have read any of Dr. Stalker's former books will find the same charm that won their attention and sympathy in this. The two biographies are treated distinctly, first that of the Apostle in twelve discourses, then that of the Baptist in seven. Whatever profane history and ecclesiastical tradition have furnished to illustrate the careers of the two men, the preacher has gracefully woven into the threads of his discourses. In treating of the composition of the Revelation, Dr. Stalker follows Theophylact and the Syriac version in making the apostle's banishment to Patmos fall in the reign of Nero. The general tradition of the church sets it almost twenty years later, or in the reign of Domitian, and thus some time after the fall of Jerusalem. The chapter or discourse on John's besetting sin of pride is worthy of attention and full of instruction. The destructive example of Elijah quoted by James and him, when they desired to call down fire on the inhospitable Samaritan village, is said by the writer to belong to the spirit of the old dispensation which was legal and stern, and to be inconsistent with Christ's dispensation of love and salvation. Any candid thinker, who knows that the heart of God is the same all through the ages, will perceive that this statement does not go far enough to

satisfy the truth, but Dr. Stalker prefers to help the cause of truth by positive suggestion within the lines of orthodoxy rather than by logical negations of cherished yet untenable beliefs. It is the safer course, but the process by which it will arouse the Christian world to earnest thought concerning the Divine Character will necessarily be a slow one. Doubtless the author is right in rejecting the fable about St. John and the gnostic Cerinthus at Ephesus as inconsistent with the character of him who had been taught many a lesson in divine judgments, and who preached incessantly, "Little children, love one another." In the story of John the Baptist, he dwells upon the diversity of the ministrations of the gospel as illustrated in the contrast between his life and that of Jesus, compares their teaching, and exhibits the superior dignity of the child in Christ's Kingdom to that of the greatest prophet before it came. How little those who juggle with holy writ, employing it promiscuously as a charm or talisman, without regard to its progressive development from feeble dawn to noon-day, appreciate our Lord's decided words on this last point. Dr. Stalker believes in the temporary eclipse of the Baptist's faith which I have heard more than one preacher try to explain away, and he notes the gracious manner in which Christ dealt with his doubts begotten of distress. Blessed the man who