

A NONCONFORMIST'S TESTIMONY.

The September number of the *Methodist Times*, edited by the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, contains an article on the 'Holiness of Beauty' and its alleged feeble presentment in the Nonconformist places of worship, which must be held to mark another step in the 'forward movements,' which the spirited conductor of the W-st End mission has been the means of inaugurating in Methodist circles. He constitutes an appeal for reverence and refinement in public worship, the lack of which, the writer avers, is causing the younger people especially, to forsake chapel for church by scores and hundreds. 'The contrast between the beautiful and refined worship of the Anglican Church and what the Anglican apologists delight to describe and accentuate as the slovenliness of Dissent is painfully conspicuous.' The things especially condemned are:—Sitting during prayer, late coming in and failure to join in the hymns and Lord's prayer. The cause of these is held to be the idea prevalent in the pew and fostered in the pulpit, that prayer, singing and lessons, are merely preliminaries' to the sermon. Hence people ask each other whom they are going to 'hear,' instead of where they are going to 'worship'; while preachers too frequently rush through the first part of the service in order to have more time and scope for their sermon. Finally the writer pleads for refinement and beauty in the sanctuary, as well as reverence. He believes that a true sense of the 'beauty of holiness' must lead to a deeper sense of the

'holiness of beauty,' and says that an age that has heard Ruskin with rapture, cannot exclude beauty from its conception of religion. The Rev. H. P. Hughes is a Welshman, and was born in 1847. He was educated at Richmond Theological College, and graduated M.A. at London University. He has held ministerial appointments in several circuits, and has been Temperance Secretary, and is a member of the "Legal Hundred." It is, however, in his aggressive unattached work in London that he is best known.

ORDER OF MISSION PREACHERS.

Canon Gregory, writing on the proposed order of preachers, says: "If we could find men endowed with the requisite gifts of eloquence and learning, willing to devote their lives to preaching the great central truths of christianity wherever they were invited to do so, they might be a great power for good. The difficulty is too find such men." The worthy Canon also discerns perils in the future as certain to attend the establishment of this new order. He especially names the difficulty of defining their position, without which there would be ceaseless irritation between them and the clergy into whose parishes they intruded, so that the rivalries and jealousies which existed between the preaching friars and parish priests in pre-Reformation times would re-appear in an aggravated form. And not impossibly, these itinerant preachers might become founders of new sects and parties.

The Daily Telegraph prints a long letter on this subject, urging the immediate setting apart of a band of