

meaning; but there was so much of error mixed therewith, that he broke away from the Church which authorized war and oppression, and turned to the words of the New Testament, which he accepted in their most literal signification. The next volume noted describes, in part, his social philosophy.

What To Do. Same author and publisher. Price \$1.25; paper, 50 cents.

Upon the newly awakened conscience of Count Tolstoi the appalling condition of the poor brooded like a nightmare. He explored the slums of Moscow, and found an indescribable degree of wretchedness and vice. He turned to the Gospels for an answer to the question, "What shall we do?" and read, "He that hath two coats let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat let him do likewise." In a very impractical way he began to squander his alms on the reckless and unworthy. He began, too, to labour with his hands, making shoes, carting manure and the like. In both religion and social economics he is a very unsafe guide. But, like another John the Baptist, he protests against the hollowness and heartlessness of much of the formal religionism of the age, and probes to the quick many of the ills of society. Perhaps even more than a safer guide, he may rouse the torpid conscience of the selfish aristocracy, or beaurocracy, of Europe, which, like a bloated parasite, lives on the wrongs and oppressions of the great dumb mass of the poor.

Commentary on the Old Testament. Vol. I. Genesis and Exodus. By MILTON S. TERRY, D.D., and FALES H. NEWHALL, D.D. Pp. 570. New York: Hunt & Eaton; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$2.25.

This is the latest volume of the standard commentary projected, and in large part written by the late lamented Dr. Whedon. It lends

pathetic interest to the series that the original editor and five of his co-labourers have passed away from time, among them Prof. Newhall, who has done much of the work of this volume. But two more volumes are required to complete the series. These, we are informed, are in able hands, and may be expected at no distant day. This commentary is already, in our judgment, the best apparatus procurable at a moderate cost for the critical study of the Holy Scripture. The volume just issued is one of the most valuable of the series. The book of Genesis has long been the battle ground, fought over inch by inch, of hostile critics, who would arraign the science, cosmogony and ethnology of the Bible. Every difficulty is here fairly met, and fully, yet succinctly, discussed. One of the most important parts of the book is the sixty pages of Introduction, in which the various and conflicting views of the "Higher Criticism" are examined. While giving due weight to the facts of the case and the theories based upon them, safe and conservative views are supported by sound arguments.

John the Baptist, the Forerunner of Our Lord: his Life and Work. By ROSS C. HOUGHTON, D.D. Pp. 372. New York: Hunt & Eaton.

By his previous works, Dr. Houghton has shown his eminent qualification for writing just such a careful historical and biblical study as he has here given us. He has focussed upon his subject all the light to be derived from every source, sacred and profane. As a result, he has given us a vivid picture of the great Forerunner of Our Lord, and of the epochal period in which he lived. The tragic story of his brief but wonder-working ministry is told with much force and eloquence. In a curious appendix he traces the legendary history of the relics of St. John. Cardinal Manning's personal testimony as to the genuineness of these relics is a remarkable example of the credulity that Rome cultivates in her devotees.