

HISTORICAL EVIDENCES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.*

BY NATHANIEL BURWASH, S.T.D., LL.D.,

* Chancellor Victoria University.

In first appearance this is a much more substantial volume than most modern works on Apologetics. A study of its contents, however, reveals the fact that the author has chosen a distinct line of work, and has carefully followed it throughout. He deals only with the New Testament as history, and he maintains its historical testimony by historical evidences. Little or no attention is paid to theories of the unhistorical origin of the Gospels and Acts. Mythical, legendary, or tendency theories to account for the books are simply laid aside, and the author proceeds to consider the great facts set forth in the documents. In doing this he gives, first of all, a critical examination to the testimony itself, removing seeming discrepancies and difficulties, and bringing out the internal strength of the testimony given, testing it by the ordinary legal rules or principles which jurists apply to evidence in a court of law. He then brings out the collateral or corroborative testimony from contemporaneous or subsequent historical writers, both sacred and profane, and applies this testimony with great force as confirming the truth of the New Testament history.

On the general question of the trustworthy character of our New Testament history, he cites at the opening the critical judgments of a

number of eminent men who are not supposed to be prejudiced in this direction.

The work before us thus marks a return to a method of treatment which of late has too largely fallen into disuse. We remember in our own youthful studies how completely the great work of Lardner so fixed our conviction of the truth of the Gospel history that no subsequent study of merely speculative objections was ever able to raise a doubt in our minds. The work before us is Lardner condensed, brought up to date, and applied with strong common-sense and historical insight. As a practical book, it ought to answer and settle for ever the question of any honestly inquiring mind. Is the New Testament true history?

We could only wish that there were compiled from this book a volume of about half the size which could be placed in the hands of the busy young man who meets with popular objections, proposed with a show of profound learning, and who needs just such an answer as this book affords. Of course, in this respect the work itself is an improvement on Lardner, being about one-third the size, but a still further condensation would largely extend its usefulness. As it is, we can commend it heartily to the student as setting before him a method of treatment of this subject, which can never become obsolete so long as man must depend upon the testimony of his fellowman for a large part of the information on which he acts in the affairs of every-day life.

* "Historical Evidences of the New Testament." By the Rev. S. L. Bowman, A.M., S.T.D. Pp. 732, Svo. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. New York: Eaton & Mains.

THE ONLY ONE.

BY IDELL ROGERS.

Soul of my soul, the Only One,
As face to face, I stand with Thee;
And Thou, the infinitely far,
Become the intimately near,
No stranger God, dost then appear.

Soul of my soul, the Only One,
The answer to my deepest need
Thou, Lord, who stood by Galilee,
And called by name Thy friends to Thee,
Speak now and bid me follow Thee.

Cobourg, Ont.

Soul of my soul, the Only One,
The Only One, and yet unseen,
And yet alone reality
I utter now myself to Thee,
And gladly pledge Thee fealty.

Soul of my soul, the Only One,
Be merciful if it should be,
That I should some day go astray.
And miss the vision of to day;
And call me back into Thy way.