

issued, and they are in every way worthy of the support given to the scheme; they are carefully edited, well printed on good paper, and sufficiently well bound to be used without further expense in that direction. They consist of the works of Thomas Goodwin (which are to comprise 15 volumes), and contain his sermons on the first chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians (vol. i.). On the second chapter of the same Epistle, (vol. ii.) and "An Exposition of the Book of Revelations, Certain select cases resolved, and the Vanity of things discovered," (vol. iii.) with a general Preface by Dr. Miller, Rector of St. Martin's, Birmingham, and a Memoir by Dr. Halley, Principal of New College. The other three volumes for this year are to contain the practical works of Thomas Adams, and will be accompanied by a Memoir by Mr. Spurgeon. We heartily recommend this undertaking to our readers. No one can read a half a dozen pages of either of the volumes already issued, without being struck by the grasp of thought, the copiousness, and what is better than all, the deep devotion of the writer. Christ Jesus, and him crucified, was the theme of the preaching of these men, the centre around which their thoughts revolved, this was the secret of their power, and of the success with which their labours were so blessedly crowned.

LIFE AND LETTERS OF JOHN ANGELL JAMES. Edited by R. W. Dale, M.A.
New York: R. Carter & Bros. Toronto: W. C. Chewett & Co.

It has always appeared to us that one of the most difficult tasks a writer can undertake is the biography of an eminent man, especially if he were a preacher of the gospel. Every admirer views him from his own stand-point, and sees not alone the man but his own ideal of him, and anything found in a biography jarring with that ideal, (however incorrect it may be,) is considered sufficient to lessen the value of the work and to indicate the editor's unfitness for his task. Hence it arises that the most popular, the most satisfactory biographies are those of men of whom we knew or heard but little during their life-time, of whom we had no preconceived opinion, and whose memoirs are presented to us with that charm of freshness which at once fixes attention and disarms criticism. We are not surprised, therefore, that Mr. Dale has not succeeded in giving satisfaction in his capacity as editor of this book; Mr. James was known by his preaching or writing to many thousands, to a large number of whom he was as a spiritual father, one whom they loved and revered more than any other man; such, having never perhaps thought of any flaws in his character, of any littlenesses or weaknesses, are grieved to find that these did exist in him, that however honoured and useful, he was but a man, and they are disposed to charge upon his biographer an unfitness for his duty. While thinking that the editor might have done his work somewhat better, especially in a more judicious use of the autobiographical portions of the book, we are far from joining in some of the severe criticisms to which he has been exposed; the work, it is abundantly evident, has been a labour of love, and where he has erred it has arisen from the feelings of reverence with which he remembered his saintly predecessor. It is of course impossible to give anything like a sketch of Mr. James as portrayed in this volume. We find him not alone the popular preacher and the successful author, but as the pastor of a church consisting of nearly a thousand members, and in that great number "of very few of whom he could not give a clear