

## Our Contributors.

### In the World of Books.

"Of making many books there is no end." If Ecclesiastes, the Preacher, were speaking of the age of the world in which he lived, what would he say now—if he could speak to us—of the marvellous production of books in this twentieth century of the Christian era? There is one feature of the production of books in our time that is as significant as it is encouraging—that the production of nasty and trashy literature, even if it still be large, is gradually falling off; its giving place to high class literature, historical, biographical, scientific, moral and religious. And, better still, the Book of Books leads in circulation. In recent years a great impulse has been given to systematic study of the Bible, and this has resulted in the production of many valuable works bearing on methods of study and investigation suited to the masses of the people. This is an encouraging sign of the times and should serve to dispel the uneasiness of those who come much in contact with the bad and little in contact with the good that is being done in the world, and who are driven hastily to the conclusion that the world is going all wrong. It isn't. Despite the evils we see around us, the times we live in are better than those in which our forefathers lived; and the rapid production of books bearing upon Bible teaching, Bible study, Christian doctrine and Christian living, are one satisfactory evidence of this progress in the world's betterment.

The above remarks are suggested by the fact that five valuable works from the religious press have reached the sanctum of the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN, awaiting such review as our space will warrant.

**METHODS OF BIBLE STUDY.** By Rev. W. H. Griffith Thomas, B. D., of St. Paul's, Portman Square, London. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto.

This work does not pretend to give a commentary upon the Word of God, for it is limited to 120 pages. Its object is twofold: (1) To direct fresh attention to the value and importance of the study of the Bible itself, as distinct from, or at least prior to, the study of books about the Bible; (2) To suggest methods of mastering the subject-matter of the Word of God, its history, facts and doctrines—in other words, first-hand study of the Scriptures. In his introduction the author says: "There can be no doubt that the most powerful and fruitful ministry will ever be the ministry of those who are, like Apollos, 'mighty in the Scriptures.' A beloved friend, a well-known and honored dignitary of the Church of England, who most kindly read through those chapters before publication, recently wrote to me: 'Bible-teaching sermons never grow stale; the King honors his sign manual.' \* \* \* These hints are the assimilation of study and reading from student days onward, for the last twenty years, and represent a wide and varied indebtedness to many books, papers and lectures. They are sent forth with prayer and hope, and with an ever deepening conviction that for mature Christian life, strong character and fruitful service, nothing can possibly compare with, or make up for, daily definite study of and meditation on the Word of God."

**A LIFE FOR GOD IN INDIA:** Memorials of Mrs. Jennie Fuller of Akola and Bombay, by Helen S. Dyer, Author of Pandita Kamabai; the Story of Life, etc. Fleming H. Revell Co., Toronto.

This is a most interesting story of mission life and work in India, giving many graphic incidents of work among the native races of that wonderful country, with touching pen pictures of the condition of the people and of their accessibility to mission workers.

It is just such a story as will prove interesting to the Presbyterians of Canada, for it is well calculated to awaken a deeper interest in their own mission in Central India. In an introductory note the author says: "This book does not claim to be a biography. It is but a simple attempt to gather up the threads of a life lived for God, and to show how he glorified himself thereby. It claims to show also how God used this life to edify and extend His church on earth, and to lift individual Christian souls into higher aims of service; to inspire the home churches with missionary zeal and rouse them to a sense of their responsibility in regard to prayer for missions." The record of such a life should prove doubly interesting in these days when so much enthusiasm is being evoked in foreign mission work.

**THE EDUCATIONAL CONQUEST OF THE FAR EAST:** By Robert E. Lewis, M. A. Fleming, H. Revell Co., Toronto.

Japan and China just now bulk largely in the vision of the British and American people, to say nothing of the people of Europe. Such a book therefore comes to the reading public at an opportune time, when there is more or less anxiety to know more about the social, political, moral and religious conditions prevailing in those two countries. Japan has come to the front as a first-class power which 'must always be reckoned with by western powers in all questions affecting the Orient. It is not likely China will make such rapid progress in assimilating western civilization as Japan has done; but there are indications that she will ere long throw off the inertia under which she has so long slumbered. It will therefore be important that our people should have access to the reliable presentation of facts respecting the educational conquest at present going on in Japan and China and the relationship thereto of Christianity. This book professes to give that information, and the table of contents indicates that the work has been well done. Part of the volume was prepared at the request of the American minister to Japan for the state department at Washington, and it has been translated and printed in China at Government expense for the information of Chinese officials. The book embodies a vast fund of authenticated and well arranged information and contains twenty-two illustrations calculated to throw much light on the facts and conditions described in the letter press. The tables of statistics testify to the scholarly accuracy of the author's investigation.

### The Presbyterian Pulpit.

**THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION:** By Benjamin B. Warfield, D.D., L.L.D., Professor in Princeton Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. Presbyterian Board of Publica-

tion and Sabbath School Work, 1903. 75c.

Under the above heading we have eight sermons, dealing in a masterly manner with important Gospel doctrines. The style is simple, the language clear and plain and the presentation of truth impressive, furnishing excellent reading for Sunday and leisure hours, supplementary to reading and study of the Bible, which should always have the first place in providing food for the spiritual nature of man. The eight sermons are under the following titles.

- 1 The Revelation of Man—Heb. 2: 6-9. (R. V.)
- 2 The Saving Christ—1 Tim. 1: 15. (R. V.)
- 3 The Argument from Experience—Rom. 5: 1, 2. (A. V.)
- 4 The Paradox of Omnipotence—Mark 10: 27. (R. V.)
- 5 The Love of the Holy Ghost—James 4: 5. (A. V.)
- 6 The Leading of the Spirit—Rom. 8: 14. (R. V.)
- 7 Paul's Earliest Gospel—1 Thess 1: 2-4; 5: 9, 24. (R. V.)
- 8 False Religions and the True.—Acts 17: 23. (R. V.)

The titles of the sermons indicate the importance of the subject treated, and perusal of them will satisfy the reader who desires a clear and impressive exposition of Scripture texts.

**THE OPEN DOOR:** By Rev. Henry Van Dyke, D.D., L.L.D., Moderator of the 114th General Assembly of the Presbyterian church of the United States. Philadelphia—Presbyterian Board of Publication. 75c.

This is a companion volume to the one entitled "The Power of God unto Salvation." The publishing house from which it comes as well as the name of the preacher are guarantee of its orthodoxy. The titles of the sermons are:

- 1 The Open Door.—John 10: 9.
- 2 Resurrection Now.—Col. 3: 1.
- 3 A Divine Impossibility.—Titus 1: 2.
- 4 Salt.—Matt. 5: 13.
- 5 A Brief for Foreign Missions.—Matt. 28: 19, 20.
- 6 The Making of St. John.—Luke 9: 54; 1 John 4: 6.
- 7 The Angel of God's Face.—Isaiah 63: 9.
- 8 Real Life.—Gal. 2: 20.

The presentation of Gospel truth made in these sermons is not only thoroughly Scriptural but impressive, attractive and instructive. Next to the Bible itself there can be no better family reading provided than is contained in these two volumes of sermons.

The late visit of Edward VII. to Portugal has awakened considerable interest upon the part of English speaking people in that kingdom. It was a surprise to many, says the Chicago Interior, to learn from the king's speech, that next to the great powers of the world, Portugal is the kingdom having the largest colonial dependencies. It may also surprise Americans and Canadians to know that the government of Portugal is one of the most tolerant of Catholic countries, and that there are two branches of the Y.M.C.A. in Lisbon and five at Oporto. In the latter city there are eight Protestant churches. Portugal is free from the anarchistic element which creates such grave disturbances in Spain, her most unhappy neighbor.

Religion is a sunbeam, not a cloud and should be welcomed with sunny robes, not an umbrella.