

slict with despondency and doubt, and 3. Conflict with suffering and death. Under these titles the various phases of the Christian life are delineated, and illustrated by examples drawn from the spiritual history of some of the most eminent Christians both in ancient and modern times. The subject is an important one, and in the present day particularly needing attention, when the incessant bustling and activity of the age is so apt to distract the attention of real Christians, from the great inner work of the heart, and the manner in which it is treated is excellent throughout. The work is thoroughly scriptural in its contents, able in execution, and profitable in tendency.

**FAMILY RELIGION**, or the domestic relations as regulated by Christian principles. By the Rev. B. M. Smith, Professor in Union Theological Seminary, Virginia. 12 mo. 210 pages. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication.

**THE CHRISTIAN HOME**, or religion in the family. By the Rev. Joseph A. Collier, Kingston, N. Y. 12 mo. pp. 198.

The above works were written in consequence of a gentleman in the States, offering a prize of \$200 for the most approved treatise on the obligations imposed by religion in the family, with particular reference to the present aspect of the subject. The Presbyterian Board of Publication was chosen to publish proposals, receive Manuscripts, and determine the successful candidate. The first named of the above works was adjudged worthy of the prize. The second, however, was considered so excellent that a prize of \$175 was awarded to the author.

Both these treatises have throughout almost exactly the same plan, and the nature of both will appear by a short statement of their contents. Mr. Smith having in his introduction considered the foundation of the family constitution, treats in the first chapter of its *nature, design, and importance*, while Mr Collier treats in his first chapter of its *foundation, nature, and importance*. In the following chapters both treat of the *duties and responsibilities* belonging to the family relation, including those of husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and servants. Then follows examination of the best *means* for securing the ends of the Institution, the *value, difficulties, and aids* to family religion, both concluding with a review of the pleas for neglect and delinquencies in family duties.

From this outline our readers will perceive the importance of the subjects treated, and we are happy to say that both works contain within short compass a thorough examination of the subject, and are written with freshness and vigor. The two are of nearly equal merit, and we cordially commend them. As a literary production we might perhaps prefer the first, but there is one point of view in which persons so far North as our readers, must prefer the other, namely on the slavery question. Mr Smith, under the title of master and servant, includes the *owner* and his *slave*; Mr Collier says not one word on the subject, but quotes passages of scripture which involve the sin of the system.

\* **ESTHER AND HER TIMES**, in a series of lectures on the book of Esther. By John M. Lowrie, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Philadelphia, Presbyterian Board of Publication.

The writer of the above work has been in the habit of lecturing upon the scenes and incidents of scripture, and having had his attention in early life directed to the Book of Esther by the lectures of Dr McCrie, he was led,