

documentary evidence for the existence of Jesus Christ on earth, and to show the sources whence a description of that life may be drawn." He presents his subject under three divisions:

1st. Heathen Sources, including Direct Witnesses and Quoted Witnesses.

2d. Jewish Sources.

3d. Christian Sources, including the Catacombs; the Apocryphal New Testament Writings; Extra-Biblical Sayings of Jesus; Gospels, once Current, now Lost, and known only through Fragmentary Remains and Citations in Ancient Documents; the Church Fathers; the Epistles of Paul; the Gospels.

ADONIRAM JUDSON GORDON: A Biography with Letters and Illustrative Extracts drawn from Unpublished or Uncollected Sermons and Addresses. By his son, Ernest B. Gordon. Fleming H. Revell Co., New York, Chicago, Toronto, 1896. Price \$1.50.

An interesting, sympathetic, and instructive life of a man of pronounced personality and large spiritual power, who had many ardent friends and admirers. Dr. Gordon was a pronounced Premillenarian, holding that the chief function of the Church in the present dispensation is that of "witnessing," as a provisional stage of effort, remanding the ultimate conversion of the world to the period beyond the second coming of Christ. The biographer lays special stress upon this doctrine and Dr. Gordon's relation to and advocacy of it. But however erratic Dr. Gordon may appear to some to have been in certain of his views, his fundamental theology may be summed up in the title of one of the chapters of his Biography: "Errant Man and the Inerrant Book."

STUDIES SUBSIDIARY TO THE WORKS OF BISHOP BUTLER. By the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone. New York: Macmillan & Co. London: Henry Frowde, 1896. Price \$2.

This book is a fitting supplement of the great edition of Bishop Butler's works, recently issued by the same enterprising publishers under the editorship of the distinguished English statesman. Mr. Gladstone is not a theologian, nor is he a metaphysician, but his views, while not, therefore, to be considered authoritative, are entitled to weight as coming from a man of the largest observation and experience, and their presentation is full of interest arising from his intellectual fertility, versatility, and perspicacity. The discussion necessarily takes a broad range, treating, among other things, of Butler's method and its application to the Scriptures, his censures, mental qualities, points of positive teaching, a future life, necessity or determinism, teleology, miracle, the mediation of Christ, probability as the guide of life.

One of the most satisfactory chapters is that in which Mr. Gladstone criticizes Butler's censurers, all of whom are modern—Mr. Bagehot, Miss Hennel, Mr. Leslie Stephen, Mr. Matthew Arnold, etc., and not one of whom has any of the qualifications, theological, philosophical, and logical, requisite for the comprehension and criticism of Butler and his system. Perhaps the most unsatisfactory portion of the work is the treatment of the questions of eschatology, on which Mr. Gladstone declares himself to be largely indebted to Professor Salmund's great work on Immortality, tho he holds quite different views from the professor. But however one may differ in his views from the venerable author, he cannot but be amazed at the marvelous intellectual keenness and activity of the great octogenarian.

THE STARS OF GOD. By E. Fitch Burr, D.D., LL.D., Author of "Ecce Cœlum," "Pater Mundi" "Ad Fidem," etc. Hartford: The Student Publishing Company, 1896. Price, \$1.

Many of the readers of THE HOMILETIC REVIEW will recall the profound pleasure with which they read and perhaps reread Dr. Burr's earlier books, especially "Ecce Cœlum." His pen has lost nothing of its old cunning. By a substantially new presentation of the great astronomical facts up to date he leads, by the stars, up through the vast reaches of the universe to God their Maker. The closing chapters treat of "Astronomical Religion" embracing the reality, unity, and personal greatness of God, His vast empire, immense activity, love of law and order, providential and moral government, and closing with man's need of a fuller revelation of God than astronomy furnishes. To those who want to get a bird's-eye view of the solar system, the star systems, the universe system, this book is worth scores of the ordinary works on astronomy.

EDEN LOST AND WON.—Studies of the Early History and Final Destiny of Man as Taught in Nature and Revelation. By Sir J. William Dawson, LL.D., F.R.S., etc. New York, Chicago, Toronto. Fleming H. Revell Co., 1896.

This is the latest-issued volume in a very valuable and suggestive list of works by the distinguished geologist and thinker. In Part I. Principal Dawson considers "the physical and historical probabilities respecting the authorship of the Mosaic books." In Part II. he treats of "man and nature, fallen and restored." The book is one of rare interest, clearness, and power, and should be read by all who are interested in Genesis and the higher criticism.

## HELPFUL DATA IN CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW for July contains an article on "Africa North of the Equator." The writer, Mr. Alfred E. Pease, says in opening: "What the New World was to the men of the Elizabethan era, and what the East Indies were to the men of the last century, Africa is to the adventurers, travelers, traders, El Dorado hunters, authors, and politicians of our time. The field is so vast that all the best years of the life of the most energetic man are hardly sufficient to make him familiar with all the problems that face him in any one corner of the Dark Continent."

The article is accompanied by a map of Africa north of the equator, which presents the present positions of the European races that are dividing up that region—British, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian. A study of the article and the map will enable one to get a pretty clear view of the political, military, and missionary situations, and a better understanding of the present British policy regarding Egypt and the Sudan. British control of the Sudan seems to be a necessity in the interests of freedom and civilization.

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