

her book. That question is now settled beyond a doubt. It was unfair and uncalled for—a great literary injustice to excite suspicion—even to have started it. But it will in the end redound to her advantage. For the public like "fair play" and will resent the attempt to play false with an author, and she a woman, and a woman already favorably known as a writer and filling a high social position, solely in the interest of another work on the same general subject.

But now as to the real *merits* of Mrs. McCray's work, of which we have not as yet expressed an opinion. The first thing that strikes us favorably is the extreme *modesty* of the author. She says in her Preface:

"The design of this work is not to trench upon the ground of strict biography. . . . The writer has undertaken the labor of love which finds its excuse in the desire to present to the young people of the age, and particularly the young women of America, a list of the literary works of Harriet Beecher Stowe, with an outline of each and an unpretentious running commentary, such as is naturally suggested in their reading. The main facts of Mrs. Stowe's life are given, with such reference to her personal experience as seems to explain the motive, the conception and the prosecution of the great works which have made her our most famous author. To these are added personal reminiscences."

But the author's modesty must not be allowed to do her work injustice. While not a "Biography" of Mrs. Stowe, in the common acceptance of the word, it yet *is* a biography in a higher sense; that is, it traces the *literary* career and character of the distinguished woman who has shed such lustre on American literature, from the incipient stage to its culmination. And in doing this she has deftly woven in the chief events of her life as they stand related to her immortal productions. This is far more interesting and profitable to the public than chapter after chapter of dates, and family history, and wearisome correspondence which weight and take the life out of the Memoirs of most of our literary notables.

Then, instead of "an unpretentious running commentary" on Mrs. Stowe's works, we have a sharp, clear-cut, and instructive analysis of the most important of them, as also an historical grouping of the chief characters which figure in them. We think this part of the work is exceptionally well done. The author has evidently studied the plots of the several fictions, and the characters which appear and reappear in them repeatedly, under various names and in varying parts, and traced out the "originals" of her most noted ones with great ingenuity and acuteness of perception. The reader, we are sure, will be somewhat startled at the *results* of this sharp analysis in the form of a "running commentary." Certainly we were; and yet we were familiar with Mrs. Stowe's writings and for the most part, greatly admired them. Her leading characters were few—"stock" characters, from which she constantly drew her pict-

ures. Her *inventive* faculty was not extraordinary. Her transcendent genius flashed forth in her *descriptive* talent, her power to give vivid real life to the scenes she depicted, out of the infinite depth of her great womanly heart. Mrs. McCray, in this part of her work, has laid her readers—especially the younger portion of them—under great obligation, and in the light of her historical analysis and resetting of characters, they will read "Uncle Tom's Cabin," "Minister's Wooing," "Old Town Folks" (a rehash, really, of the former) with fresh interest and a better understanding.

There are other features of this work scarcely less interesting to the literary reader. The life of Mrs. Stowe is a *study for every minister*—a study profound, both in its relations to religion and to psychology. It is not difficult, in the light of these pages, to trace the real secret of her departure from her ancestral faith, which led to such false views of Christianity as crop out in "Minister's Wooing" and "Old Town Folks." We find also in this work many facts of great interest bearing on literary matter, for the first time made public. While we do not sympathize with the author in her chapter on Lady Byron, yet all must admit that it shows literary ability of a high order.

We regret some infelicities of style in the work, which obscure at times the author's meaning and weaken the force of her thoughts, and we hope there will be such a demand for her book as to warrant in some future edition a recasting of a few parts to give it greater perfection as a whole. For this work is worthy to go down to posterity associated with the memory of America's greatest writer of Fiction.

*A. C. Armstrong & Son.*—"Imago Christi: The Example of Jesus Christ." By Rev James Stalker, M.A. Introduction by Wm. M. Taylor, D.D. The author of this original and highly excellent work is one of the most eminent of the younger ministers of the Free Church of Scotland. Dr. Taylor says of him: "All who were present at the Belfast meeting of the Presbyterian Alliance recognized his ability in dealing with a difficult subject; and his volumes on the 'Life of Christ,' and the 'Life of St. Paul,' though issued under the unpretending title of hand-books, are remarkable for their originality of method, clearness of style, comprehensiveness of view, and suggestiveness of matter."

The careful and devout reader of "Imago Christi" will recognize the same admirable qualities in it. Reverent in spirit, and handled with masterly ability, it is a fitting companion for the closet and a guide for the life.

*A. D. F. Randolph & Co.*—"Supernatural Revelation: An Essay concerning the Basis of the Christian Faith." By C. M. Mead, Ph.D., D.D., late Professor in Andover Theological Seminary. The substance of this noble volume was given in a course of lectures at Princeton, in February and March, 1889. The work may