

The History of Christianity, by John S. C. Abbott.

It is unnecessary for a volume of this character especially from the pen of such an eminent historian, to present a long array of testimonials.—I have no fear of contradiction when I say that it is the BEST popular history of Christianity ever published, in fact it is the ONLY one adapted to "the People."

The following extract of a letter to the author from a distinguished Clergyman of Massachusetts echoes the sentiment of Ministers of the Gospel of all denominations—who have had the opportunity of reading the work.

I have this evening finished the reading of your "History of Christianity;"—which I have perused with great interest and care.

The portion which would naturally be most interesting to me, is the Life of Jesus. I have traced your narrative, with the greatest pleasure, as I have been over the same ground in my private studies last winter. I have been particularly interested in your clear exhibition of times, places and distances, which I regard as indispensable means of understanding the history. There are other elements in your delineation very much to my taste.

The events of the first century, and the eighteen succeeding ones, gives as clear and concise a view of the great features of the conflicts of the Gospel as can well be condensed in the same compass.

I think you are to be congratulated in the accomplishment of this work. It must have been a very interesting and profitable employment to have furnished yourself for its preparation. No one, I am sure, could write such a Life of our Savior, without receiving as much benefit himself as it must confer upon others.

The last twelve pages of the book I think grand, elevating, sublime, and I think will stand among the finest passages from your pen.

[From Hon. Apolcon T. Cheney to the Author.]

"I have perused the History of Christianity, with great interest and satisfaction. I consider it as one of your best, and think that it will prove, in the great roll of time, the most useful to mankind of all your able works. It presents, in fresh and attractive narrative, the life on earth of our Savior.

[From the Methodist Home Journal.]

"Abbott's History of Christianity issued by B. B. Russell of Boston, is a remarkable, fresh, readably and instructive work. Of all the histories of the Church, not one was really popular. Mosheim, Hagenback, Millman, though highly valuable as critical and learned works, are so heavy, and dry, that the people never want them. Abbott does for the church what he had done for Napoleon and Frederick—popularizes its story. His history is a miniature picture gallery where all the *Chefs de oeuvre* look down upon us from the walls. He gives not a dry narration of events, but a series of warm and glowing pictures of the chief men and things, a moving panorama of the life of the church. Like Beecher's Life of Christ. The work is concrete, vivacious, pictorial, adapted to catch the eye and enlist the interest of the common reader. As a popular contribution to ecclesiastical history it has no equal. Indeed it is really the finest essay in that line, and as such will not fail to find readers."

[From the Congregationalist.]

"The spirit of the book is excellent, and no one can rise from its perusal without a profound sense of the truth and worth of Christianity. It is written in the author's usually pleasing style, and adorned and enriched with several pictorial illustrations and maps."

[From the Home Guardian.]

"The vivid and life-like description of the sanguinary conflicts between Paganism and Christianity, with the attacks of Popery, the sketches of Helena the Christian Empress, of Constantine, the convulsions of the sixth century, the dark ages, the reformation and principal projectors of it, make this volume one of great interest."

[From Rev. V. M. Simons, in Zion's Herald]

"Most admirably has the renowned historian, J. S. C. Abbott, accomplished the difficult task—a task which but few writers would dare to undertake—of compressing eighteen centuries of the world's most wonderful history into one octavo volume of five hundred closely printed pages. This book is bound like Jerusalem of old, "compact together." Through the pleasant pathways of its pages, "tribes" will walk and talk with lingering delight. The stern facts of truth's great struggle are here portrayed in mellifluous prose, as bewitching as a novel, and hardly less interesting to read than the more measured rhythm of the Rydal poet's epic. A few of the first chapters embrace a succinct and comprehensive record of our Lord's life and teachings, in many respects equal in some superior, to those more protracted volumes, of which we have so many, known as "Lives of Christ."

Mixing secular and religious, sacred and profane together, surveying from its inception in Bethelhem to its present proud, commanding eminence in all civilizations, and written, vital, in that graceful, popular, and yet thoroughly correct style so well suited to the mass of readers, and for which Mr. Abbott is so justly celebrated, this history meets an evident want of the time, and becomes an invaluable addition to our current Christian literature. The two chapters on St. Bartholomew's Massacre, and on Mohammed, are worth the price of the book.

[From the United Presbyterian Review.]

"The author has peculiar qualifications for a work of this kind. His power of seizing and presenting the salient points of history are well known from his former works. His style is excellent. He has avoided controversy, and is, in the main, very fair and accurate in his judgment of persons and events. We are confident that he has filled a place by this volume that has not been occupied by any other. This History will be read in hundreds of families in which larger church histories would find no place, or would be laid aside as uninteresting and wearying in the effort to peruse them. The volume is richly illustrated, and very neatly bound. It is sold only by canvassing agents. These will no doubt meet with a ready reception all over the country."

[From the Lutheran Observer.]

"The public are well aware of the attractive style of all Mr. Abbott's histories and biographies, and this volume combines not only all the attractions of his popular style, but those of a subject the most interesting and permanently important that can engage the pen of any author. To compress the history of nineteen centuries of Christianity into one volume is a work of the greatest difficulty. Yet Mr. Abbott has succeeded in this difficult achievement. He has given a connected narrative throughout, quite full during the life of Christ, and the first centuries, and gradually omitting less important details, and presenting only the leading events and characters in the progress of Christianity down to the present time.

As a popular History for families it is an excellent work. It forms a post octavo volume of over 500 pages, illustrated with maps and fine engravings, among which are portraits of the author, the reformers, and others eminent in the church, and also a likeness of Jesus, after Delaroche."

[From "Pastor and People."]

"This is one of the best books for family reading that has come under our review for a long time. Mr. Abbott, (always a good writer), seems here to have done his best. A fine steel engraved portrait of this eminent author forms the frontispiece of the book. We hope, for the religious improvement of our land, that christians of every name will secure this book. They can scarcely have a better one for the use of their households. The publisher sends it out in fine style."