

**Lectures.** IN the Cunningham Lecture for 1888 (1) Professor Blaikie gives a series of sketches of the most famous and influential Scotch preachers, with a critical estimate of their merits and peculiarities. His book covers thirteen centuries, but he passes over ten of them at a bound. He divides the entire time into ten periods, but no lecture treats of the space between the early Celtic Church and the Reformation. The leap is a long one, but there is really nothing to detain the historian. Dr. Blaikie usually gives only the barest outline of each preacher's life, sometimes hardly that; but he takes great pains to set forth adequately and honestly both the matter and manner that each adopted. He does full justice to Columba, and the noble band of missionaries whereof Columba is the central figure. He does not draw too dark or ludicrous a picture of Roman Catholic preaching at the beginning of the Reformation period. He rightly traces the revival of preaching to revived religious life, nor does he overestimate the effect of preaching upon the political, intellectual, and religious progress of Scotland. As is natural, and indeed befitting, the lectures generally occupy the appreciative standpoint, but they do not shrink from indicating the defects and errors of either individual preachers or a school or period. Much stress is laid upon the polemics that formed so large an element in the typical Presbyterian discourse until the reign of Moderatism began. But Dr. Blaikie hardly perceives perhaps to what an extent Moderatism, with its serious, if not fatal, deficiencies, was a reaction from the fury, clamour, asperity, and narrowness which marred and concealed some of the finest qualities of the proclamation of the Gospel during the Reformation and succeeding periods. He notices and laments this harshness and roughness and the undue prominence of controversy, and he urges some forcible pleas in excuse. But he does not take sufficient account of their inevitable effects so soon as Christianity came to be studied from the side of culture. For all that, the lecture on "The Moderate School" is eminently fair. While passing a somewhat severe condemnation upon it as a whole, Dr. Blaikie allows that it rendered real service by calling the Church's and the preacher's attention to neglected fields which the pulpit might claim its share in. From first page to last, the lecturer never forgets the proposition which it is his principal object to prove, and which, nevertheless, is the outcome of independent observation and research, viz., that the success of preaching depends upon the faithfulness, earnestness, and vital