

TEXTS THAT HAVE TOLD.

By JOHN CAMPBELL, LL.D.

Dr. James Hamilton, of London, who wrote many books, had it in his heart to write a Bible Commentary, that should be at the same time a Church History, on a novel plan. Regarding the Word not as mere doctrine or history, but as the power of God, whether in the letter that killeth or the spirit that giveth life, as a savour of death unto death or of life unto life, he desired to find evidence, in the general history of the Church and in private biography, of the salutary or condemnatory power of individual texts from Genesis to Revelation. Dr. Merivale, in the introduction to his *Conversion of the Roman Empire*, demonstrates the moral and spiritual powerlessness of ancient systems of religion and philosophy; and a survey of all ethnic faiths leads to the conclusion that, concerning the religion only of which Christ presented the highest type, can it be said, "the words which I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life." It is not claimed that the activity produced by the Word of God has always been healthy, since to the froward He shews himself froward, and, according to the rabbins, He once said to Moses, "Write what I have spoken, and if any man love to err let him err;" but God's Word has always been a power, an ever-moving fan to separate the chaff from the wheat. Let the student of the Science of Religions produce his texts that have told, from the Egyptian Book of the Dead and the Zend-Avesta of Zoroaster, from the Brahman Vedas and the Buddhist Tripitaka, from the Chun-Tseu of Confucius and the Koran of Mahomet, and shew their living power, before he dares to place them side by side with the regenerator of the world.

In these days of exhaustive specialism, Dr. Hamilton's cherished dream may easily become an accomplished fact, presenting to the earnest student a historico-dynamic Bible replete with interest and suggestive of universal empire. Such