

ever held in connection with that Synod. The subjects were well chosen and were discussed with a strength and enthusiasm that fully justified the existence of the conference. The place of honour in the programme, as usual, was given to the work of the Holy Spirit, which was considered as to His administration through the officers and members of the Church. The subject seems old in the programme, but when under discussion it is the freshest and least realized in practical life of all others. Never do we feel more sensible of our shortcomings and privileges than when contemplating the possibilities of the Church through the power of the Holy Ghost, as set forth in the Word of God and in the experience of His saints. Never ought these discussions to be allowed to cease until we have attained unto our high calling. It is usually noticed that they who speak slightly of such conferences are not the men who themselves are distinguished for their attainments in this respect.

The discussion on the question, whether all approved candidates should be sent to the foreign field, trusting to the Lord for funds, waxed warm and the proposal was received with a degree of heartiness—even enthusiasm, that came almost as a surprise. As the discussion proceeded it became more and more apparent that the Church has come to a crisis, that whatever risk there may be in sending men out, there is a greater risk in not sending them out—as the genial Moderator, Mr. Mullan, said, “a frost may fall upon the Church,” by the refusal to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, who has led these young men to place themselves in the hands of the Church. We trust the Foreign Mission Committee will have the courage of faith.

The discussion on the Sabbath question was able and helpful as to its divine authority, its relation to our spiritual life, and its relation to civil legislation. If one thing is more apparent than another it is that the prosperity of the Church is intimately connected with the observance of the Sabbath with scriptural integrity. For that reason the powers of darkness are putting forth every possible effort to break down the barriers and deprive us of our heritage. The Lord's Day Alliance has already done splendid service and deserves the most cordial sympathy and support of all Christians in their efforts to direct legislation upon this supreme question. The papers and discussions were all so good that we refrain from specializing any, simply expressing our appreciation of them and belief that the Church owes a debt of gratitude to all who contributed to make the conference so great a success.

RADICAL CRITICISM.*

THIS is a work in which Canadians, and the ministers of our own Church particularly, will feel an especial interest, because the writer of it is a Canadian, born and educated amongst us, and until called to a professorship in the Southern Presbyterian Church in the United States, exercised his ministry in connection with our Church in Brantford. It appeared first as a series of articles in the *Christian Observer*, Louisville, Kentucky, of which Dr. Beattie is an associate editor. From its appearing there it may be inferred that the work is popular in its treatment and style, as the reader will find it to be. For this reason also there is, especially in the first part of it, a certain amount of repetition at the beginning of the chapters which, although helpful to the average reader, yet would not have been, had it first appeared in book form. The arrangement of the work, its treatment of the subject and its style are all exceedingly clear and simple, and form indeed one of its merits, so that it may be read with intelligence and profit by any ordinary reader at all interested in the subject of which it treats. It may be further added that because it is popular in its character and intended for the general reader, the full processes by which Dr. Beattie arrives at his conclusions are seldom seen in it, but the reader is left in no doubt as to his ample acquaintance with all the literature of the subject and that they are arrived at only after full investigation.

* Radical Criticism: an Exposition and Examination of the Radical Critical Theory Concerning the Literature and Religious System of the Old Testament Scriptures. By the Rev. Francis R. Beattie, D.D., Professor of Systematic Theology and Apologetics in the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and author of “An Examination of Utilitarianism,” etc., with an Introduction by the Rev. William Moore, D.D., LL.D. Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto. Price, \$1.50.

An idea of the contents of the work may be formed by stating the outline of it. Part first is introductory, and, after a preliminary chapter, the Higher Criticism is defined both in its ordinary sense, and in that to which may be applied the term radical. This clears the way for an intelligent understanding of the precise object of the author in writing, that the reader can judge of the character of his work. He is among those who cannot join the ranks or unite in the verdict of the Radical Higher Critics, and writes lest by silence there might be left in the minds of some the impression “that the old views of the Bible, and perhaps the Bible itself, are no longer capable of defense.”

Part second gives a brief history in five chapters of the “Critical Movement,” tracing it from its early stages in Porphyry and Spinoza, noticing in his course the names, amongst others, and their work, of Astruc, De Wette, Strauss the Tubingen School, Kuenen, Wellhausen, Robertson, Smith, Briggs, Driver, Cheyne, Harper, and among Conservatives, Ranke, Kurtz, Hengstenberg, Waits, Green and Warfield. We might say here that Dr. Beattie excels in giving brief, clear summaries of the history or the position of a question at any particular period, which may be cited as an evidence of his perfect acquaintance with it.

Part third is an “Exposition of Radical Higher Criticism.” Here it is pointed out with effect that this began without the church by the enemies of Christianity, but that it is now within it. The philosophical basis on which Radical Criticism, its methods, some of its theories, and its reconstruction of Old Testament history, and the place to which it assigns the Psalms are dealt with in a general and comprehensive way. This is followed by Part Fourth which is a critical examination in nineteen chapters of what has been dealt with more generally in the previous part.

The underlying philosophy Dr. Beattie shows of the Radical Higher Criticism is Pantheism or Deism, and these, whether consciously or unconsciously, affect the doctrine of inspiration so as to do away with it entirely as understood generally in the church, and do not explain or account for, if indeed they leave any place at all for a religion that is supernatural. Old Testament history is considered as it is reconstructed by the radical critics, and their methods and results are shown to be destructive of the proper historicity of the Old Testament, and to take away any solid foundation for supernatural religion. The treatment of the subject under both of these heads is very satisfactory and will tend greatly to confirm and establish any whose faith under the assaults of the destructive school of criticism may have become shaken. We need only to refer further by way of illustration of the use and service which this book may render, to Dr. Beattie's critical examination of the Documentary Hypothesis and the Three Codes. By an illustration of the singular and to all ordinary minds, the apparently purely capricious resorts that the radical higher critics are driven to, of the entire want of any authority in fact or history for their peculiar reconstructions of the Scriptures, of their contradictory theories as to documents and the origin and dates assigned to the three codes, the groundlessness of the claims and pretensions of Radical Criticism are fully and clearly exposed, and faith in the Word of God as we have it and have been wont to regard it, is shown to be well-founded. With quiet irony and good-natured sarcasms the author ridicules the claims of the radical higher critics to a monopoly of the faculty to judge, and the learning required to enter upon these profound studies, and their self-satisfied assumption that all who do not accept their results are the slaves and victims of tradition and are doomed to confusion and complete overthrow.

The following conclusions of Dr. Beattie in closing his work may be taken as illustrative of its spirit and general scope—

“If this criticism proceeds upon false principles, and according to erroneous methods, then its conclusions may be contra-confessional, and so be such as to justify call for enquiry by the church courts. Further we believe that Radical Criticism and its naturalistic conclusions are incapable of being harmonised with our standards.” . . . “If we admit the Radical Critical view in regard to the natural evolutionary nature of the Old Testament religion, it will not be possible to hold supernatural views of the New.” . . . “In the past again and again good men have trembled for the ark of God when it has been assailed, but just as often have we seen it pass through the conflict unharmed, and perhaps all the stronger because of the conflict safely endured, so we are convinced it will be in this case. After the stress to which conservative views on biblical questions have been subjected is over, we are sure that if past history means anything, and if Christianity still has its divine vitality, as we believe it has, it will turn out that the Bible is more firmly entrenched as the word of God than ever.”

Books and Magazines.

WEALTH AND WASTE. The Principles of Political Economy in Their Application to the Present Problems of Labor, Law, and the Liquor Traffic. By Alphonso A. Hopkins, Ph.D. Cloth, 12mo, 286 pp. \$1.00. New York, London, and Toronto. Funk & Wagnalls Company. 11 Richmond St. West.

The author of this work has been during many years among the best known lecturers and writers throughout the North and South. He seeks to apply the accepted principles of Political Economy, as to Production and Wealth, Consumption and Waste, without violence to the logic of accepted economists or to the politics of confessed partisans, while insisting that both economists and partisans shall admit the logic which they cannot refute. The leading topics considered in the volume are: “Economy and Labor;” “Wealth and its Distribution;” “Consumption and Waste;” “Relation and Duty of Authority;” “Harmony of Social Forces;” and “Political Ways and Means. The most important sub-topics comprehended by these include “The Relation of Ethics and Economy, and of Economy and Prohibition;” “Cause of Hard Times;” “The Laborer's Character and Condition;” “Partnership of Labor and Capital;” “Labor's Loss from Liquor;” “Wages and Waste;” “Wages and Want;” “The Genesis and Logic of License;” “Sources and Nature of Taxation;” “Logic of Local Option;” “The Inspiration of Strikes;” Suffrage and the Frauds Upon it.” Many other sub-topics are treated. The propositions of the ablest economists are quoted from and projected, along their own logical lines against the Liquor Traffic as a foe to Labor, a parasite upon legitimate industries, and an element in the State which all the teachings of Political Economy demand shall be eliminated. This book is designed for popular reading, and also as a text-book for use in the higher institutions of learning, to fill a place no book has heretofore sought to occupy.

CHRISTIAN EVIDENCE. By Ezekiel Gilman Robinson, D.D., LL.D., late president of Brown University. 12mo, cloth, \$1.25.

This book is on a subject which from time to time changes its point of view, but never loses its interest or importance and we are safe in saying never will. It represents Dr. Robinson's last work, after over forty years of active and honored service as Professor and College president. A brief statement of the sub-divisions under which the subject is treated will suffice to give an idea of the general character of the work. Part I. takes up “The Evidence Specially Relied on by Jesus and His Apostles.” Of these there are the “Self-Evidencing Power of Truth, Miracles, Prophecy, Part II: “Original Evidences which are still Available.” These are the appeal to Consciousness; Miracles; Prophecy and from Christian Experience. Part III. “Evidence from Present and Past Achievements of Christianity.” Under this head are the following chapter sub-divided into sections. Chapter I. “Beneficent Influence of Christianity.” II. “Conditions Under which Christianity Achieved its First Victories.” III. Divine Origin of Christianity as seen in Three of its Inherent Qualities.” These are (1) Its Self-Recuperative Power; (2) Its Power of Self-Development; and (3) the Expansiveness of the Spirit of Christianity. Four more chapters follow, but those mentioned will suffice to give an idea of the tenor of the work. It is done in a way to make it well adapted for teaching purposes, and is accompanied by an index helpful for reference.

A DEBATE ON BAPTISM AND THE BOOK OF MORMON. By the Rev. W. H. Cooper, Methodist and Elder A. Leverton, Latter Day Saint. Rev. W. H. Cooper, Tilbury Centre, Ont. Price 50 cents.

This is a full report of a regularly arranged debate by the gentlemen named. The question is a very old and much debated one, and those who have not already made themselves familiar with it, or satisfied their minds upon the subject will find it fully discussed here. The proposition to be maintained was “The Mode of Christian Baptism is by Immersion Only.” Mr. Leverton is a farmer and confesses himself “not to be a Greek scholar,” and Mr. Cooper's superiority in this respect gives him an advantage which is manifest on every page.

The *May Biblical World*, besides the editorial notes to begin with, contains an interesting article on the late Rev. Dr. Broadus whose likeness is given as a frontispiece. An “Introduction to the Gospel of Luke,” is contributed by Shailer Matthews, and an “Introduction to the Koran,” by Dr. Gustav Weil, extends to several pages. A paper by Rev. Professor George B. Stevens, Ph.D., D.D., is on the important subject of “The Teaching of Jesus: His Attitude Towards the Old Testament.” “Comparative Religion Notes;” “Bible Study in College;” “Synopsis of Important Articles,” and “Notes and Opinions” make up a valuable number. [The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Ill.]

The *Sanitarian* for May, besides much other matter valuable to the medical profession, contains several articles likely to be of great general use. The first is “Home Sanitation,” by Morean Morris, M.D., “Household Water Supply,” by J. C. Chase, sanitary engineer; “Sewerage in Foreign Cities,” by C. W. Chancellor, U.S. Consul at Havre; “Hygiene in Medical Education,” by Dr. J. I. Desroches, Montreal; and “Temperance Teaching in the Public Schools.” [The American News Co., New York, U.S.]

From Pond's new edition of choice piano-forte compositions we have received selections from the following composers:—E. Meyer-Helmund, C. Bohm, C. Chaminade, J. Schulhoff, Ed. Grieg. This edition is ably edited by Wm. F. Pecker. Publishers. Wm. A. Pond & Co., 25 Union Square, New York.