

And lift no hand to wield the purging
flail?
We deemed of old thou held'st a charge
from Him
Who watches, girdled by His seraphim,
To smite the wronger with thy destined
rod.
Wait'st thou His sign? Enough, the
sleepless cry
Of virgin souls for vengeance, and on high
The gathering blackness of the frown of
God!"

The book is a typographical gem. Stone & Kimball are, we think, the best art printers in America. A fine portrait of William Watson appears, reminding us much of Edgar Allan Poe.

The Student's Commentary—Ecclesiastes.
By JAMES STRONG, S.T.D., LL.D.
Cloth. Pp. 144. 11x7 inches. Price,
\$2.00. New York: Hunt & Eaton.
Toronto: William Briggs.

This is a complete hermeneutical manual, consisting of a corrected Hebrew text, an ample critical apparatus, a free but terse metrical rendering, a modernized and rhythmically arranged translation, an extended introduction, a detailed tabular analysis, the authorized version amended, the American revised version, a cosely literal metaphrase, a copious, logical, exegetical, and practical exposition, and full lexical, grammatical and vindicatory notes. The author's aim has been to ascertain the true text of the writing, and then develop its exact sense and bearing. In this he has eminently succeeded and adapted his work to readers, preachers, and scholars of every stage of progress. Dr. Strong brings to his task twenty-five years of experience in annual class work on the book as a professor in Drew Theological Seminary. This seems to be the beginning of a series which will, without doubt, be of great service to all biblical students. He has shed much new light on this most difficult and much disputed book of the sacred canon, which will be heartily welcomed by all earnest Bible students.

A. M. P.

Primer of Philosophy. By DR. PAUL CARUS. The Open Court Publishing Company, Chicago.

This is one of the series in "The Religion of Science Library." The numbers are issued bi-monthly at \$1.50 yearly. It would be exceedingly difficult to determine why some of the series are included in or come under the above designation. The only explanation is,

probably, found in the fact that the first of the series has as its title, "The Religion of Science." In the book before us the author claims that experience is the sole basis of philosophy. We have nothing but facts as data out of which to construct our ideas, notions and conceptions. The idea that *axioms* lie even at the base of mathematics is outgrown, and of course when they are found to have no place here, it is an easy matter to dislodge them from philosophy and the other sciences. The postulates of Euclid must likewise abandon their former claims, and find a new explanation under the alchemy of experience.

Positivism and Monism are the two terms which dominate in modern thought, and these are complementary to each other. The former represents the principle that all knowledge is a description of facts; the latter, that the world must be conceived as one inseparable and indivisible entirety.

The author discusses a great variety of subjects that do not always have any special relation to each other—except on his conception of Monism—and succeeds in producing a readable but very fragmentary and disjointed volume.

E. I. B.

Persian Life and Customs. With Scenes and Incidents of Residence and Travel in the Land of the Lion and the Sun. By the REV. S. G. WILSON, M.A., fifteen years a missionary in Persia. With map and illustrations. Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Price, \$1.75.

Persia has been a land of strange romance and tradition for twenty-five centuries. It is a land concerning which very vague ideas are held. Mr. Wilson had special opportunities of studying the land and its people. The current interest in the Armenians and Kurds gives a special attraction to the chapters on these strange people. In 1880, in a Kurdish raid, twenty-seven Christian villages were pillaged, pretty much after the manner in vogue at present, and nine Protestant missions broken up. When the American college was attacked, the combined Union Jack and Stars and Stripes waved over the gates, and the British Consul championed the American missionaries. Would that a similar union of the two nations would arrest the Armenian outrages and prove a pledge of peace throughout the East.

Mr. Wilson gives a very lucid account of the country, its people, customs, insti-