

been published. The present two volumes are devoted to the Acts of the Apostles, and are by Dr. A. C. Hervey, Bishop of Bath and Wells; and Professors Barker, Bedford, Johnson and others. The exposition is by the former, who makes the Revised Version the basis of it. While there is little that may be called original or striking in the exposition, he has aimed to give the precise meaning of the text, and to expound it with brevity and clearness. The Homilies—800 in number—are of varying length and merit. Prof. Barker's are complete sermons, while the others are condensed—often brief skeletons and simple suggestions. The "Pulpit" may study them to profit; and yet the mass of them are not equal in interest, tact, and adaptation to those found in this country in our own Homiletic literature, and especially in THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY. As a "Commentary," it is certainly unique, and as a whole, will be a valuable acquisition to a minister's library.

E. & J. B. Young & Co., "The One Mediator: The Operation of the Son of God in Nature and in Grace. Bampton Lectures for 1882." By Rev. P. G. Meld. The writer's purpose, as he states it, "is to exhibit in outline the twofold mediatorial character which belongs to the Eternal Son of God, as the sole means wherethrough the *ad extra* action of the Godhead has ever proceeded. Assigning to Him alone, as holy Scripture does, the great function of mediation between the infinite Godhead and the universe: regarding Him, the personal wisdom and Word of the Father, as the one channel through which the Holy Spirit, who is revealed as the life and power and energy of the Godhead, has ever flowed forth, both in the act of creation and upon things created, for their continual maintenance in being and for their development, we distinguish between His creative and His redemptive, or new-creative mediation."

The author further says: "It will be my endeavor to show that, in an inferior and preparatory way, the One Mediator, in His love and pity for our fallen race, as the One Being to whom of natural right the function of redemptive mediation necessarily belonged, was continuously exercising that redemptive function, though after a veiled manner, from the very first beginnings of human history until the *fullness of the times* was come."

The volume is the matured fruit of long and careful study, while its conclusions show an unusual measure of independent thought. Upon various mooted questions touching the Christology of the Old Testament, the author has a definite judgment which in the main agrees with the majority of scholars of earlier and later ages. Upon a very few points bearing upon the nature and relations of the Son of God, his views would be questioned by many. But upon the whole, this elegantly printed and most scholarly volume will well repay the scholar's thorough study, and call for his after reference.

Periodicals.

SOME PRESENT QUESTIONS IN EVANGELISM. By Prof. Wm. J. Tucker, *Andover Review* (March), 11 pp. A thoughtful and discriminating essay bearing on living questions in theology and Christian missions. The writer holds that no word expresses the intention of Christianity so well as Evangelism, which represents the outward and aggressive work of the Church, including missions. The object of the paper is to outline the direction and scope of some present questions in Evangelism. These questions relate both to method and doctrine. The growth of the Anglo-Saxon race—the custodians of Christianity—numbering 7,000,000 at the landing of the Pilgrims, and 100,000,000 to-day, he regards as the most important fact, in its religious bearings, since the Reformation. The immediate question is, whether the Church is making due progress at those points which can be carried only by aggression. The sharpest problems of Evangelism lie just where the line hesitates and wavers. The discussion of the methods of evangelistic work of the Church in cities is worthy of careful thought, and equally "for an advance from a constructive to a more aggressive policy" in all our missionary work.

HEREDITY AND DEPRAVITY. By Stuart Phelps, Ph.D. *Bibliotheca Sacra* (April), 15 pp. This article was found among the MSS. of the author after his lamented death by drowning last summer, and is edited by his father, Prof. Austin Phelps, of Andover. It is a valuable contribution on a subject that is attracting no little attention both in the schools of science and of theology. We can only give the results of his reasoning: 1. The bodily organism in its original structure is an absolute inheritance, in its generic and specific and racial determinations; and also, with all reasonable probability, in its individual characteristics. 2. The theory of a limited spontaneity in the individual soul has so far withstood all attacks, and still holds its own as the most reasonable and adequate explanation of the facts. 3. Yet the soul inherits all those original characteristics which are naturally determined by the inherited bodily organism. 4. The soul inherits also many, perhaps all, of its original tendencies in thought. 5. Heredity cannot explain the origin of those elements of character which are the direct result of pure volition. 6. We derive, therefore, the principle that responsibility for character is limited to those qualities of the soul which are undetermined by this immense inheritance, and are the products of intelligent volition. And his conclusion is: "That while modern psychology eliminates from theology the doctrine of 'original sin' in its traditional modes of statement and defence, yet it retains a doctrine of depravity, and supports it by an overwhelming array of psychical facts."