

in the most sacred of all narrations set forth alongside of pure fictions, many of which are revolting, and some quite inconsistent with what history reveals. As I have said before in these talks, Marie Corelli's great merit in this age of doubt in the supernatural is her intense conviction, frequently expressed, that God is over all, that spirits good and bad are all about us, and that evil is the work of a personal devil. If she can succeed in bringing these lessons home to the minds of doubters, she will not have lived and written in vain.

"The Master Craftsman," by Sir Walter Besant, is a wholesome story, if somewhat exaggerated, of the change in life of two young men, distant relations and equally descended from the founder of an ancient firm of boat-builders. One of them, whose side of the house has stuck to the old trade, is a handsome, skilful, well-read, but uncultivated radical. His clerk is a well-favoured young woman whom he coldly intends to marry when he has time. The other, belonging to a more ambitious branch of the family, is a man of high society, possessed of little means, but with a lady of title waiting to espouse him and push him in the world. Void of ambition himself, he visits his boat-building cousin, dresses him, takes him into society, teaches him manners, gets him the lady of title to wife and leaves him a cabinet minister. For his part, he takes to boat-building, and, in course of time, becomes a master craftsman, but not before he has brought happiness to his kinsman's secretary, whom he at last marries. The story begins and ends with the tale of an ill-gotten treasure in precious stones, which the new-made mechanic discovers and hands over to his political relative. The story is full of those pleasant little benevolent touches in which Sir Walter's novels abound, illustrations of the ways in which, at small cost and trouble, life's labours may be lightened and its joys multiplied. Some very religious people think little of these, and thus cast discredit on their piety.

The Presbyterian Board of Publication of Philadelphia publish a very neat volume of 255 pages and several illustrations,