

*THEOLOGICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.*

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THIS brief statement contains references to six meetings of the Society:—

February 12th.—Mr. A. H. Foster read an able and remarkably original paper on Cantos 21-26, of the *Paradiso*. It was brimful of characteristic sentences, terse, pregnant, and epigrammatic. The element of humor also was largely interspersed. If, as Mr. Foster avowed at the outset, he had no great love for poetry and had prepared his paper because he felt he must do something for the Society, he at least furnished a fine instance of the inspiration which a high sense of duty may impart.

February 19th.—Mr. J. MacIntosh gave us a very condensed but carefully prepared paper on Miracles. Starting with Christianity as a supernatural religion, and emphasizing the necessity of spirit to account for all the phenomena involved, he made an honest attempt to solve the objections usually urged against a belief in miracles. A keen discussion followed.

February 26th.—The subject was "The seat of Authority in Religion." This had been long talked of among the students, and now that it was brought squarely before us we felt the great magnitude of the difficulties surrounding it. Two papers were read,—one by Mr. G. F. Johnston, the other being a criticism. Mr. Johnston's essay was of a very high character, and greatly appreciated and admired by the members. He traced the seat of authority in religion to personality. The discussion was animated, and as the subject was so important it was resolved to resume it on March 19th.

March 5th.—Messrs. R. G. Strathie and D. A. Frame took up Cantos 27-33 of the *Paradiso*. Both papers clearly indicated not only a mastery of the matters handled, but also a deep and thorough appreciation of the beauty and sublimity of Dante's noble conceptions.

March 12th.—Mr. A. D. McDonald favored us with a critical essay on the book of Ecclesiastes. We were expecting that, from the competent pen of this essayist a pro-