

that it is demanded by the principles of mankind. "More and more frankly," he says, "and unreservedly the position is gradually being adopted, that the essential elements of religion and theology claim our acceptance upon their own intrinsic merits, and are to be verified primarily, not by an appeal to authority, but by the satisfaction which they afford to the highest aspirations and the noblest impulses of human nature, and by the personal experience of those who honestly accept them and practically submit their lives to their guidance and control."

This method of inquiry does not imply a divergence from orthodox belief, yet the rejection of objective authority unduly limits the range of theology. The subject is treated in the varied aspects of the Nature of Man, the Psychology of Theism, the Media of Revelation, the Meaning of the Miraculous, the Nature of Inspiration, the Grounds of Certitude, the Nature, Penalty and Healing of Sin, the Forgiveness and the Help of God, the Function of Faith, the Divinity and Mediation of Christ, the Ideal of Personal Character and of Social Life.

*Where the Tamarisk Blooms.* By the REV. JAMES DUNK. London: Charles H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs.

There is something about the rugged rocks, the swirling tides, the broad sea views, the grand elemental forces of nature of the ancient Duchy of Cornwall that reacts upon its people. They possess a sturdy strength of body and of mind, a force of will, a fervour of soul that gives something Titanic to their character. Their smugglers and wreckers are the boldest and most reckless; their Methodist saints are the holiest and happiest. These vivid pictures are written by one who knows and loves the country well. He sketches with sympathetic pen the noble virtues and the very human foibles of the Cornish folk. These rural lives, too, have their sins, their sorrows and their tragedies.

The sketches are of strangely blended power and pathos, with a strong dash of humour. A fine poetic vein runs through many of them, falling at times into a noble cadence. The humour crops out in most unexpected forms. Saintly Phyllis Ough had just one "redeeming vice," her righteous wrath at sin. She was magnificently globose in form, "the heaviest as well as the holiest woman in Blistra." When she entered a house it was "orbicularly." Her grandchild was christened the pre-

posterous name, "Chedorlaomer" which led to some remarkable complications. The story of the local preacher, robbed by a Cornish tramp, who took his pilot coat and gave instead a ragged garb, sewn up in which the preacher found a forgotten five-pound note, points the moral that the righteous shall receive in this world a hundredfold. The sketches of village life are as strong and tender and touching as anything of Ian Maclaren's.

*The Elements of Astronomy.* A Text-Book by CHARLES A. YOUNG, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Astronomy in the College of New Jersey. Revised edition. With synopsis. Boston: Ginn & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. x.-506. Price, \$1.60.

Professor Young is well known as one of the most distinguished astronomical observers and one of the most lucid writers on the phenomena of the sky. This volume is somewhat abridged from his larger work and is designed for higher schools and colleges. We recommend it also strongly for private reading. The latest revision of 1897 brings it up to date, giving the results of the most recent astronomical discoveries. It is illustrated by 158 diagrams and engravings, some of them from beautiful star photographs. It has also four star maps by which one may pick out for himself the constellations in the skies. We cannot too strongly commend this practice. It will make the starry heavens a perpetual delight. Instead of being indiscriminately scattered, the constellations deploy into order and present familiar aspects in any part of our hemisphere. The revelation of the spectro-scope, the photographic camera, the latest conclusions as to sun-spots, comets, meteors, and celestial cosmogony are given. The author seems to incline more to the older nebular hypothesis of Laplace as to the origin, or rather the evolution, of the universe than to the more recent meteoric hypothesis of Lockyer.

*The London Quarterly Review*, which has been published for over forty years, enters on a new series as an official periodical of the Wesleyan Conference Office, London. It is reduced in price to ten shillings a year. The *Review*, under the care of the Rev. W. L. Watkinson, maintains the high traditions of the early series. Striking articles are, by the editor, on Methodism and the Age, and by Dr. Little, of Evanston, on The Effect of the Recent War on American character.