

"The Heart of John Wesley's Journal."

Bicentenary Edition, with an introduction by Hugh Price Hughes, M.A., and an appreciation of the Journal, by Augustine Birrell, K.C. Edited by Percy Livingstone Parker. New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. xxxii+vi2. Price, \$1.50 net.

The Wesley Bicentenary calls attention afresh to one of the most remarkable books in the language, a book to be classed, says Price Hughes, with Fox's Journal and Newman's Apologia. "It is a book," says Birrell, "full of plots and plays and novels, which quivers with life, and is crammed full of character." It gives us the picture of the very man himself, and vivid glimpses of his wonderful work. "If you want to get into the last century," says Birrell, "to feel its pulses throb beneath your finger and ride up and down the country with the greatest force of the eighteenth century in England," you must read these Journals. We quote elsewhere more fully Birrell's remarkable appreciation of this great man. Everybody knows that Wesley traversed England from Land's End to Caithness, but we are not so familiar with the fact that he travelled also largely in Europe. In his eightieth year he traversed Holland, Germany, Belgium, seeing the men and places best worth knowing in those lands. The book is illustrated with numerous portraits and engravings, and is an admirable souvenir of the Bicentenary.

"The Pauline Epistles." Introductory and Expository Studies. By the Rev. R. D. Shaw, M.A., B.D. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. x-508. Price, 8s. net.

This book is particularly timely, as the twenty million scholars and teachers of Christendom are now studying the life and letters of the great apostle. No writings have so profoundly influenced the thought and mind of Christendom as those of the apostle Paul. Hence the intense and earnest study of which in every age they have been the subject. Never was such study more needful than now when they are made the battlefields of destructive criticism, which claims that they are "entirely pseudonymous, or so riddled and shattered by interpolation and other literary handling

as to be almost beyond recognition." This negative criticism Dr. Shaw declines to admit. He discusses the leading questions of literary criticism, but his special aim is "to deal with the Epistles in the historical spirit; that is, to set them as vividly as possible in their original environment, to show their relation to the life of the man who wrote them, and also the needs and circumstances of the readers to whom they were addressed." This is undoubtedly "one of the most helpful services that can in these days be rendered to students of the books of Scripture." The historical setting is very fully and ably, even brilliantly, illustrated. The prevailing slavery and other evils, the condition of pagan Rome, of Ephesus, Corinth, and that ancient society which the Gospels and Epistles were to purify and recreate, are set forth with a wealth of learning and grace of diction that are worthy of the theme. The vigour of thought and cogent argument of the author's biblical criticism are not less keen and strong, and much more sane, we judge, than that of his opponents. It is gratifying to note the testimony of Dr. Harris at the Preachers' Meeting in Toronto, that the best work on the Epistle to the Ephesians is that by a Methodist scholar, Findlay.

"Florence." By Augustus J. C. Hare. Fifth edition. London: George Allen. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 343. Price, 3s.

Next to Venice, Florence, "the flower of cities and the city of flowers," captures the imagination. It was here the Arethusan fount of art and learning sprang again from earth. Its art galleries are unsurpassed, if equalled, in Europe. Memories of Dante and Savonarola, of the Medici, and many other makers of history, and of Giotto, Fra Angelico, and many other creators in art haunt its narrow streets and crowded galleries. A mere list of its palaces and churches fills four columns. There is no more memorable square in Europe than the Piazza della Signoria, where the martyr monk of San Marco glorified God in the flames. All these historic memories Mr. Hare records in his admirable book, and describes excursions to Fiesole and Vallombrosa, whose names resound in Milton's lofty line. The book has a coloured map and twenty-six engravings.