

Book Notices.

The Preacher's Complete Homiletic Commentary on the New Testament (with Critical and Exegetical Notes). By many Distinguished Biblical Scholars. Vol. I., Matthew. By REV. W. SUNDERLAND LEWIS, M.A., and REV. HENRY M. BOOTH. Cloth, 8vo, 679 pp. \$3. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

Messrs. Funk & Wagnalls have made the preaching fraternity very greatly their debtors by the series of important books helpful to ministers which they have issued. Their method of publishing them enables the reader to get books generally put out in small editions, and, therefore, high-priced, at a greatly reduced cost. By securing orders in advance they are able to go to press with a large edition, and thus keep down the price. Their last enterprise of this nature is one which promises to be exceedingly useful to ministers.

This is the first volume of an extensive work of eleven volumes on the New Testament, printed from imported plates obtained from the publishers in London, where the entire work has been issued after years of preparation. The present work is a companion to the Complete Homiletic Commentary on the Old Testament which received such a substantial welcome. More than 8,000 subscribers for the latter (in all denominations) have anxiously awaited the completion of the New Testament portion of this valuable work. The expressions of satisfaction that have come to the publishers from thousands of preachers who are using the Old Testament portion are remarkable, and an equally hearty welcome for the New Testament volumes is confidently expected. In this valuable commentary, by various authors, is found a sermon outline or homiletic suggestion on every paragraph or verse of the New Testament that can be turned to use in the preparation of a sermon. Abundant choice selections of illustrations, etc., from many eminent sources other than the authors of the volumes, are also given. The type is large and clear, and the books convenient to handle.

Considering the exhaustive character of this Commentary, inasmuch as it opens up for homiletic use every available verse or paragraph of the New Testament that can be turned into use for homiletical

purposes, it is difficult to overestimate its importance. It is a great granary of seed for homiletic thought and illustration.

No apology seems necessary for a work of this kind. The treasures of the Word of God cannot be exhausted. It is the business and duty of the clergy, preachers and teachers to find these treasures, to present them to the people, to show their inestimable value, that those to whom they minister may become "rich unto salvation."

Many of the rich deposits of truth are so hidden from even the most diligent workman that he must use all means possible to discover them; and how often there comes to the devoted cultured mind an illumination that shows the treasures lying in a text or passage hitherto regarded as almost barren. The most happily constituted individual has but limited powers of insight and interpretation; but in this Homiletical Commentary we have the united labours of the great workers in the field. It furnishes a digest of the best commentaries.

The Bible student need not fear that he will sacrifice his own independence of research by examining a text in the light reflected by others; the texts are not depleted by elucidations.

This work is not of the nature of a labour-saving machine. Its purpose is to furnish fructifying germs, calling for abundance of labour, but designed to render the labour in the highest degree fruitful. It develops and stimulates originality in those who use it, but is no resting-place for mental indolence.

Christ's Trumpet Call to the Ministry; or, the Preacher and the Preaching for the Present Crisis. By DANIEL S. GREGORY, D.D., LL.D. 12mo, cloth, 365 pp. \$1.25. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

This book is the result of a profound conviction on the part of the author that the questions discussed are, for the ministry and for the Church, life-and-death questions that every preacher of the Gospel should, for the glory of the Master, and for the sake of a lost world, take up, consider carefully, and settle in the light of the word of God. The chapters cover the whole field of ministerial duty in its