

THE BOOK PAGE

Two books may be mentioned together as dealing with the great subject of the relation between God and man. One is, **Religion as Friendship**, by John Mackay, pastor of Crescent Street Presbyterian Church, Montreal (The Westminster Company, Toronto, 243 pages, \$1.00). In this volume of twelve sermons the author, one of our own younger ministers, who has already won a high place as a thinker and preacher, expounds the great doctrines of our faith as expressions of friendship between the divine Creator and the human creature. For example, the doctrines of Revelation and Inspiration answer the question, How do we know the Friend? The Perseverance of the Saints is another phrase for, The Keeping Power of Friendship. The suggestiveness of the thought worked out in the sermons is apparent, and the style is always clear and interesting. The other book is, **The Witness of Sin: A Theodicy**, by Rev. Nathan Robinson Wood, Medford, Mass. (Elephant H. Revell Company, Toronto and New York, 151 pages, \$1.00 net). This is a contribution to apologetics. It starts with the facts, that sin is, and God is; and faces the problem, How can both be in the same world? The title is that of the closing chapter, the climax of the argument, in which, with considerable dialectic skill, it is shown that sin, so far from being a contradiction of, is actually a witness to, divine goodness and power.

The W. A. Wilde Company, Boston, have done a good thing for the Primary and Junior Classes, and indeed for all grades of the Sunday School, in issuing

the forty-nine **Songs of the Season** (64 pages, 25c. single, \$2.00 a hundred), words by Lucy G. Stock, music by George Chadwick Stock. Spring and Easter, Summer and Children's Day, Autumn and Harvest, Winter and Christmas, all have their space. The music has three excellent qualities—it is bright, it is dignified, it is easily learned. These Songs should have a large and enduring sale.

The kingdom of God among men is to be universal: this result shall come about by a process of growth; and, "as childlikeness is a state necessary to entrance into the kingdom, childhood is the surest and best time for that entrance": these are the three fundamental propositions of **The Kingdom in the Cradle**, by Rev. Dr. James Atkins (Publishing House of the M. E. Church South, Nashville, Tenn., 325 pages, \$1.25); and the elucidation of them is followed by a thorough and most readable discussion of such topics as, The Child as a Subject of Religious Education, The Church and the Home, The Child in the Home, The Sunday School in its various functions, Religion in Popular Education. "The largest economic question in the modern church has been and still is: How shall we reach the masses? The true answer is: Reach them in the cradle, or you shall not reach them at all," is Dr. Atkins' final word, to which his admirable book gives its proper emphasis.

The scene of, **Brothers of Peril**, by Theodore Roberts (Copp, Clark Company, Toronto, 327 pages, four colored illustrations, \$1.50) is laid in Newfoundland as it was in the early centuries following its discovery by John Cabot. The waters about the

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