

given to my country all I have to give, my husband, he led you to battle, he was left dead, as the most of your comrades, on the field. The dearest object left to me is this flag. This flag waved proudly over your ranks when you entered the

conflict. Soldiers, this flag I give to you, knowing that you will ever remember the dying words of my husband, "Never surrender the flag." The officer in command received it from her hand.

NOTICES OF BOOKS OF HOMILETIC VALUE.*

By J. STANFORD HOLME, D.D., EDITOR OF BOOK DEPARTMENT.

THE BOHLEN LECTURES, 1882. THE RELATION OF CHRISTIANITY TO CIVIL SOCIETY. By Samuel Smith Harris, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Michigan. New York: Thomas Wittaker.

This is a course of lectures on the foundation of the John Bohlen legacy, delivered at Philadelphia, 1882, by Dr. Harris, Bishop of Michigan. The subject, "The Relation of Christianity to Civil Society," is one of especial interest, and Bishop Harris is an enthusiastic American. The objective idea of the work may be gathered from a single sentence: "Here, under these open heavens, I believe the world is destined to witness the establishment of the true relation between Christianity and civil society." In the first part of the book he gives us the history of the planting and training of civil society in America; in the latter part he considers the tendencies, and what he regards as likely to be the ultimate issue. He presents some pretty strong claims for especial services in the cause of liberty in this country for parties not much heard of by some of us before. He is disposed to be a little iconoclastic in relation to some primitive idols, and he does not think that all the good seed came to this country in the "Mayflower." But, when he comes to discuss the great fundamental principles of our civil society, he is very clear, truly American, and very decided in his views.

These lectures will be found to be of especial interest to ministers, as they present many practical suggestions as to the treatment of a class of pulpit themes of interest, but not without perplexity.

THE INNER LIFE OF CHRIST, as Revealed in the Gospel of Matthew. By Joseph Parker, D.D., Minister of the City Temple, London. Vol. II, SERVANT OF ALL. By same author. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. Cloth, \$1.50 each.

We would refer our readers to the April (1881) number of THE HOMILETIC for a notice of the first of this series of discourses, "These Sayings of Mine." That volume was good, this is better. Perhaps we understand Dr. P. better, and therefore appreciate his work more than we did. The difference between this and other lives of Christ is that they are generally biographical or theological; this is homiletic. In them we have an army enrolled, and an arsenal stored with ammunition and equipments, and storehouses well filled with provender. In this we have an army mobilized, in active service. Every sermon is like a battle; and, as it is said that everything is

fair in war, Dr. Parker does many things in a way that would be inexcusable save in the heat of battle, or under the pressure of a deadly struggle. You never know what he will do next. But he never descends to buffoonery nor to charlatany. He is in dead earnest, and his earnestness gives dignity to things which, otherwise, would be inadmissible.

His style is rough, dashing, and bold; to refined taste sometimes offensive; especially if an occasional sentence be detached from its connection, and looked at by itself from a near point, it is a deformity like the crooked tree in the landscape; but when looked upon from a distance, this very deformity becomes a beauty.

Dr. Parker is a sort of Doré in the pulpit. He could not paint in colors to save his life, but in rough illustrations with the crayon he is one of the most vivid and effective artists that ever lived. This free, off-hand manner gives freshness to ordinary thought. Such smooth, sophistical, specious, and superficial fellows as Monseigneur Capel are dispatched in a way not agreeable, but quite effective. "The mischief," says Dr. Parker, "for which I blame the priests of every age, is, that the Book has been separated from all the literature of the world, and been locked up with a death's-head in a closet of its own."

The discourses in this volume are like framed pictures, as they have all the advantages which can be afforded by the accompanying prayers at each service.

THE PREACHER AND HIS SERMON: a Treatise on Homiletics. By Rev. John W. Eter, B.D. Dayton, Ohio: United Br. Publishing House.

This is a book on preaching, by a Moravian, and the source from whence it comes will secure attention and awaken interest. It is broader than most books on Homiletics. It discusses all kinds of sermons, from the most stately and elaborate to the most familiar and popular. The introductory sermon, the farewell sermon, the funeral sermon, the holiday sermon, sermons to the young and to the old, to man, woman, and child; in-door and out-door sermons; sermons with figurative illustrations, and sermons illustrated with figures on the blackboard and the canvass. In short, every possible kind of a sermon will be found to be discussed in this book, and it would seem to be Dr. Eter's purpose "by all means to save some."

The work is well written and well arranged.

*At the beginning of this new volume of THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY, the Editor of the Book Department wishes to say that the meshes of his net are quite too large to catch small fish; that the bad fish are quietly thrown overboard, and the good ones only are held up and commended as especially worthy of notice.