

Book Notices.

Studies in Theology.—VI. *Sin.* By RAN-
DOLPH S. FOSTER, D.D., LL.D., a
Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal
Church. New York: Eaton & Mains.
Toronto: William Briggs. Octavo, pp.
308. Price, \$3.00.

One of the most tremendous mysteries
of the universe is the existence of sin.
Its virulent evil is too lightly regarded in
the easy-going evangelism of the times.
In the oriental races there seems to be
slight consciousness of sin—either in the
gods or in their devotees. A thoughtful
study of this great mystery, of its guilt
and punishment, will lead to clearer con-
ceptions of the love of God in its forgive-
ness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Bishop Foster's great work is no mere
repetition of stereotyped views. He does
his own thinking with striking freshness
and originality. He protests at the outset
against the false conceptions which Mil-
ton and the poets and painters have given
of the primitive condition of mankind in
a paradise of beauty, having a perfect
ecstasy of life without care or trouble.
On the contrary he affirms "the world
where Adam was made and where he
commenced his life was this world as we
find it to-day, except not beautified by
the touch of cultivation. There were
hailstorms and snowdrifts, floods and
earthquakes, plenty and famine, before
and after our first parents came. They
were made for this world; for work and
toil and care; for an everyday existence,
and not for parade. Adam was new, but
the world was old and just as we find it.
To make his way through it, what is
necessary for us was necessary for him.
Hunger and want struck him the first
day he lived on earth. He needed clothes
and home as much as we do. The same
law of labour bound him that binds us.
The common fortunes of humanity were
his, its imminent liabilities and neces-
sities. He would grow old, his hair would
become gray and his eyes dim, and he
would need a staff."

Man was created innocent, but that
does not include the highest quality of
holiness which results from the resistance
of temptation and overcoming evil. The
author confutes the Calvinistic theory of
Hodge and Shedd as to the nature of sin
and the inheritance of anything like guilt
from our first parent. The latter part of

the volume is devoted to the discussion
of punishment of sin, and incidentally to
theories of the atonement. The subject,
however, is too large for review in a brief
book notice and will receive more ex-
tended treatment in a future number.
Bishop Foster's views are not inconsis-
tent with the Scriptural teaching that sin
brought a blight upon nature and penal
consequences which through heredity the
whole race shares.

From the Himalayas to the Equator.
Letters, Sketches and Addresses, Giving
Some Account of a Tour in India and
Malaysia. By CYRUS D. FOSS, D.D.,
LL.D., one of the Bishops of the Meth-
odist Episcopal Church. New York :
Eaton & Mains. Toronto : William
Briggs. Pp. 262. Price, \$1.00.

The missionary tours of the Bishops of
the Methodist Episcopal Church immeas-
urably surpass those of the first and
great missionary apostle of the Gentiles.
This book in its way is in spirit a con-
tinuation of the Acts of the Apostles.
Bishop Foss, accompanied by that de-
voted friend of missions, Dr. Goucher,
made a wide and intelligent inspection of
mission work in India and Malaysia.
The Bishop gives a graphic account of
the scenes which impressed his heart and
mind. Of the people of India he says :
"No words of mine can convey any just
sense of what I felt concerning the mea-
sureless and desperate degradation which
their heathenism had brought to hundreds
of millions of people in this country; nor
of the zest and relish with which I turn
away from such scenes."

Yet this dark field of heathenism is the
most successful mission of the Methodist
Episcopal Church. It has now 77,963
communicants, an increase of tenfold in
eleven years. The closing chapter is a
bugle-call for a forward movement in the
cause of missions. What is needed, says
the Bishop, is "not so much an awaken-
ing of India, but an awakening of Amer-
ica to some adequate sense of the splen-
dour of her present opportunities for
swift advances in the conquest of the
heathen world." The book contains
eighteen admirable pictures of striking
scenes in India, and portraits of Bishops
Thoburn and Foss, and Dr. Goucher.