

is, How is a sinner to enter upon that Christian life, how is he to come into living connection with, how is he to get a hold of the living Saviour. The answer to that is through trust in the atoning efficacy of His death. Otherwise, no sinner ever laid a hold of Jesus, otherwise no sinner could lay hold of Jesus. No human being has a vital hold of Christ who did not get it at the cross. And every one who has laid hold of Christ at the cross has there entered into that union with Christ which places him under the guarantee of the precious words, "Because I live ye shall live also." There is recalled a pronouncement of Beecher's, which will enable me to state my position and what I hold to be the truth more clearly. It was a response given many years ago to a question proposed for a Friday lecture room talk. The question was, I think, What have we to do with the work of Christ? It might have been the more special one, What have we to do with the death of Christ? But whether in the more special or in the general form, it amounts to the same thing, and Mr. Beecher answered it by saying, What we have to do with is not what Christ did, but with Christ himself. I protested then, and protest still, that the Son of God, as He is Christ, is and can be nothing to us apart from what He did. Christ is first and foremost presented to us as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. God hath set Him forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, and until He is so accepted, He is and will be and can be nothing to any man. But when He is so accepted, He is and will prove Himself to be everything to him who so accepts Him. Thus it is the truth of all truths that "what saves is the atonement," and that "a sinner is saved when he puts his trust in the death of Christ as by its atoning efficacy delivering him from condemnation. PHILAETHES.

#### Foreign Mission Receipts.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

Sir,—Permit me to correct an error in a few copies of the Presbyterian Record for March. On the first page, the receipts for Foreign Missions, at the date given, should be twenty-six (and not thirty-six) thousand dollars.

E. SCOTT, Ed. Pres. Record.  
Montreal, Feb. 26, 1895.

#### Psalms in Song Service.

Editor PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW:

Sir,—Shall we continue to sing and retain in our book of song service of our Church the Psalms and Paraphrases complete? This is one of the current Presbyterian questions. In seeking for pros and cons, the question "can we get anything better?" naturally suggests itself. For hundreds of years the Psalms and Paraphrases composed our sacred music for divine service. They are David's psalms and other portions of Scripture arranged in metre to suit our music, and consequently are of inspired origin. They were sung by Calvin and Knox and by other great men who founded Presbyterianism on a plain and orthodox foundation. They were sung by our ancestors in caves and heaths and on shaggy hill sides when they were not allowed to sing them under their roofs, owing to fierce persecution. In the family circle, in the sanctuary, on the battle field and at the stake rose the notes of the "sweet singer of Israel." And thus they have become sacred to the Presbyterian heart, and they have their place in our worship as an essential factor.

But, as well as being old, the Psalms are always new, like the life-giving fountain from which they are drawn. Even in this age of advancement, there is scarcely a thought which passes through our minds but which David seems to have realized and to have written in the Psalms. We have never experienced a joy or a sorrow or a desire that David did not experience. What more beautiful pictures of the love, the beauty, the glory and power of the Almighty can we find than David's.

Then the use of the Psalms in service makes us very familiar with one of the richest and

most wonderful books of the Bible, the Psalms. It is a certainty that of all Christians the Presbyterian is most familiar with the Psalms. He can repeat them one after another without a mistake. And this is owing to the extensive use of them in our Church. This circumstance alone is a great blessing. How good a thing it is to have our minds stored with such good verses! Even our beautiful hymns can scarcely vie in richness of praise and prayer and in humble submission to God, with the immortal notes of David.

In these years there is a good movement on foot that is making the young more interested in the Church. The great instrument for carrying on this work is the Endeavor; and, though I am young, I believe that sometimes we are apt to forget the old people too much. Young people naturally incline towards lively music, and generally prefer hymns to psalms with more solid music. But without saying anything against hymns, let us not drive out the Psalms and Paraphrases. They have a deep, strong, fixed position in the hearts of those good old people who came across the sea many years ago. We owe immense obligations to those substantial Christians, and we cannot do without their influence and their blessing. Many of them still live. They compose a large proportion of our elders. The hymns are dear to them, but not so dear as the Psalms which remind them of the old land across the sea and of the Church of their childhood. Let us not disregard the old folk by setting aside the Psalms and Paraphrases, but let us keep them unbroken and unchanged as part of our book of sacred songs. Yours, etc., J. J. W. S.

#### Literary Notes.

ST. PAUL'S CONCEPTION OF CHRISTIANITY.  
By Prof. A. R. Bruce, D.D. Edinburgh:  
T. & T. Clark. Toronto: Fleming H.  
Revell Co.

THE new study, Biblical Theology, is fast rising to a commanding position. It is creating a new and most valuable literature.

Until recently, students have been compelled to look to the continent for information on this subject. But within the past few years valuable original contributions have been made by Prof. Weidner and Stevens, on this side of the Atlantic, and by Prof. Bruce in Scotland.

This volume is the second of three that Prof. Bruce has planned. The first, "The Kingdom of God," treating of the "Teaching of Jesus," was published five years ago. In this one, the "Theology of St. Paul" is considered, and a third is to be devoted to "The Epistle to the Hebrews."

This work will not create such anxiety as the former, though there are not wanting traces of the author's liberal tendency, especially in concessions to opponents for an irenic purpose. In considering the sources of Paul's theology he confines his attention to the four Epistles to the Galatians, Corinthians and Romans, because these are generally conceded as authentic, thus giving us an echo from Laing, though he holds a brief for the supernatural.

The central theme of Galatians is "the relation of the law to the gospel"; that of Corinthians, "the apostleship of Paul," while Romans teaches "the election of Israel." These subjects receive elaborate treatment in separate chapters as of major importance, while the great doctrines of "Christ," "justification by faith," "the sonship of believers" and "the righteousness of God in redemption" are relegated by a supplementary treatment to a position of minor importance, though these last are certainly the central themes of Paul's theology. By this mode of selection Prof. Bruce shifts the centre of the circle to a point on its circumference, and in the attempt to get a broader view has in reality narrowed his range of vision.

Yet in his handling of the subject he presents a large amount of fresh and very fruitful material. Every chapter is of high value, but those on "The Moral Energy of Faith" and "Christian Life" deserve special mention.

No student of the teaching of the apostles

of the Gentiles can afford to do without this book. It is the product of a singularly full, strong, active mind, keenly susceptible to current views of the subject in hand. The style has the very desirable characteristics of clearness and precision, and leads the reader on with ever deepening interest.

While it is an extremely useful contribution to Biblical learning, its usefulness for the ordinary reader would be greatly increased by a good index. It is to be hoped that Prof. Bruce will add this in the next edition. This defect can be easily remedied, for many editions are sure to be called for.

SOUTH AMERICA: The Neglected Continent.  
Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co.

THIS little work is already beginning to awaken a deep interest in the spiritual condition of that almost unknown and sadly neglected part of the new world. The first sixty-five pages describe the mission tour of a deputization representing the Keswick work, headed by the well-known minister and evangelist, Rev. G. C. Grubb, M.A. The facts regarding the moral degradation and spiritual destitution of that vast land are almost heartrending. Romanism has had in South America a free field for centuries, and there you see in ignorance and vice the natural outcome of an apostate Church. The Romanism of South America is seen to be little better than the paganism of South Africa. The remainder of the book is a historical sketch of South America and its missions, by Miss Lucy E. Guinness, of Harley House, London. With pen and picture she presents in the most graphic form the deep needs of what she has well designated the "Neglected Continent." For the 37,000,000 of that vast continent there are at present, all told, only about 400 Protestant missionary workers, and there are whole republics with scarcely a solitary representative of the pure Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lying almost at our very door and accessible even by land, is it not a reproach to us who have been enjoying the blessing of a Protestant faith and civilization in the North to allow our next door neighbors to die in such darkness?

The chapters on the sufferings of the Huguenots and the sufferings and death of the noble Captain Allan Gardner in Terra del Fuego equal in thrilling interest any record of missionary history. This book should be scattered broadcast and read by all friends of missions.

#### Secretary Baer Makes an Announcement.

BOSTON, MARCH 2, 1895.

Mr. Editor. Please inform your readers that the next International Christian Endeavor Convention will be held in Boston, beginning Wednesday, July 10, and adjourning on Monday night, July 15, not on Sunday night, as heretofore announced.

Also let it be known that any one of your readers at present not a regular subscriber of *The Golden Rule* (an illustrated paper of twenty pages, published once a week, and the international representative of Christian Endeavor) can have a trial-trip subscription from any week in March until July 11 (four months and a half) for twenty-five cents.

The money and names should be sent to me. Kindly let this unprecedented *Golden Rule* offer be known.

Yours fraternally,

John Willis Baer.

[Mr. Baer's address is 640 Washington St., Boston.—Ed.]