

Book Notices.

The Midnight Sun. The Tsar and the Nihilist. By J. M. BUCKLEY, LL.D. Sq. 8vo, pp. 376. Boston : D. Lathrop & Co. Toronto : William Briggs. Price \$3.00.

Dr. Buckley is well known in Canada through his frequent preaching and literary visits, and is still more widely known as the accomplished editor of the New York *Christian Advocate*, the most widely circulated Methodist weekly in the world. Dr. Buckley is one of the keenest and shrewdest of observers, and few men living can so well describe what he has seen and studied. We say studied, for this volume gives the result of long and careful studies of the institutions, character and customs of the people among whom he travelled. Especially is this true of the comparatively little-known empire of Russia, to which the greater part of this volume is devoted. The dark problem of Nihilism is one which he especially investigated under conditions of much advantage. He regards the system as one of blind obstruction and anarchism, greatly retarding instead of promoting the progress of freedom and political development. The strange life and architecture and customs of the half oriental city of Moscow, of St. Petersburg, of Warsaw, the great fair of Novgorod, and a hundred other striking themes, are vividly brought before us. The chapters on the Greek Church, on the dissenting churches, on the Jews in Russia, on Russian life, and literature, and poetry, on unhappy Poland, etc., are of exceeding interest and instructiveness. The earlier part of the book describes an extensive journey through the scarce less interesting countries of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, including a visit to the North Cape and view of the midnight sun. The book is gotten up in the admirable style for which its publishers are noted, and is handsomely illustrated and attractively bound.

Essays, Reviews, and Discourses. By DANIEL D. WHEDON, D.D., LL.D. With a biographical sketch by his son, the REV. J. S. WHEDON, M.A., and his nephew, the Rev. D. A. WHEDON, S.T.D. 2 vols., pp. 352, 400. New York: Phillips & Hunt; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$2.50.

Dr. Whedon was one of the greatest minds American Methodism has produced. Though for many years from physical infirmity almost a recluse, he yet contributed more probably than any other to mould the higher thought of the Church. During his management of the *Methodist Quarterly* his own contributions were first sought and most eagerly read; and hundreds of Methodist preachers preserve their files of the *Review*, chiefly for his admirable papers. Dr. Whedon's was one of the most broadly receptive minds we have ever known—open as the day to the admission and calm discussion of the most recent theories of science and philosophy. He was without a particle of bigotry and was as devoid of prejudice as any man could be. He sought only truth and was prepared to accept light from whatever source it came. In these volumes his most valuable contributions to the *Review* are preserved. Among the subjects prominently treated are Arminius and Arminianism; the Doctrines of Methodism; the polity of the Methodist Episcopacy, on which he held rather High Church views; and other papers on practical religion. Volume II. is made up of statements, theological and critical, covering such ground as Theism, Anthropology, Evolution, Life, Religion and Science, Christian Evidences, Methodism, Christian Perfection, Eschatology, and the like. On these great themes he speaks with the wisdom of a sage and with the piety of a saint. His style is terse and strong, with a phraseology at times decidedly Whedonese. His