

BOOK NOTICES.

Wesley's Doctrinal Standards. Part I. The Sermons, with Introductions, Analysis, and Notes. By the Rev. N. BURWASH, S.T.D., Professor of Theology in the University of Victoria College. Toronto: Methodist Book and Publishing House. Halifax: Methodist Book Room. Price, \$2.50.

Some years ago an Ordination Service was being held in connection with the Wesleyan Conference, England, when the late Rev. Dr. Bunting said, "I have made it a rule for forty years past to read one of Mr. Wesley's Sermons daily."

The late Bishop Thompson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, said of Mr. Wesley's Sermons, "They are as clear as logic, as fervent in rhetoric, like a sea of mingled glass in apocalyptic vision; with lightning penetration he cleaves the various forms of error till he reaches the reservoir of truth."

When the now sainted William L. Thornton presided at the Methodist Conference in Canada, he uttered several golden sentences, one of which is the following: "I hope Mr. Wesley's Sermons will be the study of a life-time."

Sermonic literature, however, does not generally command a large sale. Few volumes of sermons reach a second edition; though there are some in all Churches which will always be regarded as superior productions, and will be more or less read. As Methodists, we have Benson, and Clarke, and Watson, and Beaumont. Then there are, among our American friends, the sermons of Summerfield, and Bascom, and Murney, and Marvin, all of which are worthy of renown. Still, the sermons of John Wesley must remain at the head of the list. Every Methodist family throughout the world should have a copy. They are good to read at all times; and it is hardly possible to read them without spiritual profit.

The volume of Dr. Burwash which

stands at the head of this paper will, we doubt not, cause these time-honoured discourses to be more extensively read. Methodist ministers would not consider their libraries complete if a copy of the well-known fifty-two Sermons were not there; but it is probable that with many they are kept merely for occasional reference. Now, however, that the attention of the Methodist Church of Canada has been called to the Wesleyan Doctrinal Standards, the Sermons will be read with increased relish. The Analysis and Notes which are appended to the various classifications into which Dr. Burwash has divided the Sermons greatly increase their value, and will cause all classes of readers to feel an interest in them such as they did not previously possess. Such as may have read Mr. Wesley's Journals and his other writings, may have read most of the Notes, as they are mainly historical, but, being appended to the Sermons, they possess a value which does not belong to their detached state.

The Preface and Introduction which Dr. Burwash has written to the Doctrinal Standards contain an amount of information which will be of great service to all, but especially to such as love to mark the progress of religious truth as exemplified in the experience of the founder of Methodism. Not a few have been pleased to state that Methodists regard Mr. Wesley's writings as though their author was infallible; but Dr. Burwash here shows that "it is to the spirit and type of this preaching that our obligations bind us. There may be in the Notes (on the New Testament) and Sermons many things, accidental and personal, to which no Methodist minister or layman would feel bound to profess assent. But Methodism demands that in all our pulpits we should preach *this Gospel*, and expound the Word of God according to *this analogy of faith*."