

Future," "The Exercise of Mercy optional with God," and the concluding one, "Faith the Sole Saving Act," are worthy of a patient and serious perusal.

Though the author makes no pretensions to literary excellency, the style is nevertheless elegant and perspicuous, and though it might be more concise, it would be difficult to erase, without either impairing beauty or destroying sense. The typography is everything that could be desired, and the binding in the best style of the art.

Indeed, as a religious work, it is entitled to the highest praise, and the candid, serious reader, if he finds fault at all, will find it with the seeming severity of the doctrinal applications, not with the doctrines themselves.—N.M.D.

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#### NEW VERSION OF THE PSALMS.

The New Version of the Psalms of David, recently published by the "United Presbyterian Church of North America," supplies a desideratum long felt in the religious world. The version which has been in use in all Presbyterian Churches of Scottish origin, during the last two hundred years, is harsh and inharmonious, and while its simplicity of diction may claim praise, the simplicity is too often gained by a sacrifice of elegance and all poetic beauty. As a poetical composition, Rous' amended version is very imperfect, and the frequent occurrence of redundant and defective syllables, and a general lack of proper, metrical arrangement, render correct congregational singing well-nigh impossible. Faithfulness to the original is no light praise to bestow upon any translation, and this is especially so when the translation is from the poetry of a language so entirely different in construction and idiom as the Hebrew is from English. The idiomatic differences existing between the two languages, the boldness of the metaphors, the strength of the similitudes, the daring personifications, and the dazzling and confusing recurrence of poetical figures of speech, so characteristic of all primary languages, and especially so of Hebrew, rendered the work of a metrical translation of the Psalms into English a task of no ordinary difficulty. Indeed, it may be safely affirmed, that a metrical translation of the Psalms, poetically correct, while affecting, as Sternhold and Hopkins, Rous and others did, an almost verbal faithfulness to the original, is an utter impossibility. But in all candour, it must be admitted that even considering the time when the present version of the Psalms was produced—the first year of