

be earnest. Emptied of self and filled with the Word, they will have that earnestness which the Word inspires. Can we be filled with the Spirit of Him who wept over Jerusalem, and the hardness of men's hearts, and sinfulness of men's ways, and not be earnest? Can we be filled with that Word which speaks of a terrible doom, and an undone eternity for poor Christ-rejecting sinners, and not be earnest? "Is not my Word like fire?" saith the Lord," and can we be filled with that Word and not be fired with earnestness? Can we be filled with the Spirit of "the most earnest of all earnest books," and not be earnest? Such preachers will be *successful*, too. Many people have very wrong notions as to what success in preaching really is. They think that ministers must be eloquent and attractive, and that to "draw crowds" and "fill up the pews," is success. But alas, many do this who are far from successful preachers. Successful ministers are they who win souls for Christ and bring sinners into the Kingdom. Now, if a man preaches the Gospel truly and earnestly, he cannot be but successful, for the Gospel "is the power of God unto salvation." The preacher who just echoes the Word of the Lord, though he may not be eloquent or attractive, will be successful, for God's "Word shall not return unto Him void." "Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto Thee." T. A. N.

Book Review.

THE STORY OF NAAMAN, by A. B. Mackay, Minister of the Gospel, Montreal; Lecturer in Sacred Rhetoric and Literature, Presbyterian College; author of "The Glory of the Cross," etc. Hodder & Stoughton, London, England, 1882.

A powerful, instructive and entertaining little book just from the press. The author's former work—of which we are glad to note a second edition has lately been issued—led us to expect something well worth reading in the volume under notice. We have not been disappointed. From beginning to end the reader is held in rapt attention. There is an earnest, manly ring throughout, which stands out in pleasing contrast to the flabby, sentimental style usually adopted in works of this kind. The design, as stated in the preface, is "to present the truths of the Gospel embedded in the Old Testament story of Naaman, the Syrian, in such a way as, with God's blessing, to arouse and convince the careless, guide the anxious inquirer, and instruct the servant of the Lord." The book opens with a very realistic description of the most ancient city on earth, and then proceeds to deal with the story of Naaman in a manner entirely original and entertaining. The points are well made, and the appeals to the sinner very direct. Mr. Mackay is sometimes peculiarly happy in expressing himself. Thus, on p. 77, he says Naaman wished to be dealt with "as a great man who happened to be a leper, not as a leper who happened to be a great man." Further on he refers with keen satire to those people whose chief aim in life is to *get on*. This is the positive, and when it has been mastered, "There will be no harm in adding to it *er* and *est* to form the comparative

and superlative, and thus your life will be summed up by the words *get on, get honour, get honest*. The addition of the last two will, at a late stage of life, be found useful and attractive, though at the beginning they would have been a hindrance." The chapter devoted to "The Captive Maid," breathes a spirit of tenderness and pathos, mingled with manliness, which one cannot but admire. The "parable" on the Human Programme, (pp. 57—59), is thrilling in the extreme, and we only regret that space forbids an extracting. Altogether, "The story of Naaman" is a volume of great merit, and we trust it will receive an unlimited circulation, and be instrumental in winning many souls to Christ. VARIETAS.

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