

The Gospel of Buddha, According to Old Records. By PAUL CARUS.
Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. \$1.75.

This is a peculiar book. It is an exposition of essential Buddhism. But it is an exposition adapted to the western world, hence (1) stripped of its most absurd legendary accretions, (2) dressed in a rhetorical garb often Hebrew rather than Hindoo; (3) subjected to a process of selection or pruning which emphasizes the points having some analogy to Christianity; (4) brought into touch with the Hegelian pantheism and evolution of our day. We cannot say whether the object of the writer is to discredit Christianity, or to recommend Buddhism, or to prepare the way for a new and eclectic form of religion. If the latter is the purpose of the present work, the question at once arises, What new element of truth does Buddhism offer which is not already presented by Christianity in far more perfect form? Buddhism is essentially ethical mysticism. It ignores religion, unless its praise of Sakya Muni be considered a religion. The chapter on Anthapindikā is a denial of a personal God. In so far, therefore, as Buddhism presents us with truth, it is purely in the ethical line and lacks all the elements of power which spring from religious light and motive. If there be a God, the knowledge and love of Him can scarcely be less mighty than the knowledge of the pre-eminence of right-doing over all forms of selfish desire. Furthermore, if there be a God, the sphere of ethical duty is infinitely extended, for every act of life is related to Him in whom we live, move and have our being. And if this God be the universal father, all duty is here carried up into a supreme unity and perfection. We cannot, therefore, wonder at the historical fact that the light of Buddha has brought perfect peace to but a very few minds. Wherever the higher elements which make up our religious nature assert themselves, the teaching of Buddha, far more than even the law of Moses, must fail to make perfect, and leave its followers still all their lifetime subject to bondage.

John Brown and his Men: With Some Account of the Roads they Travelled to Reach Harper's Ferry. By Col. RICHARD J. HINTON (Contemporary and Co-worker of John Brown). Illustrated with 22 authentic portraits. Cloth, 12mo, 752 pp. [Vol. XI. American Reformers Series], \$1.50. New York, London and Toronto: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

While nothing succeeds like success, criticism and reproach follow failure, but the episode of John Brown and his men will live forever in the memory of a nation, and it is a question whether a quickening spirit in the historic refrain,

"John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave,
While we go marching on,"

was not as great a factor, if not a greater one, even, in the solution of the slavery question than the emancipation proclamation. In this book we have the truth about its hero and his followers. The author, himself their contemporary and fellow-laborer, was, in Kansas, correspondent of the *Boston Traveller* and the *Chicago Tribune* at the time when John Brown there began his career as an active Abolitionist. His being on the ground at the time, his account of "the roads they travelled to reach Harper's Ferry," is authentic, reliable and of the greatest interest, particularly his narrative of the struggle in Kansas, which he gives in detail, and which is both graphic and vindictive. For thirty years the author has been collecting the material for this 752-page book, in which he contributes the

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