

—something so sad, so high, full of presage, that one can never weary of it. When I read John, it always seems to me that I see him before me, reclining at the Last Supper on the bosom of his Lord, as if his angel held the light for me, and at certain parts would place his arm around me, and whisper something in my ear. I am far from understanding all I read, yet often John's idea seems to hover before me in the distance, and even when I look into a place that is entirely dark, I have a pre-sensation of a great, glorious sense, which I shall some day understand, and hence I catch so eagerly at every new exposition of the Gospel of John. Lange, in speaking of the significance and the spirituality of John's writings, and of the influence they have exerted in past times, expresses himself in equally appreciative language, and says: 'John has exerted in all ages the mightiest influence on the course of the Church. This influence is far from being fully appreciated. In the ancient Church it found a concrete embodiment in the Johannine school, whose import is yet further to be understood. In the Middle Ages it was John who in his writings comforted and supported the Church, when under the corruptions of the hierarchy she was attempted to despair. And it has long since been perceived that the Gospel of John forms the culmination of the evangelic history, as theology will more and more acknowledge that John's type of doctrine forms the consummation of the apostolic theology.' H. & F. R.

## SELECTIONS.

### HOW TO HEAR THE GOSPEL.

Rowland Hill paid a visit to an old friend a few years before his death, who said to him, "Mr. Hill, it is just *sixty-five years* since I first heard you preach, and I remember your text and part of your sermon. You told us that some people were very squeamish about the delivery of different ministers who preached the same gospel. You said, "Suppose you were attending to hear a will read, where you expected a legacy left you, would you employ the time in criticizing the manner in which the lawyer read it? No, you would not; you would be giving all ear to hear if any thing was left to you, and how much it was. That is the way I would advise you to hear the gospel."

Good advice, well worth remembering *sixty-five years*.

Dr. Judson thus wrote to a friend of the trial: "So the light of your dwelling has gone out, my poor brother, and it is all darkness there, only as you draw down by faith some faint gleams of the light of heaven, and coldness has gathered your hearthstone; your home is probably desolate, your children scattered, and you a homeless wanderer over the face of the land. We have both tasted of both bitter cups once and again; we have found them bitter, and we have found them sweet too. Every cup stirred by the finger of God becomes sweet to the humble deliverer. Do you remember how our late wives and others clustered round the well-curb in the mission premises, at the close of day? I can almost see them sitting there, with their smiling faces, as I look out of the window at which I am now writing. Where are ours now? Clustering around the well-curb of the fountain of living water, to which the Lamb of heaven shows them the way; reposing in the arms of infinite Love, who wipes away all their tears with his own hand. Let us travel on and look up. We shall soon be there. As sure as I write and as you read these lines, we shall soon be there. Many a weary step we may yet have to take, but we shall get there at last. And the longer and more tedious the way, the sweeter will be our repose."

### TEMPTED TO BE A CHRISTIAN.

A venerable lady in New York of the olden time, speaking of the influence which first won her heart to God, said that "Mr. Whitefield was so cheerful that it tempted her to be a christian."

"The preacher of the word," says Leighton, "be he never so powerful, can cast this seed only into the ear, his hand reaches no further; and the hearer, by his attention, may convey it into his head; but it is the supreme Father and Teacher above, that carries it into the heart, the only soil wherein it proves lively and fruitful." 