

have also been established in America similar to the Bampton and Hulsean in England, and the Baird and Croal in Scotland, which have been conducive to the promotion of theological learning.

Dr. Purves is to us unknown by name or fame ; probably this arises from our avowed ignorance of American theology. All that we know of him is that he is the pastor of a Presbyterian church in Pittsburgh. He was the lecturer of the Stone foundation for the year 1888, and these lectures were delivered in Princeton. After a careful perusal and investigation of his work, we feel bound to speak of it in high terms of commendation. It exhibits great learning and research, an impartial and candid spirit pervades it, and the style is remarkably clear and attractive. The interest in the subject is awakened at the commencement, and is kept up to the close of the work.

The subject selected by Dr. Purves is highly important, and has not as yet been so thoroughly examined as it merits. The writings of Justin Martyr impart to us information concerning the state of the Christian Church in the middle of the second century. Now this, apart from the Apostolic, is the most important age of the Church. It is in this age that we can find the solution of many important questions, as, for example, the relations of Jewish and Gentile Christianity, the nature of the organisation of the Apostolic Church, the influence of philosophy upon the Christian doctrines, and especially the origin of the books of the New Testament. From the time of the Apostles to the middle of the second century there is a comparative paucity of Christian writings which have come down to us: the short Epistles of Clemens Romanus and Polycarp, some doubtful Epistles of Ignatius, the more than doubtful Epistle of Barnabas, the so-called Shepherd of Hermas, and the lately-discovered Teaching of the Apostles comprise nearly all that has reached our times. We know from other resources that there was no lack of writers both among the orthodox Christians and the early Gnostics, but their works have perished. And thus it happens that for information regarding the early post-Apostolic