

The Rev. H.
Heber Evans.

St. John the Author of the Fourth Gospel (1) is a little volume in which Mr. Evans gives many extracts from a variety of divines and other writers, and many excellent reasons of his own for believing that St. John is the author of the Gospel which has come down to us under his name. This Gospel has been called the battle ground of the New Testament, and there is no doubt that if its authenticity could be denied and its genuineness disproved, Christianity would receive a very rude shock. We are therefore thankful to find so excellent a defender as Mr. Evans, whose work ought to convince any one that is not wholly given over to doubt or disbelief; and it certainly will strengthen the faith of those who carefully peruse it. It is a scholarly and notable piece of controversial writing.

Mr. Evans has also written a work (2) in which he desires to prove that St. Paul was the author of the Third Gospel and of the Acts; and besides this, another (3) to show that the last twelve verses of the Second Gospel may probably be attributed to him. In these matters Mr. Evans is somewhat in advance of his contemporaries; but he supports his position with abundance of learning and skill. The method he pursues would probably enable him to prove a great deal more if he wished to do so; but Mr. Evans will have done a good work by directing his efforts towards "strengthening the position of these parts of the New Testament against rationalistic attacks." The parallelism between the Gospel according to St. Luke and the Acts is well brought out, and the table of reference for the phrases common to St. Luke's Gospel or the Acts, and to St. Paul's writings, is very striking. The difficulty which there is in the alleged discrepancy between the Acts and the Epistle to the Galatians, Mr. Evans says he must leave abler scholars and better divines to deal with; and he does not attach a very great measure of importance to Dr. Hobart's work on the medical language of St. Luke. There is in Note D of the second part a curious analogy drawn between Ezra and St. Paul.

(1) *St. John the Author of the Fourth Gospel.* By the Rev. H. Heber Evans, B.A. London: J. Nisbet & Co., 1888.

(2) *St. Paul the Author of the Acts.* By the same. London: Wyman & Sons 1884. Two Parts.

(3) *St. Paul the Author of the Last Twelve Verses of the Second Gospel.* By the same. J. Nisbet & Co., 1886.