

1. Those who hold evolution to be the philosophical basis of their science.

2. Those who hold that sociology is distinctively an economic science, not exclusively founded upon biology.

3. Those who recognize Providence as the author of all social laws and the superintendent of their working.

In the "presentation of such scriptural facts, truths, and principles as bear upon the social relations which men sustain to each other," the writer lucidly discusses: "The Origin of Society," "The Basis of Society," "The Ethics of Society," "The Destiny of Society."

The North American Review for January, 1896, contains three articles that are of special value to the minister.—The first is THE FUTURE LIFE AND THE CONDITION OF MAN

THEREIN, by Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone. It is the first of a series based upon Butler's *Analogy*, but intended to develop broad reaches of thought beyond the range of that great work.—The second is FOREIGN MISSIONS IN THE LIGHT OF FACT, by Rev. Judson Smith, D.D., Foreign Secretary of the A. B. C. F. M. Dr. Smith's position and experience enable him to speak as an expert and authority in reply to the accusations and innuendoes, originating in shallow ignorance and blatant infidelity, that have occupied so much space of late in the secular papers.—The third article is THE CRISIS IN THE EAST, by Karl Blind. It recalls the efforts at reform in Turkey in 1876 and their hopeful beginning and dismal failure, and gives a view of the condition of affairs from the point of view of the Russophobe, socialist, and humanitarian.

NOTICES OF BOOKS OF HOMILETIC VALUE.

THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF IMMORTALITY. By Stewart D. F. Salmond, M.A., D.D., Professor of Theology, Free Church College, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Scotland: T. and T. Clark, 1895. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price \$3 net.

This thick octavo of over 700 pages is the most elaborate and thorough study of its subject—a subject of absorbing and perpetual interest to mankind—that has ever been undertaken. The author states clearly his point of view:

"The present inquiry limits itself to the question, What is the witness of Scripture on the subject? The words of Christ are to me the highest authority, beyond which I seek no other. . . . For convenience' sake the subject of the book is described as the Christian Doctrine of *Immortality*. But it will be seen that the word 'Immortality' is used in the large sense which Paul gives it when he speaks of 'this mortal' putting on 'immortality.' Life, eternal life, the immortality of the man, not the immortality of the soul, is the message of the Bible, alike in Old Testament and in New, in Christ and in apostle, in John and in Paul."

His study of the subject has not carried him off into any of the popular and attractive but superficial views of the day. He says:

"The result has been to confirm me in the conviction that the teaching of Christ and the whole burden of the Christian Revelation make the present life decisive for the future."

The work is divided into six books—expansions of six lectures originally delivered in Edinburgh, the thirteenth series of the Cunningham Lectures connected with the Free Church of Scotland. The themes of the books are: 1. "The Ethic Preparation." 2. "The Old Testament Preparation." 3. "Christ's Teaching." 4. "The General Apostolic Doctrine." 5. "The Pauline Doctrine." 6. "Conclusions."

The last book is especially valuable in its summary of conclusions. After showing what Christianity has done for the hope of immortality, in translating "a guess, a dream, a longing, a probability into a certainty," Dr. Salmond strenuously sets the teachings of Scripture over against the doctrines of annihilation and conditional immortality, the doctrine of restorationism, and allied doctrines. The views of the whole range of teachers, on these subjects, are thoroughly canvassed in the light of the Scriptures. His conclusion is as follows:

"The doctrine that man's immortality is determined by the spiritual attitude to

which he commits himself here, that the moral decision made in the brief opportunity of this life is final, and that the condition consequent on it in the other world is one of eternal blessedness or the opposite, is a doctrine of almost overwhelming grandeur."

The Appendix treats of "Nirvana and Arhatship," "The Buddhist View of Identity," "Persian Ideas on the Fate of Souls," "The Interpretation of Job xix.23-27," and other topics.

In short this work of the Scotch professor—even though one may not indorse all its positions and conclusions—is so fundamental and comprehensive as to claim a place in the library of any minister who would be thoroughly furnished to give instruction to his people on these subjects in which they are always, but especially just now, intensely interested. It is a big book, but upon an all-important subject.

PHILOSOPHY OF THEISM. By Alexander Campbell Fraser, LL.D., Hon. D.C.L. Oxford, Emeritus Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1895. Price \$2 net.

An able volume of the Gifford Lectures, on the problem of problems. It treats of "The Final Problem;" "The Final Problem Articulated: Ego, Matter, and God;" "Universal Materialism;" "Pantheism;" "Pantheistic Necessity and Unity: Spinoza;" "Universal Nescience: David Hume;" "God in Nature;" "Man Supernatural;" "What is God?" Dr. Fraser is one of the best known of recent Scottish philosophers. This first series of lectures is to be followed by a second series. It is well that, after Professor Friedlander, of Berlin, was allowed on the same foundation, contrary to the express purpose of the founder, to unsettle the faith of men with his Tübingen rationalism, some one should be called to help settle that faith once more.

PATRIARCHAL PALESTINE. By A. H. Sayce, Professor of Assyriology, Oxford. With a Map. London: Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. New York: E. and J. B. Young & Co., 1895. Price \$1.50.

This is a topographical, ethnological, and historical reconstruction of the Palestine of the age of the Patriarchs, by the distinguished Oxford archeologist, from recent investigation of the monuments and other archeological remains. It is a notable contribution along the line of work that has rehabilitated the Patriarchs and Moses, the