

audacity to bring Musical Services—so fashionable now—to the test of Scripture and logic. It is written in a most earnest spirit by one who is devoted to the Master's service and glory, an able writer and scholar, who has brought both Hebrew and Greek literature to his aid, and has gone into the matter critically. He begins by telling us the subject "is one of great practical importance," which it really is. He does not advocate carelessness or slovenliness, which are too often *supposed* to be identical with an unmusical service. But his war is with artificiality, or the performance of a part in religious worship as a professional actor, rather than being a worshipper, worshipping "in spirit and in truth,"—the figure of Hendiadys, explained by the author to mean "*Really spiritually.*"

After explaining the nature of true worship under the New Covenant, our author produces twenty-seven reasons to prove that Musical Service, as such, is wrong.

One striking peculiarity of his style is to break off from the subject to illustrate or explain in detail some text or word bearing on the point in hand. To avoid the inconvenience of parentheses he has added eighteen important foot-notes, besides references, and four appendices. These are by no means the least instructive part of the book. If your ideas are on the other side of this question, answer and refute it, cross swords with the author if you can, and he is a foeman worthy of any Ritualistic steel.

*Strange Scenes* (7) are indeed strange scenes to Western eyes. They are a rich Palestine experience, one resides there in reading it: and in the light of Eastern life many a dark and hitherto apparently unmeaning passage of the Bible now appears full of power and beauty. *Strange Scenes* give some of the cream of Mr. Neil's Biblical discoveries in the Holy Land which throw new light on the Bible, though at a price very much less than we have usually to pay for other men's skimmed milk. The illustrations, forty in number, are by Mr. Henry A. Harper, the well-known Palestine artist. They form a striking and beautiful pictorial comment on many Scriptures which are opened up by the author to the surprise of the reader. This is a work which book-distributors should scatter by thousands, for it is not only a marvel of cheapness—probably the largest handsome penny book ever produced—but one of a thoroughly popular kind, well fitted to awaken indifference and to dispel doubt.

(7) *Strange Scenes*, by James Neil, M.A., with 40 original illustrations. 120,000—1d. Woodford, Fawcett & Co., 1887.