

Dr. Joseph Parker is another English Nonconformist who cannot be let alone. He is an outstanding man. You will not be in London long without hearing about him, or hearing him. You may not like him, indeed, you may at first detest what you call his egotism and pedantry. He is egotistic and pedantic, and may be otherwise offensive : but --and you will qualify your adverse criticism with a but--you will go back to hear him a second and a third time, until you will come to admit that, with all his faults, Joseph Parker is a mighty pulpit force, not only in London, but throughout Christendom.

Dr. Parker is a man of many gifts but he is first of all a preacher. He enjoys preaching. He would rather be a successful preacher than anything else on earth or in heaven. He is always preaching. As an author he is known throughout the English-speaking world, but it is as an author of sermons. Whatever else he has written will not live. His "Ecce Deus," would not be known to-day were it not for its associations with a decidedly superior book, "Ecce Homo." But his pulpit discourses, in one form or another, have been very widely circulated. Those previously published under other titles have been collected and issued, in popular commentary form, as part of the series being rapidly added to by the publication regularly of his expository lectures on the several books of Scripture : and the series is known as "The People's Bible."

It is needless to tell any reader of the Book Shelf about "Parker's People's Bible." All that is needed is the announcement that another volume has appeared, *The Proverbs**, and that it is one of the strongest, strong with the strength peculiar to the author, that has been published. Dr. Parker's} genius finds scope here, and exposition of Solomon's practical philosophy is plainly congenial.

It is not intended that "The People's Bible" should be critical and discuss questions of date and authorship. It is intended mainly for "the people," and hence the Solomonic authorship of *The Proverbs* is not debated as a question of primary importance. Taking Solomon as the collector or editor as well as originator, he passes on to the consideration of the contents of the moral note-book of the man who swept the whole circle of social experience and whose errors in life add cogency to his pleas and urgency to his moral exhortations. The style is Dr. Parker's own, incisive, epigrammatic, trenchant.

To those who have an ear for Parker, there is always music and wisdom and warning in his words : to those void of the Parker sense there is nothing but jargon and windy words. There are not a few otherwise

* *The Proverbs. The People's Bible : Discourses on Holy Scripture Vol. XIII.* By Joseph Parker. D.D. Toronto. Willard Tract Depository, 1897.