

man who has the openness, the responsiveness, the sympathetic insight, necessary to benefit by any really great book will find himself, under the genial influence of the Scotch professor, growing, not only in intellectual understanding and appreciation of the great truths of the Gospels and in admiration of the character of the Christ of these Gospels, but also in the Christ-like spirit and in likeness to the Christ-like life.

Dr. Bruce is one of the best, he is certainly the most genial, of the Scottish guides of theological thought. But he is not merely or mainly a theologian. Dr. Flint is a more scientific theologian. Dr. A. B. Davidson is a keener critic. But Dr. Bruce has a truer philosophic insight than either, and is more candid and more human. In all his work, both as author and as professor, the human element predominates. He is at once the teacher and friend of his students. To him they go when Doubt, that active agent in theological matters in Scotland, would conquer Trust. They have confidence in him, and "such reverence for his blame," that with him they cannot but be candid. Many a young man bereft, by the cruel kindness of criticism, of his parental faith, has found, during such intimate association with his professor, a faith in the personal Christ that nothing can ever shake. And if the Free Church passes through the present crisis—a crisis which may have been brought about partly by Dr. Bruce's teaching—and comes out into a larger faith and more Christlike life, it will be due, not a little, to the teaching and influence of the same Glasgow professor, whose whole life is a protest against traditionalism and the legal spirit, and, at the same time, an appeal to the spirituality of religion and the liberty wherewith Christ makes his people free.

This thoroughly Christian spirit pervades his whole discussion of the character and training of the men who had been with Jesus. It is one of the few recent books that no minister can afford to be without.

Just a year ago a somewhat extended review of Ker's "History of Preaching,"* appeared in this magazine in the form of two articles on "The History of Preaching" and "Pietism in Germany and Evangelism in Canada." An American edition of this book having been recently issued by the Armstrongs, in good style and cheaper than the English, we are afforded another opportunity of saying, what we cannot say too often so long as theological students and ministers leave the book unread, that no man has a better right to speak on the subject of Preaching than had the accomplished and eloquent Dr. John Ker, and that he never spoke to better purpose than in these lectures. Now, after a year's interval, we take up the book and with all the delight of a first perusal follow the line of preachers who, with such varied ability but some of them with the very highest, made the pulpit a power in the world wherever Christianity has gone. The opening lectures are historical and, while not exhaustive, give a clear and succinct view of the place and power of preaching in the early Christian, the Eastern

* LECTURES ON THE HISTORY OF PREACHING. By the late Rev. John Ker, D.D., Professor of Practical Training in the United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: D. T. McAtish, 1889. Pp. 407. \$1.50.