

ruin, as he clearly shows. Mr. Converse's argument is certainly an original one, and contrary as a whole to the received ideas taught in our social science and political economy text-books. And yet it must commend itself to all fair-minded, thinking people. It is a timely little treatise, and its publication will shed much light on a most perplexing subject now before the public mind, and help to guide the public sentiment to a wise decision in the matter.

*D. Lothrop & Co.* "Woman in the Pulpit," by Frances E. Willard. This book is the outgrowth of a symposium article written for *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* by Miss Willard at the request of its editors, and published in December, 1887. "Shall Women be Licensed to Preach?" was the form proposed: Miss Willard on the affirmative side, and Henry J. Van Dyke, D.D., Sr., on the negative. The space allotted to each was six pages. Miss Willard's MS. so much exceeded the space, that after allowing 10½ pages to her, only about half of it could be used. Dr. Van Dyke's answer followed in the next issue of the *REVIEW*, covering seven pages. This book contains these two articles, the balance of the unused MS. of Miss Willard, letters from several eminent persons in favor of her views, forming an introduction, and an elaborate "Reply to Dr. Van Dyke's Counter Argument," by Prof. L. T. Townsend; so that Dr. Van Dyke's views, courteously given in seven pages, are pitted against not only *all* the guns of Miss Willard, and an array of great names, but against Prof. Townsend's exegetical effort, covering 42 pages of the book! We state these facts in simple justice to Dr. Van Dyke's side, for which he spoke. In these conditions he and the negative side of the question had but little showing. The readers of the book are in justice bound to give due weight to these facts. We do not blame Miss Willard in the matter; many will think she acted a magnanimous part in admitting into her book the adverse criticism of Dr. Van Dyke.

As to the *merits* of the grave question itself, as here presented, there is room for diverse judgments. We are not called upon to decide. But our opinion is, that on *purely exegetical grounds*, Miss Willard's position is not established. Evidently she herself is not an exegete; and we are frank to say that Prof. Townsend, in our judgment, does not help her cause. He has great confidence in his own exegetical work, and handles Dr. Van Dyke in rather a cavalierly fashion; and yet the vast majority of the greatest exegetes of the ages are against him in the rendering of these passages. Indeed, on

the exegetical principles he argues in reference to 1 Tim. ii: 11; and 1 Cor. xiv: 34, 35, it were easy to read almost anything into the sacred text!

On other grounds than Scripture exegesis, Miss Willard has the strongest claims to recognition as a woman sent of God to do a grand work. In influence and power she is the foremost woman of the age. We count it an honor and a privilege to be numbered among her personal friends and be addressed by her as "Brother." She holds as exalted and as influential a position to-day, in the church, and in the world of Christian activities, as if the hand of the Bishop had been imposed upon her. No churchly ceremony or ecclesiastical commission could add one cubit to her stature, or one iota to her dignity and usefulness. Her Apostleship to the organized Christian Womanhood of the world is a manifest *fact*. As a *Plea* for Woman; for woman's uplifting and enlargement of sphere and hearty recognition as man's co-equal and co-laborer on every field of evangelistic and mission work, at home and abroad, this book—we mean her part of it—is grand, inspiring, masterly. Let her, and her host of kindred workers, go on in their glorious crusade. God's providence goes before them and opens doors faster than they can enter them; calls to higher spheres and grander work faster than they can be fitted for them. And if, in the ongoings of His all-wise Providence, He sees it best to put women into the pulpit, the boon, the responsibility, will come in due time! God is never in a hurry. He will not crowd his people faster than they can go. To act on the advice given on the last page of this book, would be to confess the weakness of their cause, to misread the present trend of Providence, and to postpone indefinitely the day of "Woman's Ecclesiastical Emancipation." Miss Willard is not the only leader and reformer that has ample reason for praying to be delivered from her friends.

*A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago.* "Witnesses to Christ." A Contribution to Christian Apologetics, by William Clark, Professor of Philosophy in Trinity College, Toronto, 1888. These lectures were delivered on the Baldwin Foundation in 1887. The titles of the lectures are as follows: Phases and Failures of Unbelief, Civilization and Christianity, Personal Culture and Religion, The Unity of Christian Doctrine, The Insufficiency of Materialism, The Pessimism of the Age, The Resurrection of Jesus Christ (two lectures). We have space only to commend these lectures as a clear, manly, vigorous, and timely defense of the faith as held by the Evangelical Church,