

apostle, without attempting to give either a historical or grammatical interpretation of his language, although it is obvious that the author by no means overlooked either in his preparations. They are brief, clear, suggestive, though to our mind not always correct or satisfactory expositions of consecutive portions of the word of God,—and are marked by the same peculiarities of style and sentiment which characterize the previously published sermons of the author.\*

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PROSPERITY AND PEACE; or, *The Church and the World of The Last Days. A Sermon.* BY THE REV. DAVID SMITH, D.D., Biggar. 12mo. pp. 29. Edinburgh: Oliphant and Co. 1860.

This able discourse was delivered first in the North U. P. Church, Biggar, on Sabbath, 26th June last, at the Missionary Anniversary of the Congregation; and afterwards in Greyfriars Church, Glasgow on the Monday after the Communion, and is now published at the request of John Henderson, Esq., of Park, and some others who, we presume, heard it at the time last referred to. We cordially concur in their high appreciation of it, and are glad that it has been given to the public.

The Biggar Missionary Anniversary is no mean occasion. Since the dispensation of the Lord's Supper became frequent in Scotland, the vast gatherings which took place in the several congregations, at the yearly celebration, have very naturally ceased; and we believe, upon the whole, a better order of things has succeeded. An annual rallying, however, had its advantages and these are very happily secured at Biggar, in connection with the cause of Missions. The Anniversary is held about midsummer. Two Ministers, generally men of mark, are engaged as assistants. One of these preaches on the Saturday afternoon, and a Missionary Prayer Meeting is held in the evening. On Sabbath, the Pastor and each Assistant gives a Sermon: and on Monday forenoon the Assistant, who did not preach on Saturday, delivers a discourse. The Report is then read, and the Funds are allocated. An interval now takes place, after which a Missionary Meeting is held, and a number of Ministers from the neighbourhood, and perhaps some from a distance, having assembled, a series of addresses is delivered, and the people retire in the evening well instructed and stimulated respecting the progress of the gospel. An impulse is thus imparted which tells very favourably on the contributions during the year; and the Anniversary is a sort of epoch, which very beneficially occupies the thoughts of the people, and is frequently a subject of pleasant and profitable conversation.

Our space at present will admit of only a very brief and cursory notice of Dr. Smith's admirable Sermon. The text is Isaiah ii. 2-4. "There are two things," the author observes, "to which by the text we are invited to attend: First, the great prosperity of the church in the last days: and secondly, the influence which the prosperity of the church

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\* For this Review we are indebted to a Friend.