

We expect that a large circle of readers will welcome the translations of the three great commentators which are now issuing from the office of Mr. Hodges. First and most important in many ways is the *Great Commentary of Cornelius à Lapide upon the Four Gospels* (2), which has been translated, and is edited, by the Rev. T. W. Mossman. It is published in parts at a small price, as well as in volumes, and is extremely well printed. The work of Cornelius à Lapide is well known to most scholars and divines, but to those who have not yet made acquaintance with it we can recommend this edition for its carefulness and general accuracy. Students will soon find out the author's bias, but they need not follow him wherever he leads; and it will not be difficult to put aside his Romanistic teaching, and find instruction from the stores of learning which he has collected. Cornelius à Lapide brought to the task he undertook a vast amount of patristic learning, and he seems at times to think nothing too trivial to be set down. His "analogical," "tropological," and "anagogical" treatment of various passages is often amusing and always instructive. And he does not fail to give his opinion without hesitation when the occasion demands it. For example, in Matt. iii. 12, he says "for unquenchable the Greek has ἀσβέστω, *unextinguished, eternal*. Hence a stone which always burns is called *asbestos*. The fire of hell is ἀσβεστος, *inextinguishable*, not only because it cannot be quenched, but because it does not consume the wicked whom it burns; nay, it excruciates them living and feeling with endless torments. The error of Origen is here condemned, who thought that the pains of hell would not be eternal, but after the completion of the great cycle of Plato would come to an end." Cornelius à Lapide does not avoid difficulties, nor slur them over; his learning is at times curious, but always deep; and no one can study his work without gaining a better insight into the meaning of the Gospels. The Preface contains valuable essays on the excellence and majesty of the Gospels; on their number, order, agreement, and discrepancies; on the various versions, and the titles prefixed. The text given is that of the Authorised Version in small type, and the notes follow the several chapters verse by verse.

*A Commentary on the Holy Gospels* (3), by John Maldonatus, is the next on this list. It is translated and edited by G. J. Davie. The first volume contains St. Matthew's Gospel, chaps. i. to xiv. Maldonatus is described as being "one of the most learned theologians, and one of the finest geniuses of his age. He was gifted with admirable quickness of wit, and great subtlety and penetration, and indefatigable diligence in study, by which he made himself master of the Greek, Hebrew, Syriac, and other Eastern languages, to which he added a profound knowledge of the Greek and Latin fathers and historians of the Church." One main purpose of his Commentary apparently was to expose what he considered to be the errors of Calvin; but without entering into any controversy, there is