

This august theme is expounded with a deep spiritual insight and an intense moral earnestness. The new appreciation of Christianity, the discipline of doubt, the return of faith, the new help from history, the broadening influence of humanity, are set forth in a series of eloquent chapters.

Canon Liddon is quoted as authority for the story of a Presbyterian minister, who, in behalf of Queen Victoria and in her presence, offered this prayer: "Grant that as she grows to be an old woman she may be made a new man; and that in all righteous causes she may go forth before her people, like a he-goat on the mountains." But the good Queen listened without a smile, and the good preacher was conscious of nothing incongruous.

The Life and Literature of the Ancient Hebrews. By LYMAN ABBOTT. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xiii-408. Price, \$2.00

Dr. Lyman Abbott's purpose in this book is to trace the development of the religious, political and literary history of the Hebrew people as revealed in the Scriptures. He accepts very many of the teachings, perhaps most of them, of the "new criticism," as he calls it, and he seeks to show that these do not imperil spiritual faith, that, on the contrary, they enhance the value of the Bible as an instrument for the cultivation of the spiritual faith. He claims that they have given it a new and deeper spiritual significance. Would that all the new critics were as reverent, as sane, as devout as Dr. Abbott. We may dissent from many of his conclusions but be profited much by his spiritual insight. Let the battle rage fiercely as it may around these sacred books, still the great essentials of salvation—the things that cannot be shaken—shall remain. Though the fires of criticism blaze about it yet like the sacred bush in Horeb, *nec tamen consumebatur*.

The Church of Pentecost. By BISHOP J. M. THOBURN. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. New York: Eaton & Mains. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 392. Price, 50 cents. By post, 62 cents.

This book is worthy to be placed beside William Arthur's "Tongue of Fire." It is on the same august theme and inspired by the same fervid zeal. It was the outcome of Bishop Thoburn's missionary experiences in India, and was written on steamship voyages in the Eastern seas. It is a message specially needed to the

churches on the threshold of this new century. Its theology is expressed in the story told of Dr. Daniel Curry, editor of the *New York Christian Advocate* and of the *Methodist Review*. On his death-bed Dr. Curry dreamed that he approached the gate of heaven. The keeper asked:

"Are you a Christian?"

"Yes," he answered, "I trust that I am."

"Have you been faithful to God ever since you professed to be a Christian?"

"No, I cannot say that I have; I have too often been unfaithful." Other searching questions followed, all bringing out more clearly the failure of the applicant, until, overwhelmed with utter shame he hung his face with a deep feeling of sorrow and remorse. At this moment the glorified Saviour of sinners appeared and said, "I have undertaken for Daniel Curry," and the gate opened and heaven was his to enter and enjoy.

Similar was the experience of our own Dr. Egerton Ryerson. As he lay upon his death-bed the present writer said to him: "It must be a great comfort for you to feel that you have been able so faithfully to serve the land of your birth and the church of your choice."

"No," replied that saint of God, "I find no comfort in that. All my comfort is this: 'I the chief of sinners am, but Jesus died for me.'"

These words of Wesley and St. Paul are the only comfort for us all in the supreme hour.

"The counsel of Elder John Robinson," says Bishop Thoburn, "to the Puritan emigrants who were to sail for the unknown wilds of America in the *Mayflower*, to look for new light to be revealed from the sacred page, was one of the most remarkable utterances which has been heard during the Protestant era. The Bible is a mine of exhaustless truth, and the Holy Spirit in every age assists the devout student who searches its pages for the truth of God as for hidden treasure." Thus the seventy-second Psalm refers primarily to Solomon and his glory, but, "despite all critics and all criticism, the best spiritual instincts of Christendom will continue to make the seventy-second Psalm testify of Christ and of the triumph of His kingdom. Why? Simply because the Holy Spirit has long since put His seal upon the song, and given it a deeper and broader and higher meaning than the Hebrews of Solomon's era could have comprehended."

This book is a marvel of cheapness at fifty cents, and should become a fountain of inspiration to many thousands.