

ous authors he refers to are discriminating and trenchant. He himself takes a different view—and we believe substantially the true one—and he presents many interesting examples of cases healed through the prayer of faith. Dr. Asa Mahan, widely known in this country, now in London, furnishes several of these, one being that of his wife, cured of both cancer and tumor. All the witnesses cited are credible witnesses. No confidence can be placed in human testimony if they are to be branded as "impostors," or under "delusion." Dr. Stanton then gives the Scripture argument at length in support of his own theory. No one can read this paper and not be interested in the subject.

PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PENTATEUCH. By Prof. Edwin C. Bissell, D.D., *Bib. Sacra* (Jan.), 28 pp. So prevalent are loose views on the "Pentateuchal question," and so destructive is the trend of much of the criticism of the day, that it is refreshing to read these papers (this is the fourth), so scholarly in spirit, and conservative, and yet so exhaustive, based on careful Scripture exegesis. No one can follow this discussion from the beginning to the end, it seems to us, and fail to see that the old and commonly received faith of the Church rests on solid ground, and is justified by the best scholarship of the day.

CHRISTIANITY AND ÆSTHETICISM. By Washington Gladden, D.D., *Andover Review* (Jan.), 11 pp. The relative rank of art and morality is ably discussed here. "At the end of nineteen Christian centuries, we find this truth generally recognized among Christians, that the end of religion is right character; that no philosophy of religion will stand that does not make character the supreme thing. But a change has come over what is called 'polite society'; morality is sacrificed to æstheticism, the standards of which are purely selfish." The literature of the day is "saturated with this spirit"; not only are Christian sentiments eschewed, but "there is a marked absence of philanthropic sentiments from much of our latest literature." This view agrees with the views expressed by Julian Hawthorne in *Princeton Review* on "Agnosticism in American Fiction."

THE SALVATION OF INFANTS. By Prof. E. V. Gerhart, D.D., *Reformed Quarterly Review* (Jan.), 40 pp. An elaborate, striking article from the pen of a leading divine of the German Reformed Church, who has made the subject his study for years, and here gives the results of his labor, moved to it by Dr. Prentiss' article on the same subject in *Presb. Review* of July, '83. That article attracted wide attention, as this one is sure to do, and called forth no little criticism for its "bold divergence from the doctrine of the Westminster standards concerning the salvation of infants." Dr. Gerhart opposes Dr. Prentiss' main positions with great learning and skill. His own theory, however, will, we apprehend, find but little favor. He holds, in a word, that infants dying in infancy pass into a "trans-

earthly period" of existence, *i. e.*, enjoy a special after-probation until the judgment-day. The subject is one of very great importance. Dr. Charles Hodge, though a staunch leader of orthodoxy, believed in the salvation of all who die in infancy, and we think this is the common doctrine of evangelical Protestants at the present day.

A STUDY OF THE MIND'S CHAMBERS OF IMAGERY. By James McCosh and Prof. Henry F. Osborn, *Princeton Review* (Jan.), 22 pp. A highly curious and suggestive paper of a psychological character. Dr. McCosh describes the general laws and characteristics of our mental imagery; while Prof. Osborn gives the results obtained from a special inquiry into the subject by means of printed questions circulated among a large number of college students. There is much that is suggestive in the article.

EVANGELICAL PREACHING. By D. Bergstresser, D.D., *Lutheran Quarterly* (Jan.), 14 pp. Pure Protestantism and Primitive Christianity are shown to be synonymous. Subjective and objective Christianity, in their vital and reciprocal relation to each other, are the two factors on which depend the success of evangelical preaching. Would that such evangelical preaching as is here described were sounded throughout the world, and let all the people say AMEN!

EVOLUTIONARY ETHICS AND CHRISTIANITY. By Goldwin Smith, *Contemporary Review*, via *Eclectic* (Feb.), 15 pp. An admirable paper, showing that morality has no bottom if Evolution as held by Herbert Spencer and his school is true. As Dr. Van Denslow, an advanced evolutionist, puts it, the commandment against stealing or lying is the law of the "top dog, and nothing more." "When the belief that Evolution is all, and that Evolution brings forth only to destroy in the end" (the admitted bearing of these mechanical theories of the universe upon ethics) "has thoroughly penetrated the human mind, will not the result be a moral chaos?" We commend this thoughtful review to our readers. In Feb., 1882, Mr. Smith had an article in the *Contemporary* "On the Basis of Morality," which Herbert Spencer replied to in the March number.

DR. R. HEBER NEWTON'S RATIONALISM. By George W. Dean, D.D., *American Church Review* (Jan.), 19 pp. This is a fearless and trenchant criticism on "The Right and Wrong Uses of the Bible," which has served to make this preacher and author's name notorious. It needed not this severe handling to show that Dr. Newton has but little claim to real, independent scholarship. He does little more than repeat the ideas and criticisms of others. "His real religious guides are Emerson, whom he calls 'our great seer'; Matthew Arnold, whom he pronounces 'the finest biblical critic of England'; Herbert Spencer, Ewald, Max Müller, Goethe, and Hegel." To apply "Rationalism" to such bald semi-infidel views as this Presbyterian has preached and published, is a mild term. It is significant to see at this juncture such a scathing arraignment and rebuke in the *Church Review*.