

the translations of Wickliffe, Tyndale and Rogers, Coverdale, Cranmer; the Geneva Bible, Bishop's Bible, Rhemish Testament, Douay Bible and our own authorized version, the Bible of King James. Mr. Gemmel refers to the interesting fact mentioned by the late Albert Barnes of Philadelphia, that "the descendants of John Rogers, who was the first martyr under English Mary, to the tenth and eleventh generation are found in the United States of America to the present day. With a brief exception, the eldest son in the family has been a minister of the Gospel, some of them eminently distinguished for learning and piety." The Review of Current Literature, embracing the German and American Religious Periodicals, and Notices of New Books, is interesting as usual.

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THE DYNASTY OF DAVID; or Notices of the successive occupants of the Throne of David; By the Rev. James Duncan, Bayfield; with Memoir by the Rev. John Logie. Toronto: James Campbell & Son. 1872.

The readers of the RECORD will remember an interesting sketch of the Rev. James Duncan, of Bayfield in the Presbytery of Huron, which appeared in the July number of last year. At the close of that sketch, it was stated that a volume of Mr. Duncan's sermons would shortly be published in order to preserve some memoir of one whose Christian character, amiable disposition and superior attainments called for lasting remembrance. The promise then made is fulfilled in the *Dynasty of David*. The book consists of discourses, of varying length, upon the good, bad and indifferent occupants of David's throne, from the ruddy youth taken from the sheepcote of Bethlehem to the Holy Child cradled in its manger. In each of them certain features of character are set forth, for warning or example. Some of these, as they are briefly summarized by the author, rather reveal a tendency to antithesis and alliteration, than express the full lesson of the regal life to which they are appended. Thus David is modest and ministerial, Rehoboam haughty and humiliated, Uzziah distinguished but dishonoured, Josiah pious and progressive &c., At the close of each delineation of character, follow questions bearing upon the subject treated of, which, as stated in the preface, are intended for the use of families. The preface is an exceedingly modest one, claiming a very humble position for the book, a position we believe a good deal below its merits. There are few more interesting studies than that of Scripture characters, and among them the monarchs of Judah present numerous points of interest. We think that the late Mr. Duncan caught, as a rule, the prominent features of the characters he portrayed, and that the lessons he derived may be of great value to the young, and the advanced student alike. We should not be doing our duty by the Church and its rising literature, however, did we not draw attention to the undue weight of style, with which interesting themes, that rich and wellstored minds have sent abroad by the press to seek for a home in the hearts of our people, are generally overlaid. A little less ballast and a little more sail would take the valuable craft up many a shallow stream, and give them headway against many a downward current that now they can neither float upon nor stem. We do not by any means say that this statement is specially applicable to the *Dynasty of David*. There are other books compared with which it is light and even playful. Still, without running into the impudent and unsafe, clipper-like style so much in vogue among American authors, we should like to see something more of the *suaviter in modo* joined with our