

Doctrine should be the backbone of every sermon. The sermon should not be, however, a mere skeleton whose divisions are like the bones in the valley of Ezekiel's vision—very many and very dry. It should be clothed with flesh and beauty, instinct with life and ardent with the burning flame of piety.

The teaching of our Lord was doctrinal teaching. Doctrine underlies the Sermon on the Mount. The parables were uttered and the miracles wrought to illustrate doctrines. Many of the utterances of Christ are solemn and sententious enunciation of doctrine.

This book is, we judge, perhaps with the exception of Watson's masterly "Institutes," the fullest and ablest exposition of Wesleyan Theology that has yet appeared, and is a contribution of great value to that growing body of higher literature that contradicts the shallow slander that Methodism is antagonistic to literary culture. In the discussion of the august themes which it treats, it is fully abreast of the best modern criticism. The chapters on Inspiration and the canon of Scripture successfully meet the modern cavils on these subjects. Our grand Arminian theology as to the extent of the atonement and the universality of the gospel vocation, is amply vindicated. The history of the Augustinian and Calvinistic theory is concisely traced. Mr. Pope's interpretation of what may be called the philosophy of

Christ's mediatorial work, which has been the theme of much controversy, will be read with great interest. The doctrines of full assurance of salvation and of entire sanctification, once almost exclusively characteristic of Methodism, but now, happily, widely adopted by sister Churches, are demonstrated in a very cogent and, we judge, in an irrefragable manner. The scripturalness of our baptismal usages, both as to the subjects and mode of the ordinance, is effectively vindicated. One of the most important sections of the book is that on eschatology. The solemn themes of the kingdom of the dead, the intermediate state, the second coming of Christ, the general resurrection, the last judgment, and the new heavens and new earth, are treated with reverence, discrimination and fidelity to the Scriptures. The errors of the "soul-sleepers," annihilationists, restorationists, and other current heresies, are successfully confuted. The reading of this book is a discipline for both head and heart. The preaching of him who carefully and prayerfully studies it, should be richer, stronger in convincing speech, and more fully accompanied by the demonstration of the Spirit and of power. His views of Divine truth will be clearer, grander, and more symmetrical; and he will be the better able to communicate that spiritual knowledge to others which he more definitely apprehends himself.

NOTES ON LITERATURE, &c., &c.

—Friends and admirers of Charles Kingsley will (the *Athenæum* says) be glad to hear of a new edition of "Alton Locke," with a prefatory memoir by Mr. Thomas Hughes, describing fully the sayings and doings of "Parson Lot" during the troubled period of 1848-56, in the events of which—the Chartist agit-

ation and the great movement towards association—Kingsley took so noble a part. This edition will also contain a reprint of the pamphlet, "Cheap Clothes and Nasty," written at that time, and intimately connected with "Alton Locke" both in subject and treatment.

—The Berlin correspondent of the