

2. Our Lord himself and the Apostle Paul both repeatedly refer to a process of moral judgment, which goes on, under the preaching of the Gospel. "He that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God." "For judgment came I into this world that they which see not may see, and that they which see may become blind." But neither in the teaching of our Lord, nor in that of St. Paul, does this process of moral judgment going on in the consciences of men under the light of the Gospel displace the doctrine of a final and universal judgment as taught by the Church.

3. As to the passage in Heb. vi. 2, which seems to have suggested to our author his entire line of thought, it appears most reasonable to take it with our best expositors, as a "judgment the consequences of which are eternal" (Moses Stuart). N. B.

"The Marriage of William Ashe." By Mrs. Humphry Ward. Author of "Lady Rose's Daughter," etc., etc. Pp. 563. Price, \$1.50.

This is, we judge, the most noteworthy work of fiction of the season. It exhibits all Mrs. Humphry Ward's subtle analysis of character and mental and moral vivisection of the faults and foibles of humanity. It is a tragic story illustrating the eternal truth, "To be weak is to be wicked." The influence of heredity and environment in the fascinating and foolish Lady Kitty Bristol conspire to wreck her brilliant opportunities and bring disaster on all whom she loved, even more than on herself. She was the daughter of a perverse and foolish mother; she was badly trained in a French convent and was a creature of impetuous caprices and reckless selfishness. Like some beautiful butterfly she flits from one scene of pleasure to another, only at last to singe her wings and perish miserably.

Mrs. Humphry Ward exhibits her familiarity with what Thackeray's Jeames would call "the Upper Ten." In her pages noble lords and ladies, ministers and prime ministers play their brilliant parts. It is alleged that William Ashe, the hero of the story, is a life-size portrait of William Lamb, afterwards Lord Melbourne, prime minister at the accession of Queen Victoria, and that Lady Kitty is the Lady Caroline Lamb, who fascinated and exasperated the circles of English nobility, and figured in both Disraeli's and Bulwer's

novels. The malign spell of Geoffrey Cliffe, the poet adventurer, who seeks to succor the Greeks in the Balkans, is a not untrue portraiture of the character of Lord Byron, "the mad, bad man, whom it was dangerous to know."

Lady Kitty continually managed to thwart, and at last with a wreck, her husband's political ambitions by her caprices and extravagances, most of all by writing a book in which she bitterly satirized and caricatured his political chief, Lord Parham, who was her own and her husband's guest at their country house. The tragedy darkens towards its close, but a gleam of light comes into it, as William Ashe takes his last leave of his fond and foolish wife in a mountain inn of the Alps, where she dies in her husband's arms, with his kiss of forgiveness on her lips. The pathos of its last scene softens the tragedy of the story. The book abounds in Mrs. Humphry Ward's felicitous phrasing and vivid character study. The scene passes chiefly in town and country life in England, and in the wan and faded palaces and galleries of Venice. The moral of the story, as Ashe discovered it, is thus expressed:

"The Christian, no doubt, would say that his married life had failed, because God has been absent from it, because there had been in it no consciousness of higher law, of compelling grace.

"Humanity and God." By Samuel Chadwick. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xv-356. Price, \$1.50.

Readers of *The Methodist Times* will know what a vigorous and vivacious writer is the Rev. S. Chadwick. These sermons were preached in the regular course of the author's ministry, and afterwards at the Southport Convention and the Northfield Conference. As a justification for their appearance, if any were needed, the author cites the fact that every one of them has been blessed of God to many souls. With the prayer that they may be blessed in print as they have been blessed in speech, and that Christ's name may be glorified, they have been given to the public. They have a virile strength, a spiritual insight, an intense moral earnestness and fervor that cannot fail to make them profitable to all who read. They treat such subjects as "Humanity and God," "Sin and Grace," "The Incarnation and Its Glorious Purpose," "The Omnipotence of Faith," "The Spirit Filled Life," "Christian Perfection."