

Christianity and Socialism. Being the twenty-third Fernley Lecture, delivered in Cardiff, July 28th, 1893, by REV. WILLIAM NICHOLAS, M.A., D.D. Octavo, pp. 220. London: Wesleyan Book Room. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, paper, 70 cents; cloth, \$1.

The great questions of the present day are not so much political, or even economical, as social questions. It is well, therefore, for the Church to address itself to their consideration. No more appropriate theme could have been selected for the Fernley lecture for the current year than this important topic. The author has treated it in the most thorough and comprehensive way. He discusses Socialism in Germany, France, Austria, Russia, England, with ample mastery of the copious literature on the subject. He treats the Socialist objection to Christianity, and the relations of Socialism to liberty, equality, fraternity. He devotes two chapters to "Economic Ideas of Socialism," and "The Iron Law of Wages." While admitting that the present state of society is unsatisfactory, the author, with a genial optimism, recognizes its hopeful tendencies, the impossibility of establishing socialism, and the sufficiency of Christianity. This book is of sufficient value to form the subject of one or more articles which we shall endeavour to secure from a competent pen.

Henry Ward Beecher; the Shakespeare of the Pulpit. By JOHN HENRY BARROWS, D.D. With Portrait and copious Index. New York, London, and Toronto: Funk & Wagnall's Company. Cloth, 12mo. Pp. 557. Price \$1.50.

This masterly biography contains, also, some reminiscences by Rev. S. B. Halliday, Mr. Beecher's assistant in the pastoral work of Plymouth Church. It is, moreover, valuable on account of numerous contributions by distinguished contemporaries of the pulpit orator, which show what a profound im-

pression he made on various gifted minds. It is further enriched by many of Mr. Beecher's characteristic utterances, and contains an account of his closing days. In swift, flowing narrative the author gives the story of Mr. Beecher's spiritual inheritance, his interesting early development, his various achievements, sorrows, and triumphs. The main theme of the book is his richly endowed personality, and to a large extent he has been allowed to speak for himself.

Much contemporaneous historical matter is interspersed through the book. The copious index adds to its value. "Henry Ward Beecher; the Shakespeare of the Pulpit," is Vol. IX. of the "American Reformers" series, edited by Carlos Martyn, an educational series which has been received with much public favour.

The Students' Commentary. A complete Hermeneutical Manual on the book of Ecclesiastes, by JAS. STRONG, S.T.D., LL.D. Quarto, pp. 144. New York: Hunt & Eaton. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

This is the most ample and adequate study of the Book of Ecclesiastes which we know, although we have but a slight acquaintance with the vast literature of the subject, a mere enumeration of which fills eight large pages of this book. The accomplished president of Drew Theological Seminary gives, first, a corrected Hebrew text, with full critical apparatus, then a metrical rendering in blank verse, followed by a rhythmical translation to bring out the parallelism of the original, frequently with rhymed couplets. An extended introduction and tabular analyses follow. Then comes a very full exegetical and practical commentary and copious grammatical notes. The book of Ecclesiastes is one of the most difficult, and at the same time, one of the most interesting and instructive, portions of Scripture.