

The Presbyterian Pulpit.

"FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED": By Wm. Richards, D.D., New York. Price 75 cents.

This volume of 157 pages, is a series of eight sermons, one of a series of similar volumes to be published from time to time under the caption of "The Presbyterian Pulpit." The titles of the sermons are:

1. The Brother for whom Christ died.
2. A Complaint and an answer.
3. The Monotony of Sin.
4. The Three Taverns—a Missionary Sermon.
5. The Power of Responsibility—a Word to Students.
6. But if Not."
7. "The Gates of the City."
8. Home of the Soul.

As the titles indicate the sermons are on intensely practical topics, bearing directly on the spiritual life of the Christian. They are also intensely evangelical, and tend to bring the subject of personal religion closely home to the heart and conscience of the reader. They furnish excellent reading and food for earnest thought for the leisure hours of the Sabbath—for the leisure hours, in fact, of any day or evening. Such sermons might well be utilized for Sabbath services in communities that are only occasionally supplied with such services. One of the sermons, "But if Not," is on the text of a powerful sermon preached by the late Principal Grant, to which the writer had the privilege of listening some years ago—the answer of the three Hebrew children to King Nebuchadnezzar recorded in Daniel 3:18.

"THE SINLESS CHRIST": By Rev. Geo. T. Purves, D.D., late pastor of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York. Price 75 cents.

This volume is another of a series of sermons preached by a noted divine, who for a number of years filled a prominent place among the Presbyterian ministers of the great American city. Speaking of him the editor of the volume says: "His religious life was sincere and simple. The trait, which those near to him would probably call distinguishing and outstanding was his affectionate loyalty to Jesus Christ, his Redeemer, Lord and Friend." The sermons throughout are permeated with this loyalty. The titles of the sermons are:

1. The Sinless Christ.
2. The Crisis of a Soul.
3. Confessing Christ.
4. Samson's Riddle.
5. Peter's Shadow or Unconscious Influence.
6. The Way, the Truth and the Life.
7. Earthly and Heavenly Lights.
8. The Waiting Dead.

Both of these volumes are from the Presbyterian Board of Publication. It would be well if literature of this kind could take the place of much of the namby pamby stories which form so large a part of the Sunday School libraries of the present day, which may be exceedingly entertaining, but in which the presentation of religious truth, is so exceedingly thin that sometimes its presence can scarcely be discerned.

Two other volumes of sermons similar in scope and design to the foregoing are announced by the American Presbyterian Board of Publication—one volume furnished by President M. Woolsey Striker, D.D., L.L.D., both Divines are eminent in Presbyterian circles in the United States.

M.

Notes by Nemo

At this season of the year there is much benevolent activity especially with regard to children but we need to be reminded that the Christmas spirit must be at work all the year round, and that the special manifestation of it is, so to speak, the rich blossom of a tree that in a Christian clime flourishes through all seasons. The following extract from an article by a friend of mine in the old hand is a good illustration. Mr. Hope is an earnest and active minister of the United Methodist Free church and takes a deep interest in this philanthropic work. Since the time when Spurgeon started his famous orphanage there has been much increase in these forms of social service. Almost all the communions have taken part in the movement to help the sick and poor. Of course they always did this in certain ways. The reproach of caring only for "the saving of the soul" was never absolutely true of the evangelical churches; but in recent years "the service of humanity" has been more fully developed and more carefully organized. There is more meaning than ever in the words, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these."

Brothers and Sisters of the Christmas King.

God keeps the race young by the gift of little children. And surely, but for this the hearts of individuals would grow old as quickly as their bodies. The new life that God sends into the world—what is it but the giving of Himself, a fresh impartation of His own life for the rejuvenation and enrichment of mankind? A little child is a centre in which some rays of Divine light and beauty are focused, and from which they radiate to gladden and purify the lives of its brothers and sisters. The truth of this, as applied to Mary's Babe, born in Bethlehem, we readily acknowledge. Of that Child it is supremely true, and it is true also, though in a less degree, of all children, because of their kinship with Jesus. He, the Christmas King, is the Brother of them all.

About an ordinary child there is much of winsomeness that holds us captive by its gracious power. It is because the beauty of the Lord is at the heart of child-nature, and is manifesting itself to our half blind, but not wholly unresponsive, souls. But how soon some children lose the grace of childhood! Age, in the life of our real nature, is not a matter of years. There are men who have completed their three score years and ten who are not as old as some children who have barely seen a decade. They have the secret of eternal youth, known to the writer of the 103rd Psalm.

One mission of the Church is to prevent men from growing old, and to save children from losing the true child life, which is forever in the heart of Christ. And, while it is evident that of the forces which rob the children of this life, sin and want and misery are among the most potent, it is equally true that organizations like the Children's Home do a successful and gracious work in saving them from these life-destroying influences. Have we not seen photographs of children, who, when rescued from the streets, have borne in their faces the suggestion of age rather than childhood, but, after being blessed for a few months with the life giving love and care in the Children's Home they have had the brightness and

freshness of other children, and we could then think of them as being like those who climbed upon the Saviour's knee and brought gladness into His face and voice in the sweet days of the olden time.

Flaking or Marring the Past.

We make or mar the past. A son takes his father's or his grandfather's name, and that name, whatever it has been in the past, is going to be a different thing by what that son shall make of it. It may have been high in an honor which shall be almost obliterated in its degradation. It may have been wholly unknown, and become widely, honorably mentioned. A nation takes the heritage of the pilgrim's travels and trials, and what that nation goes on to become shapes in a measure the reputation of the founders. They become greater and more worthy as it becomes greater and more worthy. So we of the present day hold in our hands, not only our own welfare and reputation, and the shaping of our future, but the reputation of those who went before us, whose works we pass on to their final fulfilment or their final failure.—Sunday School World.

Mr. Barrie has recently scored two successes, one a novel, "The Little White Bird," and the other a drama, "The Admirable Crichton." The reviewers and critics speak very highly of this work; it is different in kind from "The Window in Thrums," but shows the same insight, quickness of sympathy and delicacy of style. It is evident that to call Mr. J. M. Barrie a member of "the Kail-Yard School" does not now meet the case.

Gems from an Old Divine.

If you would have your spirit kept free from the fear of Wrath, study to keep them free from the power of sin.

Unity in judgment is very needful for the well-being of Christians; but Christ's last words persuade this, that unity in affection is more essential and fundamental.

Sin drieth up all the sap and sweetness of the creature comforts.

When you have accommodation outwardly to your mind, do not build your nest in it; the leaves of prosperity will not cover you always: there is a time when they will fall. O! how base a scent it is, to smell and savour nothing but this present world.

Rev. Mr. Binning, Govan, Scotland.
Died 1653.

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