

of Jesus Christ above it. We know no volume of sermons (3) of such solid worth, and in which all the pages are of such uniform excellence. It is essentially a fitting book to be given to a cultured person who imagines that evangelical preaching is only suited for the half educated. We want more writers of the stamp of Dr. M'Cosh, who will be able to wipe off the reproach that the unorthodox publish more thoughtful and readable books than the orthodox.

*Words of Life* (4). In the modest preface to this volume the author deprecates criticism; but there is no reason why he should; for the contents are well worth reading. The sermons deal with important topics of religion in an interesting way, and are useful as being statements on the orthodox side made with clearness, calmness, and candour. They are, we should judge, more likely to do good by being addressed to a larger circle of readers than can be found at Stamfordham, where they were preached. If Mr. Merson's hearers could fully appreciate his references to Epicureans, Stoics, philosophers, not to say agnostics, they must be above the usual run of village congregations.

*The Incarnation of God and other Sermons* (5) are discourses which have a high aim, although they do not strike us as being much out of common. The author truly says that a good deal of the power of a sermon depends on the delivery of it, and he tells us that in one or two instances he made the attempt to recompose them before committing them to the press, and that for "some time he has been convinced that the purpose was a mistake; the original spirit and expression vanished in the process. So it is very probable that these sermons were better to listen to than they are to read; but they may serve the primary aim of prolonging the influence of the ministry when the preacher could no longer officiate in person."

*Pen Pictures from the Life of Christ* (6) are, we imagine, sermons, though not described as such. To each picture is affixed a passage of Scripture, which, though on the preceding page, is still a text for what follows. The pen pictures are not very brilliant or very striking, but they are faithful; and as sermons they have the merit of being short. For family reading they will be found useful.

(1) *The Imperfect Angel and other Sermons.* Thomas G. Selby. Hodder & Stoughton, 1888.

(2) *The Baptism of the Spirit.* By Charles New. 5s. London: James Nisbet & Co., 1888.

(3) *Gospel Sermons.* By James M'Cosh, D.D. James Nisbet & Co., 1888.

(4) *Words of Life.* Sermons on Christian Doctrine, Experience, and Duty. By David Merson. London: R. D. Dickinson. Price 4s. 6d. 1889.

(5) *The Incarnation of God and other Sermons.* By Rev. Henry Batchelor. London: Hodder and Stoughton. Price 5s. 1880.

(6) *Pen Pictures from the Life of Christ.* Rev. J. Cullen, M.A. London: R. D. Dickinson. Price 4s. 6d. 1889.