

unity and the several books studied in chronological order. For the objects in view, however, the familiar order of the English version serves a good purpose. Those who cannot afford a more exhaustive work like Weiss', or who would lose their way in his superabundance, and therefore prefer something less cumbersome and less technical, will find Dods' little book entirely satisfactory.

It may seem a long step from the critical school of Cave and Dods to the workshop of men like A. N. Somerville, the venerable missionary evangelist of the Free Church of Scotland, the bosom friend, in the early days, of Robert Murray McCheyne, and during later years, of the saintly Bonars. And yet it seems quite natural to take up the next book on the Shelf, a volume of sermons by the late Dr. A. N. Somerville.* The two schools are not so far apart as many suppose. In all that makes for righteousness of life and fulness of service, in desire to know God, in unwavering loyalty to Christ, in love for the souls of men, they are at one. The successors of the Disruption Worthies are not the men who, parrot-like, repeat their words, or imitate their tone and gesture. Their true successors are those who desire to know Truth at first hand, to stand loyal to Duty against all odds, to face present-day problems in present-day light, and, above all, to know, be faithful to, and serve their Master Christ. That oneness of spirit makes Dods and Davidson and Bruce and Stalker and Smith and Drummond and Martin and an ever increasing number of kindred souls in the Free Church, the true spiritual children of Chalmers, Cunningham and Candlish, Guthrie, McCheyne and the Bonars. Craven-hearted criers after Use and Wont may be children after the flesh, but the true seed are they who breathe the same free spirit and stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ makes His people free.

"Precious Seed" opens with a fine vignette portrait of Dr. Somerville—a very striking face. The biographical sketch gives such personal items of information as strangers require,—his labours at home and abroad,—visits to the Jews,—to heathen lands—and to our own Canada. Indeed he barely escaped being a Canadian himself, having been called to St. Andrew's Church, London, in 1845.

Of the sermons, which constitute the large part of the book, little need to be said. They are unique in their way, like the preacher himself, earnest, glowing, evangelical. There is no great variety of subject, nor is the method of treatment unusually fresh. They may not stimulate thought

*Precious Seed Sown in Many Lands. Sermons by the late Rev. A. N. Somerville D.D., with biographical sketch. London: Hodder & Stoughton. Toronto: Willard Tract Depository. 1890.