

*THEOLOGICAL AND LITERARY SOCIETY.*

THERE is space in this issue for only a very condensed report of the last three meetings of the Society. On December 4th Mr. S. J. McArthur read his paper on the Christian Ministry. The question he examined was: "Did Christ purposely establish a ministry like that of to-day, or do we find it explanatory in the conditions of human nature?" It was a very creditable attempt to answer this question. Whatever might be said in favor of Christ's purposely establishing a Christian Ministry, the essayist held that much could be said on the other side also. The discussion that followed was lively, instructive, and largely shared in by the members. We were greatly delighted to have with us this evening the Rev. Allan Simpson, who took part in the discussion with all the ardour of youthful enthusiasm. It reminded him of his own student days, a time to which every minister looked back with more or less of fondness. Mr. Simpson throughout his remarks showed himself to be a robust Presbyterian. Our President concluded the discussion by laying before us an admirable summary of the origin and development of the Christian Ministry.

On 11th December the subject was Dante's *Paradiso*, Cantos 8-13. In the absence of Mr. J. E. Wallace these were taken up by the President, and it is needless to say that the leading points were clearly brought out and thoroughly expounded. A question arose in the discussion which elicited considerable mirth. "Why," it was asked, "did Dante put the Theologians in the sun?" To our amusement we discovered that the questioner's own idea was that Dante put the Theologians there because of the immense heat which their disquisitions had generated.

There was no meeting on January 15th, but on the 29th Mr. J. H. Kirk read a well prepared paper on Cantos 14-20. We were grateful to Mr. Kirk for the time and labor he must have expended in the midst of a busy season, in producing such an excellent essay. In the conversation that followed such subjects as the nature and possibility of temptation, the origin of evil, etc, formed the staple of a long but very helpful debate.

G. C. R., *Sec'y.*