

and reflection. This is, indeed, the chief value of a literal translation.

We think the author has sometimes marred the beauty of the text by his translations, as in his rendering of the first beatitude, "Happy are the destitute in spirit." His uniform translation of the word "baptize," by immerse, begs the whole question in dispute as to the mode of baptism. The expression "John the Immerser" has a queer look, and we utterly dissent from the translation, "He will immerse you in Holy Ghost and fire."

The Christian Interpretation of Life, and Other Essays. By W. T. DAVISON, M.A., D.D. London: Charles H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs.

We were much pleased by reading some of these essays as they appeared anonymously in the London *Quarterly Review*, and are glad to know their authorship and to have them in this handsome form. The leading essay on the "Christian Interpretation of Life" is here printed for the first time. It is a contribution of unusual value to one of the most important of subjects. The essays on "The Seat of Authority in Religion," on "The Christian Philosophy of Religion," "The Foundations of Christian Faith," "Christianity and Greek Thought," "The Evidential Value of Christian Experience," "Problems in Christian Ethics," and "The Realization of Christian Unity," are characterized by Dr. Davison's philosophical method, devout spirit and felicity of expression. We hope that Dr. Davison will present in book form the admirable articles which he has recently contributed to *Zion's Herald* on recent biblical criticism.

History of the People of Israel, From the Earliest Times to the Destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Written for lay readers by CARL HEINRICH CORNELL, Ph.D., S.T.D. Translated by W. H. CARRUTH. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

The Open Court Publishing Company is issuing an important series of philosophical works, of which this is the latest. It is not often that a book by a German professor is written in so vivacious and picturesque literary style. As written for lay readers the book presents the results rather than the process of criticism. It includes a concise but clear account of the period covered by the Sunday-school lessons of the present

half-year. Some of its conclusions, however, we cannot accept, as that of the character of Ahab.

Ye Lyttle Salem Maide. A Story of Witchcraft. By PAULINE BRADFORD MACKIE. Illustrated by E. W. D. HAMILTON. Boston: Lawson, Wolfe, & Co. Toronto: William Briggs.

There is no period of history that seems so near and yet so far as that of New England in the old witchcraft days. In reading its record we seem transported almost to the heart of the Middle Ages. The admirable painting of the witch trials in the quaint old museum might illustrate a page from the records of the Vehmgerichte, or of the Council of Ten. Yet in some aspects of New England life and thought there is an air of modernity which seems almost of yesterday. Out of its religious life have sprung the principles and institutions which pulsate with vitality throughout the continent to-day. As one browses in the old books in the Salem Institute, or meditates among the tombs of the old burying-ground, he is brought face to face with the venerable past. As he walks the busy street, traversed by many scores of passing railway trains, he feels the quickened throb of the present.

This book, as with a spell of an enchanter's wand, takes us back to the old colonial days, reveals the pall of superstition that brooded over the community, makes us share the pulsing hopes and fears of the denizens of the old Puritan town. There is in the analysis of thought and feeling and portrayal of character a vein of genius akin to that of Hawthorne. The make-up of the book, with its crimson rubric, its quaint illustrations are quite in keeping with the Old World atmosphere that exhales from its pages.

The Christian Revelation. By BOWEN P. BOWNE. Cincinnati: Curts & Jennings. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, 50 cents.

Dr. Bowne is one of the ablest professors of philosophy of New England. What he has to say, therefore, on this important subject will command our respect in advance. This paper was read before the University of Syracuse. Its essential thought is, that the current difficulties concerning revelation are needless, if not gratuitous, and arise mainly from the abstract discussion of a problem which can be successfully dealt with only in the concrete.