

My course is run; long ninety years
Thy gifts are mine; Thy grace retain;
Let not Thy servant's prayers and tears
Be poured in vain.

FROM THE PSALMS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY.

A Series by the Dean of St. Patrick's, Dublin.

Keble once said that the secret of all true poetry was contained in one verse of the Psalter: "My heart was hot within me, and while I was thus musing the fire kindled, and at the last I spake with my tongue." It is an acute criticism and disposes of a good deal of verse that claims to be poetry; but I quote it only because I want to place beside it the words in which a very different man from Keble, Albertus Magnus, a schoolman of the Middle Ages, found the secret, not of poetry but of prayer. The model of all prayer, he said, ought to be the opening phrases of Psalm xxviii.: "Unto Thee will I cry, O Lord, my strength; be not Thou deaf to me; lest if Thou make as though Thou hearest not, I become like them that go down to the pit. Hear the voice of my humble petitions when I cry unto Thee, when I hold up my hands towards the mercy-seat of Thy holy temple." Here is insistence, confidence, penitence, humility; here is the very atmosphere of prayer. Brethren, if these lectures do not set some in this congregation to study the Psalter more diligently and so to find therein as the strongest and holiest of our fathers found, the secret of faith and hope, of courage and devotion, then, indeed, will they have been delivered in vain. There is no better equipment for the spiritual life—save only the words of the Gospels—than the words of the Psalter, and this because they provide a perfect model of prayer. They are the prayers of saints and they are hallowed by memories of saints. Take one last illustration to assure you that the Psalter is, indeed, the prayer book of the saints, and that it is commended to us by the King of Saints. The last words of the most perfect life ever lived on earth were words of the Psalter: "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit," a prayer of life on the lips of the Old Hebrew Psalmist, a prayer for death on the lips of the Lord Jesus. It were impossible to reckon up the saints and heroes of our race, who have passed away with that prayer of commendation on their dying lips, consecrated by the memory of their dying Master. The words have been the strength of the strong and the consolation of the bereaved from age to age. Columbus and George Herbert, the bold adventurer and the quiet priest; Luther and St. Louis of France, the rough reformer and the saintly king; Tasso and John Knox, the poet and the controversialist; St. Basil and St. Catherine of Siena, the theologian and the mystic; St. Polycarp, the martyr of the 2nd century; John Huss, the martyr of the 15th; each and all found in the prayer, "Into Thy hands I commend my spirit"—the truest and the most natural greeting of the soul as it returns to God, Who is its home. There is no room here for the disputes with which men mar and bring shame on the Gospel of Christ; for the words express the deep and simple truth at the heart of all religion, provided it be sincere, that God is the only safe refuge of man's soul, that we cannot truly rest, in life or in death, unless we rest in Him. This is the central lesson of the Psalter to learn that God is, indeed, our Refuge and Strength.

REVIEWS.

"Authority in the Church." By Rev. Dr. Strong, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, England. Longman's, Green & Co., London, Eng. 2s. 2d. net.

This is another of "the handbooks for the clergy," and, as may be inferred from the name

of the author, most ably written. It is a book that must be read and pondered slowly, if one would see its fitness for the times. It is a deep, but strong "argumentum ad homines," i.e., to bipeds who can think. There is nothing to startle timid souls, but the truths it establishes, as we think it does, are of vital moment, ever growing more vital. Taken with Dr. Strong's other little book on "God and the Individual," people are furnished with two consecutive treatises that are eminently adapted both for thinking students of theology, and for those older ones who are still content to learn.

The Ten Commandments. By R. W. Dale. LL.D. 12mo. pp. 308. Price, \$1.50. New York: Thomas Whittaker.

The same ground is often traversed, and yet there is in this volume an evidence of original power which makes the study both interesting and useful. The introductory chapter is specially valuable as giving a careful statement of the position which the Decalogue was originally intended to hold in Israel, and of the force that it has to-day in the Christian Church. A lecture is devoted to each of the Ten Commandments, and the treatment is careful, looking at each in the light of the present hour. It is hard to select among so many equals, but we are particularly satisfied with the lectures upon the third and the eighth. The author goes minutely into the direct and original intent of each commandment, and then shows how its spirit is contravened or obeyed in modern days. He writes always with great clearness and force, and he is everywhere felt to be a sage moral teacher.

What Shall I Tell the Children? Object Sermons and Teachings. By Rev. George V. Reichel, A.M., Ph.D. 12mo. pp. 304. \$1. New York: Thomas Whittaker.

Both conception and execution are good. The idea is to have a selected thought, illustrated by some common object, given point to by a Scriptural text or basis, and enforced by an interesting little story to the children. It satisfactorily meets a difficulty that is often felt when we want to amuse the children with a story, and it shows how a good impression can be made in any direction by a ready imagination and a knowledge of children's ways. There is no attempt at either wit or learning, but a series of simple tales, presented in a cheerful and catching form. The thirty-seven, which are given here, can be read and used as they stand, or they can be used as models for familiar teachings of the same kind.

Best Methods of Promoting Spiritual Life. By the late Phillips Brooks, Bishop of Massachusetts. Price, 50 cents. New York: Thomas Whittaker.

Bishop Brooks had a happy faculty in presenting thoughts which master the reader's mind, and carry it along with pleasure into the higher regions of devout contemplation. There is nothing distinctively striking in these two addresses, and yet the publisher could have done nothing better than reproduce them on account of their quiet, sober, helpful teaching upon the spiritual life and its healthy developments. The small volume is a beautiful specimen of typography, and the two illustrations are reproduced from photographs which give characteristic portraits of Phillips Brooks at different dates.

"The Grace of Life." By the Rev. R. L. Ottley. 3s. London: Rivington's.

This is a valuable and stimulating book. It consists of short papers on practical religion, written originally for the "New York Churchman," and therefore admirably suited to this western continent. The author is well known on both continents, as a decided Churchman of wide sympathies, and accurate scholarship. The present book falls into two parts. The first part

deals with personal religion under such heads as conversion, prayer, Bible reading, Bible criticism, worship, Holy Communion, thanksgiving, discipline, ambition. The second part relates to social service, and treats of such subjects as intercession, almsgiving, Sunday observance, marriage, divorce, home, money, gambling, business, citizenship, theatres, art. Several books, on these practical matters, like Bishop Barry's "Religion for Every Day," or "The Use and Abuse of the World" (S.P.C.K.), etc., have appeared from time to time, but the subject is one of increasing interest, and the present volume is a fresh, attractive, trustworthy guide on the important topics discussed.

"The Inheritance of the Saints." Thoughts Collected by L. P. 6s. net. London: Longmans, Green & Co.

This book consists of thoughts and meditations selected from more than fifty leading divines on the subject of the Communion of Saints and the Future Life. It has a spirited preface by Canon Scott Holland, in which he states that the common notion of heaven is thoughtless and unreasoned, and he commends this book as presenting reliable matter for the use of heart and imagination in devout contemplation on the subject in hand. The book falls into four main parts: (1) Life in Time. (2) Life Through Death. (3) Life Beyond the Veil. (4) The Life Everlasting. The variety of topics treated will be seen by noting that there are nineteen chapters in the first part, six in the second, thirteen in the third, and eleven in the fourth, besides special matter. The character and strength of the opinions presented will be seen at a glance by noting the authors quoted and the number of quotations (many of them lengthy), from each. Dr. Pusey, fourteen; Canon Carter, twelve; Manning and Bishop Webb, each nine; R. M. Benson, Westcott, Knox-Little, Kingsley, Canon Body, each, eight; Phillips Brooks, seven; Paget, Canon Mason, R. W. Randall, each, six; Ellicott, Archer, Butler, Mozley, Newman, Plumptre, each, five; Scott-Holland, P. G. Medd, St. Augustine, Trench, each four; Jeremy Taylor, J. G. Tetley, J. P. F. Davidson, each twice; Eyton, Newbolt, Luckock, Keble, etc., each once. This enumeration shows that the compiler has presented a splendid array of the very best and soundest utterances on the subject in hand, which, as Scott-Holland observes, involves the very existence of religion, and therefore appeals powerfully to every believing heart.

"About Money." Talks to Children. By Perry Wayland Sinks. 40c. net. Toronto, Chicago, New York: Revell.

Children's books require a plain style and abundant illustration. This author is rather sparing in his illustrations, yet his book supplies very interesting and profitable reading. His first chapter is on money and the wrong ways of getting it, e.g., by saloon-keeping, gambling, speculation, stealing. He next treats of spending money and warns against extravagance, smoking, etc. The three rungs on the ladder to true riches are: (1) Work. (2) Economy. (3) God's Blessing. Nothing is said about the tithe, but the author everywhere enforces the lesson of stewardship and responsibility. The influence of money for good or evil is, as the preface suggests, incalculable, and it is certain that any young life that is guided by the teaching of this book will not go astray.

Magazines. — The Church Eclectic. — This is an admirable and practical number. The article on "The Impediments to Christian Marriage," by Rev. G. Lincoln, is most suitable, but, we fear, ahead of the times. We wish it could be "read, etc." A most interesting summary of the present state of things in the