

Methodism. The spread of holiness is averred by its founder to be the great reason for its existence. And never has the Church been more successful in its divine mission than when this theme occupied at prominent place in her preaching, and was fully illustrated in the lives of her members. Yet many erroneous and unscriptural views have gathered around this doctrine.

In this admirable pamphlet the author traces the development of the idea of holiness through both the Old and New Testaments. He shows its progressive development from age to age, and its glorious efflorescence—shall we call it—in the teachings of our Lord and the apostles. We know of no more thoroughly Scriptural and Wesleyan exposition of this doctrine than that in the pamphlet under review.

*A Commentary on St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.* By JOSEPH AGAR BEET. Cr. 8vo, p. 385. London: Hodder & Stoughton, and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price \$1.80.

This is one of the most valuable commentaries on this important epistle with which we have any acquaintance. The author sets out from what may be called a purely rationalistic standpoint. He does not wish, he says, to take for granted the divine authority or supernatural origin of any part of the Bible. The only admissions he requires are that a letter exists professing to have been written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians at Rome, in various languages, in hundreds of MS., of various ages, and is quoted in many ancient writings still extant. Assuming this, he proceeds to enquire whether these documents afford sufficient proof that the epistle was actually written by Paul, and whether it is correctly represented in the English version. The chief argument is from a minute—almost microscopic—examination and careful study of the text itself—of its moral teachings, and of the undesigned coincidences, and what may be called accidental corroborations of history and secular literature. By

taking for granted only matters of fact which nobody can deny, he builds up an irrefutable argument as to the genuineness and integrity of the epistle, and of the divine truth of the doctrines which it sets forth. The exposition is lucid and forcible, the scholarship ample and sound, and the criticism judicious and instructive. The book has been received with great favour in England, and we are glad to bid it welcome and wish it God-speed on this side of the Atlantic. It will lose none of its interest to our readers because it is the work of an accomplished and scholarly Wesleyan minister. The volume is a model of condensation of thought and expression, and is made still more concise by the adoption of a system of contracted spellings, which save much time and space. The study of this book cannot fail to give a deeper insight and fuller comprehension of this grand Pauline epistle.

*Dio the Athenian; or, From Olympus to Calvary.* By Rev. E. F. BURR, D.D., author of "Ecce Cœlum," etc. Cr. 8vo, pp. 498, illustrated. New York: Phillips & Hunt, and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$2.

It is difficult for the modern and occidental mind to conceive the conditions of thought and life at the period when Christianity made its conquest of Greece and Rome. It is to assist us in forming this conception that Dr. Burr has written the story of Dio the Athenian. The key of the story is the passage in Acts describing the result of Paul's preaching at Athens: "Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed; among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them." To these shadowy figures Dr. Burr has given form and substance. He reconstructs, from a careful study of contemporary history, philosophy, institutions and customs, their previous history, and traces the progress of their personal fortunes and religious convictions, and inspires in our hearts an intense sympathy with