

Book Notices.

History of the Christian Church. By JOHN FLETCHER HURST. New York: Eaton & Mains. Methodist Book Rooms: Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Octavo. Pp. xxvi-957. With 12 maps. Price, \$5.00.

This book completes Bishop Hurst's monumental work and adds the eighth volume to the splendid Library of Biblical and Theological Literature now approaching completion, issued by the Methodist Book Concern. We have already reviewed the previous volume, treating the Ancient and Mediaeval Church, describing its apostolic and patristic periods, its development under the Roman Empire, its spread throughout Europe, and the romantic story of its early missionaries and apostles, the military and monastic orders, and Christian art and literature.

The second volume completes this great epic of the ages. It is presented with all the breadth of learning, historic insight and grace of style of which the author is an acknowledged master. The book opens with an instructive chapter on the heralds of the better church: Wyclif, the Morning Star of the Reformation, Hes, Jerome, Savonarola, and other heralds of the dawn. The Protestant Reformation, the most important event in the history of the Church since the days of the Apostles, is treated in a broad and comprehensive manner, and also with much fulness of detail. The central figure of this great drama is, of course, the German "monk who shook the world." Due honour, however, is given to Reformation leaders in Switzerland, France, and Great Britain—Zwingli, Farel, Calvin, Crammer, Ridley and Latimer, Knox and the Covenanters. The Catholic reaction under the Jesuits, the development of Gallicanism, the fanaticism of the Spanish Inquisition, the growth of Pietism, of the Moravians and Friends, and the great revival under the Wesleys are luminously described.

Coming down to more recent times, the record of growth of Rationalism on the Continent and in Great Britain, the Evangelical reaction, the Oxford Movement and Anglo-Catholic revival, the century of reform and missions, the colonial and foreign development of the historic Churches, round out this noble work. There are special advantages which a comprehensive treatment of this important subject presents. The canvas

is broad enough for the painting of the great historic picture, not only in its great features, but also in many of its details.

The author illustrates his text with historic references and citations from poetical writers from the mediaeval hymnists down to Swinburne. He does us the honour to refer to our own modest studies on the Catacombs of Rome and the early English drama. Twelve coloured maps, a synoptical outline, a copious index, and ample bibliography of authorities, enhance the value of these volumes. They present the best apparatus with which we are acquainted for the study of this important subject. They should be in every preacher's library.

The History of the Devil from the Earliest Times to the Present Day. By Dr. PAUL CARUS. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. Toronto: William Briggs. Large 8vo. Pp. 500. 311 illustrations. Cloth, \$6.00.

The origin of evil is one of the most profound problems in the universe. From very early times in the history of our world there has been a dualistic conception of nature. Forces of good and evil were recognized, the genial sunshine, the destructive storm;—and in man, beneficent moral qualities and fearful evil ones. In the early theogonies these dual principles were formulated, the good and evil deities of all pagan systems, the Ormuzd and Ahriman of the Persians, the Kingdoms of Light and Darkness of the Manichaeans. There was even invented a Lilith, first wife of Adam, the real cause of his fall.

In most pagan religions the power of the Evil Principle was magnified above that of the good; to it a service of terror was rendered, of human sacrifices and costly propitiations. In many pagan tribes this became a horrid devil worship; the most hideous idols personified this principle and most cruel rites were observed to avert its power.

The Christian religion has not been uninfluenced by the tendency of the human mind. The gods of the heathen were regarded as demons, and during the dark ages, most gross, crude and grotesque conceptions of an infernal hierarchy became dominant. The language of Scripture was distorted and exaggerated, till the whole world was haunted with evil spirits and millions were all their lifetime sub-