

existence of mind as an essence, as a real, the idea of its destruction or annihilation cannot take on the form of clear thinking. How nothing can become something, or something nothing, transcends the power of thought. If it were certain that such facts ever occurred, they would be classed among the profoundest mysteries of nature." (P. 452.)

Materialism, in its various phases and absurdities, is severely and ably handled in several most interesting chapters, and Lewes, Bain, Huxley and Tyndal are fearlessly and ably criticised. The author's theory of conscience we cannot accept, although we have no space to record the grounds of our dissent. From beginning to end the book is characterized by earnestness, originality, extensive reading, profound thought, fearlessness and speculative ability of high order. No one can read it without having better thoughts of himself, the universe and God.

The book has been several years before the public, and it is only the result of an accident that its inspiring pages have not before been presented to our readers.

Prophecy and History in Relation to the Messiah; The Warburton Lectures for 1880-1884. By ALFRED EDERSHEIM, M.A., OXON., D.D., PH.D.
New York: A. D. F. Randolph & Co.

The author of these lectures, by his earnest yet moderate spirit, by his thorough fitness from the standpoint of culture and knowledge, by his clear and eloquent expression and by his Hebrew sympathies and enthusiasm, commends to us what he has written on a subject so proper to an author like himself. The subject, indicated in the title of the book, is, also, from its intimate relation to a much agitated question of the present time, especially interesting; while to such as are inclined to think that biblical criticism is going much too fast and too far, the conservative spirit and historical method of the discussion must be reassuring and full of comfort.

We have great confidence in commending this book to all Bible-studying and Christ-loving people because of the amount of condensed, yet satisfactory, information, it offers on subjects which, at this time, are vital to the faith of those who are seeking knowledge along the lines of great present discussions. A further reason which leads us to recommend these lectures is their enunciation of great principles, the application of which in Bible study will clear the way through many perplexities, and glorify the Christ and the Revelation of which He is the never-absent burden. We can imagine easily that this book might give to many an earnest student of the Old Testament such a new view of the older dispensation in its lofty purpose and outlook as would make its driest parts fragrant and poetic, and let in a glory upon the Law and the prophets such as would transfigure them again in the anticipated splendors of the Messiah.

The aim in view is to show the existence of a Messianic prophecy throughout the Old Testament, on which rested the Messianic expectancy that existed from the close of the Old Testament Canon, and for which Jesus of Nazareth is the complete fulfilment. It will be in place here to notice the argument used by Dr. Edersheim in seeking to accomplish his aim. In the first place, the existence of a Messianic expectation at the time of our Lord's advent and ministry is asserted, the assertion being supported by such facts as the crowding attendance upon the ministry of John the Baptist, and upon that of our Lord Himself; and the existence of so many false Messiahs in or about the time of Jesus Christ. Then, it is argued that this expectation of the Christ could not have taken its rise in the time between the Return from Captivity and the appearance of Jesus. The book of Daniel contains the Messianic promise at its fullest develop-