

THE QUESTION BOX.

"To give the cold shoulder"—what is the origin of the saying?

It is said to have originated in a custom once common in France, and during the Norman age in England also. When a guest had overstayed his welcome, instead of placing before him the haunch of mutton or venison usually served at dinner, a cold shoulder of mutton was set before him as a hint that he had better go.

"Robbing Peter to pay Paul"—what is its origin?

It is said to have originated in a church act of the government of England in 1550. The Cathedral of St. Paul, in London, being out of repair, and no funds available, a part of the income of Westminster, which was consecrated to St. Peter, was diverted to the repair of St. Paul's.

What is the theological distinction between *revelation* and *inspiration*?

The two are often confused, greatly to the detriment of faith. *Revelation*, in the theological sense, is the act of making known to the sacred teachers and writers, by special divine or supernatural agency or communication, what was before secret or unknown. Dr. Shedd defines inspiration from the subjective side, as "the influence of the Holy Spirit upon a human person, whereby he is infallibly moved and guided in all his state-

ments while under this influence." *Inspiration*, from the objective side, is the superintendence of the sacred writers in recording what God desired recorded in the Scriptures that they might be an "infallible rule of faith and practise." *Inspiration* goes no further than to insure freedom from error in presenting facts or truths, whether gained in the ordinary way or by direct supernatural revelation; "*revelation* discloses new truth that is inaccessible to the ordinary mind." All the Bible is *inspired*; but much of it is made up of ordinary, every-day experience or history that came under the observation of the sacred writers themselves and of which they did not need a revelation, but only guidance in correctly recording. Comparatively little of the Bible is a direct *revelation* from God.

What is the ecclesiastical connection of Dr. Cunningham Geikie, author of "The Life and Words of Christ"?

Dr. Geikie's present connection is with the Church of England. Born in Edinburgh, 1824, he was educated in Queen's College, Toronto, and was for twenty-five years connected with the Presbyterian Church, holding successively pastorates in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and in Sunderland and Islington Chapels, London, England. In 1876 he entered the Church of England, with which he has since been connected.

NOTICES OF BOOKS OF HOMILETIC VALUE.

CHRIST AND HIS FRIENDS.—A Series of Revival Sermons. By Rev. Louis Albert Banks, D.D. Funk & Wagnalls Company: New York, London, and Toronto, 1895. Price \$1.50.

THE FISHERMAN AND HIS FRIENDS.—A Series of Revival Sermons. Same author and publishers, 1896. Price \$1.50.

The reason why these sermons have been warmly received by the sermon-reading public is obvious to any one that looks into them. They were born of a revival spirit, were used on revival occasions, were the means of securing revival results, by a pastor who is possessed with the true idea, that every pastor should be, among his people, preeminently an *evangelist* and a *revivalist*. They are good specimens of direct and effective gospel preaching and appeal. Dr. Banks has peculiar facility and fertility in the use of fresh and forceful illustration. We give his own account of the origin of the first series, which is substantially the same as that of the second, with the difference of a year in date:

"The sermons in this volume were delivered in Hanson Place M. E. Church, Brooklyn, N. Y., during the month of January, 1895, in a series of revival meetings. It will be noted that the texts and themes are all selected from St. John's Gospel. The themes were selected some months prior to the de-

livery of the discourses, and such time as could be spared from the regular work of my ministry was devoted to the work of outline, Scriptural study, and the gathering of illustrative material from all sources open to me. When the time arrived, after a few hours' study during the morning of the day in which the sermon was to be delivered, it was first dictated to a stenographer, who it was afterward in the evening preached without notes. The entire thirty-one sermons were thus at last forged and delivered during that earnest campaign."

We doubt not that the blessing of God will follow the reading of these sermons, as it followed their original delivery. The moral earnestness of the man—permitting neither frivolity nor levity—is a marked feature.

NOTES FROM MY BIBLE, from Genesis to Revelation. By D. L. Moody. Fleming H. Revell Company: Chicago, New York, Toronto, 1896. Price \$1.

These "Notes" are the accumulation of a lifetime in gospel and revival work. They will recall for those who have heard Mr. Moody many of his homely illustrations and many of his helpful groupings of facts and truths. In short, we have here in substance the material that has made Mr. Moody's talks and teachings so suggestive and affective. The evangelist recommends that his readers, whether lay or clerical, follow the