

Dr. Workman's New Book

AN excellent review of Professor George C. Workman's latest book "Atonement," by Professor E. F. Scott, of Queen's University, recently appeared in The Presbyterian. Professor Scott is enthusiastic over the book, and, as Professor of New Testament Literature in a Presbyterian college, his opinion should carry considerable weight. In part, he writes as follows:

"It is not a little surprising that the central doctrine of the Atonement has been largely neglected in the theological discussions of recent years. Most of the writers who have attempted to deal with the subject have been content with a mere restatement of traditional views which rest in partial or altogether wrong interpretations of the scriptural evidence. The book before us is therefore timely and welcome in no common degree. Dr. Workman's name is itself a guarantee of wide and exact scholarship and of a conscientious habit of thought which will not try to make light of real difficulties. The book, it may be said at once, will prove exceedingly helpful not only to theologians but to all who desire to possess a reason for the faith that is in them. While it bears the mark of accurate learning in every page it is written in clear and simple language, and can be read intelligently by any one who has made a careful study of the English Bible. And while it is strictly theological in its method it is inspired throughout by a genuine religious spirit. We feel in reading it that the author's one aim is to make clear to others the great Christian truths which have verified themselves in his own life.

"The book is divided into nine chapters—each of them dealing with a special aspect of the Atonement doctrine. (Atonement in itself, in God, in Christ, in man, in sacrifice, in death, in suffering, in service, in theory.) Dr. Workman's plan is to examine the teaching of scripture on each of these heads, and thus to arrive at conclusions which will represent not some private view of his own but the New Testament doctrine in its completeness. He finds that most of the difficulties which have made the doctrine unintelligible are due to a misreading of plain texts. Atonement, in the view of Paul and the other New Testament writers, is the reconciliation of man to God, not a change, mysteriously effected, in God's relation to man. Christ came to redeem men from sin by imparting to them His own spirit and inspiring them with His life. To be forgiven in Christ implies that we are morally one with Him, and does not require that we should subscribe to any specific dogma. Atonement is indeed through the death of Christ, but only in the sense that His death was the crowning expression of that voluntary devotion of Himself which marked His whole career. "He was always losing His life for others" (p. 148). Thus the true saving faith in the Atonement is the faith whereby we conform ourselves to the mind of Christ. Dr. Workman proceeds to show how the atoning work begun in Christ is continued in lives inspired by Him and consecrated to His service. Perhaps the finest chapter of the book is that on "Atonement in Suffering," in which this idea is elaborated.

"We thank Dr. Workman for a truly valuable book. It deserves to be widely read, and will throw new light for many on the essential meaning of our Christian faith." (Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Co. Cloth, \$1.25.)

A Cruel Question.—Skeezick's car had turned turtle, and as he sat gloomily contemplating the situation Uncle Silas reined in his nag and stepped outside.

"Turned over, hain't she?" he observed.

"Yep," said Skeezick, shortly.

"Want to sell?" asked Uncle Silas.

"Yes," said Skeezick. "I'll sell out cheap."

"What's your upset price?" asked Uncle Silas with a grin.—Harper's Weekly.



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