

LITERATURE.

THE NEW TESTAMENT ELDER. By Rev. Professor Thomas Witherow, of Londonderry. Toronto: James Bain.

This little work of 47 pages deals with the Elder's "position, powers and duties in the Christian Church." Professor Witherow combats the theory which the Church of Scotland has, all along, endorsed on this important subject, and insists upon going back to Apostolic days for the true idea of the Eldership. He has no faith in the teaching, as regards this vexed question, of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Nothing will satisfy him but what he maintains was the practice of primitive times. His Elder must be what we call a Minister—teaching, ruling, and administering holy rites. The Clergyman, in his eyes, is only like the other members of the Session; and, in point of fact, there is no such person as a Clergyman. He is a President, a kind of Chairman of the Board of Elders, and nothing or little more. Professor Witherow will have none of the doctrine of the Very Rev. Principal Campbell, of Aberdeen, who holds that "Elders are properly the representatives of the people, chosen by them for the purpose of exercising government and discipline, in conjunction with Pastors or Ministers." There seems to be a confusion in the mind of the learned Professor as to the real meaning of the famous and often mis-quoted passages in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus, which he applies equally to Bishops, Presbyters and Elders; or rather his strong partisan feeling leads him to insist that the same obligations which rest upon the one rest upon the others. His system would simply be unworkable in a State Church, like the Church of Scotland; and, even on this American Continent where there is no State Church, the men could not be readily found to carry it out. The book under review is, however, well worthy of careful perusal. It is clearly and forcibly written.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. DeWitt, C. Lent & Co. New York.

This is a creditable octavo volume of nearly 700 pages, with large type and profusely illustrated. Rev. Drs. Adams and John Hall are among the numerous contributors and Editors, and it gives a history of Presbyterianism from the earliest to the present time. The reader is carried into the Valleys of the Vaudois, to Scotland and all other countries, including America, where there have been and are Presbyterian Churches. The work contains portraits of a large number of the champions of both Reformation and Presbyterian principles. It is really a wonderful book, and, considering that it is issued at from \$3.50 to \$8, according to different styles of binding, it is marvellously cheap, and cannot fail to command a very large circulation. We understand that Mr. Thomas Allan, 11 Coursol street, Montreal, is acting as Agent for its sale, and is prepared to supply orders on application.

Acknowledgments.

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