

**SELF-KNOWLEDGE.**—No man can go down into the dungeon of his experience, and hold the torch of God's Word to all its dark chambers, and hidden cavities, and slimy recesses, and not come up with a shudder and a chill, and an earnest cry to God for divine mercy and cleansing.

**WORK AND WORRY.**—It is not work that kills men, it is worry. Work is healthy; you can hardly put more upon a man than he can bear. Worry is rust upon the blade. It is not the resolution that destroys the machinery, but the friction. Fear secretes acids; but love and trust are sweet juices.

**SABBATHS.**—Through the week we go down into the valleys of care and shadow. Our Sabbaths should be hills of light and joy in God's presence; and so, as time rolls by, we shall go on from mountain top to mountain top, till at last we catch the glory of the gate, and enter in to go no more out for ever.

**OUR CHILDREN.**—There are many of us whose children are in heaven, who have been borne from us through quick life to lie in angel's bosoms; and though they were not wrested from us without pangs, and though the places which they filled in our hearts are as wells of tears, yet we would not have them back, and we are glad to-day for our sakes and for their own. And some we are piloting, but must soon leave them alone upon the tossing sea. God grant that then, without shipwreck, they may safely reach the haven where we have gone!

**THE CHURCH OF GOD AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE GOSPEL, AND THE IDEA, STRUCTURE AND JUNCTIONS THEREOF.** A Discourse in four parts, by the Rev. S. ROBINSON, Professor of Church Government and Pastoral Theology, Danville, Ky. With an Appendix containing the more important Symbols of Presbyterian Church Government, historically arranged and illustrated. *Philadelphia*: J. M. Wilson. *Montreal*: B. Dawson. Pp. 222. 60 cents.

The title of this volume is a good description of its contents. The object of the author is to give a brief and suggestive outline of the doctrine of the Church. This appeared to him very necessary at the present time, considering the prevalence of an anti-evangelical churchism on the one hand, and an anti-ecclesiastical evangelicalism on the other. To counteract both of these pernicious errors our author endeavours to prove that the Presbyterian form of the Church is the divinely appointed agency through which the elect people are to be gathered into the fold of Christ.

It is refreshing to find that some one is disposed in this age of general Church disorder to hold up to public view and boldly to maintain the *jus divinum* of our Presbyterian polity. This is the old, but alas! now much neglected idea of our Church, which we find embodied in our confession and symbols, and for which the fathers contended as strenuously and with as entire a devotion as they did for any other of the doctrines of our faith. The writer says truly in his preface that "Nothing but the inherent truthfulness and power of the system itself, and that truthfulness clearly perceived and intelligently acted upon by the general mass of those called to administer the affairs of the Presbyterian Church can guarantee its permanence and further progress." We further believe with him "that just in proportion as the power of the vital truths concerning the Church shall be felt by its office-bearers, shall they impart a higher degree of earnestness and spirituality to all that pertains to the administration of the affairs of Christ's kingdom." There are few ministers but feel and deplore the laxity of the common view of professing Christians concerning the Church in these days. It enfeebles all her action and deprives her of that concentration of life without which there is no power. We therefore hail this book as another valuable contribution to the literature of the Church. To some minds the abstract and German-like form in which the subject is treated, may be somewhat repellant. We in this country are not used to that speculative treatment of ecclesiastical or theological questions which pertains to our German allies. Nevertheless we deem the subject ably and thoroughly handled, and to minds familiar with abstract forms of thought, highly satisfactory. Our space will not permit us to enter into a discussion of the points treated of by our author.