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# The Princeton Theological Review

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gospel, and we can readily understand how "in their delivery the blessing of God rested upon them to the comfort and consolation of many hearts."

*Princeton.*

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

*A History of Preaching.* Vol. ii. From the Close of the Reformation Period to the End of the Nineteenth Century, 1572-1900. By EDWIN CHARLES DARGAN, D.D., LL.D., Author of "A History of Preaching from the Apostolic Fathers to the Great Reformers, Ecclesiology," etc., formerly Professor in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky. New York: George H. Doran Company. 1912. 8vo; pp. iv, 591. \$2 net.

This is the second installment of Dr. Dargan's comprehensive work on the History of Preaching. The first volume appeared in 1905.<sup>1</sup> The delay in the appearance of this second volume has been due in large measure to the fact that in 1907 the author resigned his Professorship of Homiletics in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville and became the pastor of the First Baptist Church at Macon, Georgia. But he still cherishes the purpose of completing his task by publishing, at as early a date as his parish duties will permit, the final volume on "Preaching in the United States". We sincerely hope that this aim of his may in due season be realized: we should then have the first treatise in the English language that might fairly be regarded as an adequate, or at least satisfactory, treatment of this great subject.

The volume before us covers what the author designates as the Dogmatic Period (from the death of Knox to the beginning of the Wesleyan Revival) and the Evangelistic or Missionary Period (from the work of Wesley to near the end of the nineteenth century). Owing to the increased complexity of the conditions affecting the pulpit during these centuries in the various countries of Europe, the method used for the disposition of the material in the earlier part of the treatise has been exchanged for a simpler framework, in which, under the main chronological divisions by centuries, the preaching of the several countries is set forth with considerable detail as to the chief exponents of the homiletic art in the various branches of the church. One of the most valuable features of the work is the discriminating account, given in the form of a preliminary survey, of each main section. By this means the reader, with the aid of the Index, can readily acquaint himself both with the general facts pertaining to the preaching of a particular country or church in a given era and with the biographical details that relate the prominent preachers to the times in which they lived.

The book gives evidence throughout of painstaking investigation along many lines of historical study and intimate acquaintance with the standard works on special phases of the subject. The bibliographical helps are all that could be desired. The style is clear

<sup>1</sup> See this REVIEW, Vol. iv, p. 135.

and straightforward, rising here and there, in the treatment of the greatest names, to the heights of a noble eloquence. One could wish, indeed, that relatively more space had been given to the preachers of the highest distinction and the widest influence, since it is for the facts in regard to them and their work, rather than for the general historical information so largely connected with the more obscure names, that most readers will wish to consult this book. Something would have been lost, no doubt, in thoroughness and completeness, but the more suggestive mode of treatment would doubtless have yielded an even more instructive account of the various types of preaching that flourished in these three centuries.

Princeton.

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

*Suggestions for the Spiritual Life.* College Chapel Talks. By GEORGE LANSING RAYMOND, Professor of Oratory, Williams College, 1875-1881; of Oratory and Esthetic Criticism, Princeton, 1880-1893; of Esthetics, Princeton, 1893-1905; of Esthetics, George Washington, 1905-1911. New York and London: Funk & Wagnalls Company. 1912. Indexed, cloth bound, gold tops. 8vo; pp. 337. \$1.40 net.

All but the last two of these twenty-one sermons, we are informed in the Preface, were originally prepared for the church in Darby, Pa., of which the author was pastor before he entered upon his professorial career. Most of them were subsequently delivered substantially in their present form, to the students at Williams College and Princeton University. The method and aim of the discourses is fairly indicated by what Dr. Raymond says concerning his use of the term "Suggestions" in the title. "Faith," he affirms, "is an attitude of mind that has its source not merely in conscious intellection, but also in those subconscious tendencies of feeling and will which are particularly connected, though no one, perhaps, can satisfactorily explain how or why, with the spiritual nature. Philosophers, as a rule, recognize that the most effective way of influencing these tendencies is through using what is termed suggestion—in other words not through information or argument, nor, as applied to religious truth, through traditional or dogmatic appeals. These sometimes reach the conscious understanding only; and, at other times, if they affect feeling and will, they do so mainly by way of exciting more or less opposition."

The themes discussed are exceedingly varied. The style is penetrating, vital, interesting, and practical—truly "suggestive" in both the positive and the negative senses in which he has described this term. The psychological and philosophical elements so freely introduced into the discussion give these sermons a peculiar idealistic cast which adds great freshness, force and beauty to their prevailingly biblical character. Rich in thought, full of fine Christian sentiment, abounding in felicitous illustrations from nature and literature and human experience, and everywhere in touch with the spiritual life they seek