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I.

JONATHAN EDWARDS.

THE 5th of October marked the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of this great and good man. In many parts of the country notice has been taken of this fact. Especially in New England, the region of his birth, and to which the labors of his life belonged, have fresh laurels been wreathed for his brow. But it is doubtful if any part of the country, or any section of the church, can pay him as sincere a tribute as the Southern Presbyterian Church. He thought as we still think on the great doctrines of grace, being a zealous Calvinist, and was in accord with the Presbyterian Church in his views of government, though he lived and wrought and died in the Congregational Church. If, therefore, any class of persons should honor the name and cherish the memory of Edwards, those should do so who hold Calvinistic views of doctrine, and Presbyterian principles of polity.

Moreover, while Edwards commands our admiration on many grounds, yet his chief title to our esteem is the almost unparalleled excellence of his Christian character. His life was radiant with the beauty of Christ, sweet and fragrant with all the tender and winsome graces of the Holy Spirit. To pass his life in review, and reflect on those qualities that marked him as the eminent Christian, must be a wholesome spiritual exercise.

The story of his life, quiet and uneventful for the most part, is quickly told. He did not figure as the hero in any great and thrilling conflict; there were few dramatic episodes to give variety to the usually smooth tenor of his career; but his days

IX.

CRITICISMS AND REVIEWS.

JOHNSON'S "LIFE AND LETTERS OF ROBERT LEWIS DABNEY."

THE LIFE AND LETTERS OF ROBERT LEWIS DABNEY. *By Thomas Cary Johnson.* 8vo, pp. xvi, 585. Cloth, gilt top, \$2.50. Richmond: The Presbyterian Committee of Publication. 1903.

A book that in binding, paper, print and picture pleases the most fastidious eye; containing the life history of one of the greatest men the Southern Presbyterian Church has produced, told by one of kindred avocations, convictions and strength of character and acknowledged ability, all pointing him out as a fitting historiographer.

In brief, the contents of the book are a beautiful dedication to Dr. Dabney's wife and old students, a short, modest and chaste preface, remarkably satisfactory index by chapters, family tree, showing honorable ancestry, two striking portraits, pictures of Hampden-Sidney College building, of his homes at Tinkling Spring and at Hampden-Sidney, and of the College Church. He who takes up this book will be led in fascinating excursion through more than five hundred pages, mostly autobiographical, written with no such intent, but instinct with life, until he ends at a copious index, covering the whole journey. The two guiding principles foreannounced, viz., to portray the subject exactly as he was, and to let him largely tell the story of his own life, are well observed. But let it not be supposed that the sole merit, as well as work, of the biographer, is to be seen in the skilful arrangement of the abundant accessible material. The links of the story are much more than mere connections. They constitute distinct and valuable contributions, and near the close the author, in elaborate portraiture, gives his personal estimate of the man in his manifold relations and pursuits. It is a deeply interesting fact that the splendid triumvirate of consecrated ability, Dabney, Hoge, Palmer, all now among the immortals, is brought together in the eloquent and masterly tributes by the last two to the first, who preceded them only by a few short years.

We have space only for the record of a few impressions. First, of the beautiful, reverential and tender relation to mother, knightly and loving devotion to wife and children, three of whom were taken from him in their early years, and strong affection for the whole wide circle of his kindred. His thoughtfulness for his mother, leading to temporary interruption of the education of an eager student, is proof of the former; his constant demand for minutest tidings of home folks and home doings shows a heart that held to family with grip of steel. In him "the child was the fatler of the

man." The same sterling qualities of absolute intellectual as well as moral honesty, sturdy independence and intense passion for truth, marked even his young student days, and one can see in his caustic criticism of the textbook on morals which he studied at the University the shadowy portrait of the coming author of one of the most luminous books ever published on the subject, "The Practical Philosophy." An intense Southerner and politician as a boy, these sentiments deepened and became more rational with years.

The social surroundings in which he was reared, and which contributed to his making, had a strangely familiar aspect to us; for in truth it was not so much a Virginian as a Southern atmosphere which he breathed in his youthful days. The matron so vividly described has had many an original besides those Johnson and Page picture, and the affectionate relations between master, mistress and black slave might stand for a description of almost the entire South.

The manifoldness of the man and his avocations fills one with wonder: pastor, professor in college, university and seminary, author, staff officer, statesman, philosopher—successful in all; not only Virginia, but the South might well be proud of him; let it rather be said, the Southern Church should be thankful for him. In fine, our gratitude is due to the family in allowing his life to be perpetuated by the press, and in furnishing such abundant and rich material, and to the Union professor for contributing to our splendid and augmenting Southern Presbyterian literature a book that will live and help to shape our rising ministry on sturdy and strong lines. It is worthy of a prominent place in our church, seminary, manse and family libraries.

New Orleans.

R. Q. MALLARD.

BRUCE'S "APOLOGETICS."

International Theological Library. APOLOGETICS; OR CHRISTIANITY DEFENSIVELY STATFD. By Alexander Balmain Bruce, D. D., Professor of Apologetics and New Testament Exegesis, Free Church College, Glasgow; author of "The Training of the Twelve," "The Humiliation of Christ," "The Kingdom of God," etc. Sixth edition. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1901.

This is one of twenty-four volumes, constituting the International Theological Library, and prepared by British and American divines of the school of Higher Criticism, under the editorship of Drs. Charles A. Briggs and S. D. F. Salmond. The Library is designed to cover the whole field of Christian Theology, to form a series of text-books, and to give full and impartial statements both of the results of theological science and of the questions which are still at issue in the different departments.

The volume before us is an "apologetic presentation of the Christian faith with reference to whatever in our intellectual environment makes faith difficult at the present time to men whose sympathies are with Christianity, but whose faith is weakened by anti-Christian prejudices." It has an introduction, containing a historical sketch and a statement of the functions and method of Apologetics. The discussion is divided into three books: treating,