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I. INSPIRATION.

A few years before his death, Theodore D. Woolsey, President of Yale University, was asked by a leading Quarterly to write an article for its pages on Inspiration. He declined to do so, on the ground that the time had not yet arrived for such a thing to be successfully done. President Woolsey died in 1889, and during these intervening years perhaps no biblical subject has had fuller discussion. Yet inspiration is still regarded by most biblical students as a *question*; notwithstanding this, inspiration is generally regarded as also a *fact*.

"The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."¹ To every believer in the truthfulness of the Bible, these words of the apostle reveal the fact of inspiration, declare that the Scriptures are, in some sense, the product of a divine influence brought to bear upon human writers. The process by which the Scriptures were formed has been long and gradual. "At sundry times and in divers manners"² has God spoken to us in times past. The Koran was given all at once. Full-grown it sprang from the shield of Mahomet, a prophet who not only had no forerunner, but who, as the professed bearer of divine revelation, had no successor. The Bible, however, has come to us through many prophets, each

¹2 Pet. 1:21.

²Heb. 1:1, 2.

references, making altogether nearly 3,500 passages quoted and cited on this one topic. Furthermore, many verses are cited as often as thirty times.

That which makes the work still more complete is the division of the most important topics into Sub-topics, which are printed in an alphabetical list at the head of the grand topic, and followed by references to the pages on which the passages may be found.

There is still in addition to these divisions a copious, elaborate system of Cross-References to all related and antithetical topics, which enables a student to study a subject in all its bearings and ramifications.

A complete textual Index closes the work. This seems to be everything required. It refers to the pages and columns in which each verse of the Bible is quoted or cited in the entire work.

Dr. Nave has done his work well, and has placed all Bible students under lasting obligations to him. We have no hesitation in expressing the belief that all other Digests and Analyses of the Bible must give place to The Topical Bible.

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DICKSON'S TRUTH THAT SAVES.

THE TRUTH THAT SAVES AND HOW TO PRESENT IT. *By Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, B. D., Ph. D.* New York : American Tract Society. Pp. 138. Price, 50 cents.

Here is an attractive little book, with a noble purpose, a chaste and perspicuous style, and loyal to the truth from lid to lid. The writer is happy in the use of illustrations, and rich in the employment of apt quotations. He handles the Bible reverently but dexterously, and as one reads, he finds his heart warming to the theme of the book.

Dr. Dickson's purpose is to focus attention on that truth in God's Word which saves, and which is to form the preacher's message in his effort to win souls. He deals with his subjects under these eight heads ; "The Desire for Fruit ;" "Different Kinds of Truths in the Word ;" "The Truth that Saves ;" "Substitutes for the Gospel ;" "Preparation for the Reception of Saving Truth ;" "The Truth made Effectual to Salvation ;" "How to Present the Gospel ;" and "The Joy of Preaching the Truth that Saves."

He analyzes the truth that saves into three elements as it deals with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

"There is a soothing opiate," he says, "that many take to-day to give ease from the troublesome pain which comes of seeing no fruit ; it is dispensed in this form : 'Duty is ours, results are God's.' That is true, but it evidently carries a very limited sense in the word 'duty,' if it leaves out all concern for the success of the Word in the soul of the hearer. . . . Truth may be preached, but not the truth that saves ; and that being the case, conversions will be few and far between."

In treating of the substitutes for the Gospel, Dr. Dickson makes very clear the important point that faith does not create fact, but accepts and rests upon it as it is established by God's word. He compares a winsome and attractive invitation that lacks Gospel truth, to fishing with a bare hook, and shows

very tellingly how many preachers preach powerfully and eloquently, without ringing a single Gospel bell.

"It is not the offer, nor the invitation, nor anything springing out of the Gospel, that is the power of God unto salvation—but the Gospel itself—'Christ died, the Just for the unjust.'"

A very searching portion of the book is that in which he deals with the tendency of the modern pulpit to pass over or tone down the teachings of Scripture on eternal punishment.

"No marvel that to-day we hear of so few broken hearts. The truth of God is not presented in its fulness. It is emasculated. It is nerveless. It no longer clutches the conscience and shakes the soul with the terror of the Lord."

On p. 82 there is a fine passage, in which an intellectual apprehension of truth in the abstract is distinguished from the faith which embraces the same truth incarnate in the person of Christ.

The book is sound and orthodox, but it is something better than this. It is alive and throbs throughout with the inspired Word. It is timely, and will bear a careful, studious reading. If its message were better heeded by the pulpit, there would be less need of bemoaning the small number of conversions and the slow growth of the Church.

To the preacher or Christian worker who has gone daft on "church methods," and who is ever trying to furbish the ecclesiastical machine, I would commend the earnest, evangelical message of Dr. Dickson's book. What the preacher must handle, as "a workman that needeth not to be ashamed," is the inspired Word rather than the church machine; "the truth that saves" rather than "church methods."

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CHISOLM'S GOSPEL IN GOLD; OR THE GRACE OF GIVING.

THE GOSPEL IN GOLD; or the Grace of Giving. *By Rev. James J. Chisolm, D. D.* Richmond, Va.: Presbyterian Committee of Publication. 18mo. Paper, 5 cents. Pp. 60.

The more we study the subject of Christian giving, the deeper is our conviction that there is no doctrine that contains so much of the precious gold of the Gospel, and we have read no work in which this thought is so clearly and forcibly presented in so small a compass as in this. The thoughtful and studious author has for many years been delving in this mine, and here condenses the results of his studies in a few pages, as the banker reduces his paper currency to gold. It is a little treasury of thought, and will prove helpful to those who have not time to read larger treatises.

The meaning, the method, the motives, the measure, and the reward of Giving are briefly but forcibly presented. He clearly shows that Giving, according to the Scripture rule and measure, is the highest act of worship, as "the test of our honesty, the tribute of our loyalty, the token of our gratitude;" the crucial test of Christian character, as "the manifestation of our sonship, and the measure of our love;" and secures the richest rewards, as