

THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW

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I.

CHRISTIANITY AND THE COSMIC PHILOSOPHY.

THE New World is too young to have given birth to many builders of philosophical systems. The age of speculative thought comes after the time of felling forests and breaking up virgin soil. Not that the struggles of the pioneer do not tend to develop a virile and robust type of mind; but that, in his active exertions for subsistence, and in the measurings of his strength with the cruder forces of nature, little leisure is left him for the quiet meditations of the philosophic student.

But evidences are not wanting that the American people are getting beyond this jungle-cutting stage of the brawny frontiersman. If it is said that few of our philosophers are original, it is equally true that original philosophers, in this nineteenth century, are few in older countries. The late Dr. McCosh insisted that the time had come for the appearance of a philosophy distinctively American, but he was too wise to argue that this American school should aim to be independent of all the thinking of the past.

All the world has heard of the *Concord Philosophy*, and while nothing would be wider of the mark than to call Mr. Emerson a logical system-builder, still his was indeed a philosophic spirit. Competent European writers have pronounced Jonathan Edwards the greatest metaphysician America has produced, but he never presumed to give to the world a comprehensive scheme of human thought. We have had great men and great minds, but if they have not been wholly occupied with the tasks of a busy political

MEMORIAL BOOK OF THE SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE FOUNDING OF THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY, AND OF THE CEREMONIES INAUGURATING PRINCETON UNIVERSITY. New York: Published for the Trustees of Princeton University by Charles Scribner's Sons, 1898. 4to, pp. xiv, 460.

"This book," says the opening words of the brief explanatory and dedicatory Preface, "is issued to save in some permanent form the record and memories of the Princeton Sesquicentennial Celebration." It certainly is a worthy memorial of that interesting and inspiring occasion. He who turns over its sumptuous pages, for which Messrs. Theodore L. De Vinne & Co. have done all that the chastest printer's art can do to make them a delight to the hand and eye, will feel himself still in the atmosphere of those three bright days in the autumn of 1896, when all the world seemed glad to give its recognition to Princeton's holiday. Not merely Princeton men, but all who are interested in the advancement of the higher learning in America, as they gathered there at Princeton with their congratulations in their hands, so will welcome this splendid memorial of an occasion which is second to few in the academic history of America in its promise for the future development of sound learning. The editorial care of the volume has fallen naturally into the hands of Prof. Andrew C. West, to whom so much of the success of the Sesquicentennial Celebration itself was due, and that in itself is a pledge of its thorough and tasteful performance. He has given us a volume which, not merely as a memorial of the celebration it commemorates, but on its own account, appeals powerfully to our appreciation, and that not only on the æsthetic but also on the literary and intellectual side. For it is to speak far too modestly of this book to say simply that it "saves in some permanent form the record and memories of the Princeton Sesquicentennial Celebration." It may also rightly claim a place on our shelves as literature, and as itself a thoughtful contribution to the history of the development of academical institutions at Princeton and in the Middle States. The account of the celebration from the pen of Prof. Harper is wonderfully brightly written, but it may be said that certainly it has for its end the embalming of the memory of the occasion. Who can deny, however, the name of literature, with a right of existence inherent in themselves from the mere virtue of their contents and form, to some of the addresses delivered, which are fortunately incorporated here in their full text—and especially, if we may particularize, to Dr. Patton's noble sermon with which the preliminary exercises opened, and Prof. Woodrow Wilson's equally noble address with which they closed? And certainly the "Historical Sketch of the College" by Dr. De Witt, which ends the volume, is a study of its subject which richly deserves to be looked upon as a piece of independent historical work. It is not unknown to our readers, as it has already graced the pages of this REVIEW: and we venture to express the hope that it may be ultimately issued in a separate volume and given the wider circulation which it merits.

The volume is divided into three main sections. The first is a glowing and singularly interestingly written chronicle of the Sesquicentennial Celebration itself, from the hand of Prof. Harper. Prof. Harper seems to have missed nothing that occurred, and has set everything down in its proper order and with its proper emphasis and color. In this part is included, as we have said, the full text of the addresses delivered on the occasion. The second part gathers together the congratulatory letters from sister institutions—a great number of which were received and which form a body of curiously interesting material when read with an eye to their several sources. Most of them are couched in Latin—more or less classical or academical as

the case may be: and some of them were handsomely engrossed and illuminated. A *facsimile* of one of the most elaborate is given as an example: the rest are printed in varying type to suggest in some distant way the general appearance of the documents. It has a very odd effect to read them over consecutively and seek to catch the shifting note, now of the dignity of conscious antiquity and acknowledged authority, now of at least half-conscious struggle toward birth into the congress of the learned world. There is certainly a wide interval of age between the University of Bologna and that of Tokio: and we fancy the congratulations of Harvard and of Chicago betray each a tone of its own. The third section of the volume is occupied by Dr. DeWitt's Historical Sketch of the College: the pages of which are illustrated by admirably executed portraits of the series of presidents from Jonathan Dickinson to Francis L. Patton. The other illustrations of the volume are numerous and acceptable, but do not seem to us always so wisely chosen or invariably so well executed as these. And if we may venture on the criticism, we should say the volume would have been better ordered and would have made a somewhat better presentation of its material, in our judgment, if the History of the College had been placed first, succeeded by the Account of the Sesquicentennial and brought to a close by the Collection of Letters.

The only further criticism which it seems possible to make upon it concerns a matter in which perfection seems unattainable—that of the proof-reading. This has been evidently unusually carefully done; but not even this volume is immaculate, and the few errata printed at the end do not cover all the cases of slips. For example, there is a double “they” in the second and third lines of p. 128, and we have noted some other instances—few of which, however, are “*sinnstörend*.” Two such do occur, however, in a portion of the volume in which the present writer is specially interested—the letter of congratulation from Princeton Theological Seminary which is given on p. 226. As we would like to say over again to-day what was then said, in all its fullness of meaning, we venture to reprint the letter here—we hope, this time, without confusing error of typography.

PROFESSORES Scholæ Theologiæ Princetoniensis Presidi Curatoribus Professoribus Illustrissimis Doctissimis Collegii Neocæsariensis. Salutem in DOMINO.

LITTERÆ uestræ, uiri clarissimi fratresque dilectissimi, summo gaudio nos compleuerunt, præsertim cum schola nostra uestrumque collegium tam uetere amicitia coniuncta sint. Vobiscum gratias agimus DEO omnipotenti, beneficienti,

QUI in principio Collegii Neocæsariensis uiros illos magnanimos prouidentes Dickinson, Burr, Pemberton, Pierson, fundatores uocauit educauitque;

QUI in centum quinquaginta annis, aliis aduersis aliis fauentibus, per labores magistrorum fideliū atque doctorum doctissimorum necnon per dona patronorum munificorum ei uires suffecit, ut, scientiam humanitatemque colens Fœderatas Respublicas defendens Ecclesiam Christi amans et seruans, donum magnum atque mirabile a DEO ad homines, ac uero est, uisum sit;

QUI his annis res secundas largitus, nunc nouo sæculo instante, quasi dotem a patre amante, ei auctas possessiones occasionesque et noua iura præbet eum in finem ut Ecclesia et Patria eius per uigorem uigeant.

Sic iterum impletum est illud DOMINI uerbum manens in æternum: Euntes ibant et flebant mittentes semina sua. Venientes autem ueniunt eum exultatione portautes manipulos suos. Ergo uobiscum DEUM laudamus. Ergo dicimus

AVE Salue Vniuersitas Princetoniensis.

PRAESIDEM Facultatis Guilelmum Henricum Green, uicarium nostrum delegimus, qui, DEO uolente, nostras gratulationes ferat.

Guilelmus Henricus Green,
Præs Facultatis.

Datum Princetoniæ
in Oratorio
Scholæ Theologiæ
die Nono Maii
A. S. MDCCCXCVI
Geerhardus Vos, Ab Epistolis.

We lay aside this noble volume, with renewed thanks to Prof. West for the

loving labor he has lavished upon it, and with renewed congratulations to the great university, one stadium of whose work it closes while it opens another, and as well with renewed gratitude to God for what He has accomplished through the College of New Jersey in the past and prayer for yet greater blessings upon Princeton University in the future.

Princeton.

BENJAMIN B. WARFIELD.

The Mycenaean Age. A Study of the Monuments and Culture of Pre-Homeric Greece. By Dr. Chrestos Tsountas, Ephor of Antiquities and Director of Excavations at Mycenæ; and J. Irving Manatt, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Greek Literature and History in Brown University. With an Introduction by Dr. Dörpfeld. 8vo, pp. xxxi, 417. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1897.) A sumptuously appointed book, giving a systematic and thoroughly scientific account of the results of the marvelous new science which has sprung out of the uncovering of the Royal Tombs at Mycenæ by Schliemann, a science which, in the short course of twenty years, has in great measure restored the landmarks of pre-Homeric Greece and with them the real background of the Homeric poems, and which has brought back to the memory of man a whole forgotten civilization and made the culture of the remote period that stretched between the sixteenth and twelfth centuries before Christ more familiar ground than that of the Homeric poems (about the ninth century) itself. The foundations of the present book are laid in a treatise of Dr. Tsountas', published in 1893, which, however, Dr. Manatt has reworked, systematized and brought up to date. The result is a treatise which, written in a most engaging style and ordered in a thoroughly natural way, presents all that is known of this ancient civilization in a manner which happily combines the scientifically accurate with the popularly attractive. The text is illustrated with an abundance of figures, as well as with twenty-two full-paged plates. The whole material now at the disposal of scholars illustrative of the culture of that age is passed in systematic review and the reader put, as far as that is possible, in the possession of all that is known or conjectured as to it. It is a volume that cannot easily be too highly praised for fullness of information, skill in exposition or attractiveness of presentation. It effectively supplies a crying need. — *The Wizard.* By H. Rider Haggard, Author of *She*, *Allan Quatermain*, etc. 12mo, pp. 293. (New York, London and Bombay: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896.) Is Mr. Rider Haggard, too, among the prophets? Here, at least, is "a missionary book" by him. Of course no one can read it without a series of thrills and some new shudders: to create these is Mr. Rider Haggard's function as a story-teller. Perhaps it is worth reading, too, that we may see ourselves as others see us. The Rev. Thomas Owen is a luxuriously placed clergyman of the Church of England, but with undeveloped capacities in him for the extremest devotion and self-sacrifice. The call comes to him and he cheerfully obeys it, carrying the Gospel to a blood-thirsty African tribe, at the cost of everything he might be supposed to hold dear and finally of his life itself. It is a picture of entire self-consecration, of faith and courage, and of high and lofty ends carried out without a thought of consequences. It is true that Mr. Thomas Owen does not shrink at times from the deceitful use of the falsely miraculous (p. 77); but has all real missionary literature been entirely free from this fault? And Mr. Owen, it seems, after all had the right point of view as to practices of this sort (p. 119). On the whole the book leaves the impression that the self-sacrifice and devotion of the Christian missionary have not been without their effect on Mr. Haggard's mind, and his ideal picture of an instance of missionary adventure is dis-