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I.

DR. MCGIFFERT'S HISTORICAL METHODS.

PROFESSOR MCGIFFERT'S *History of Christianity in the Apostolic Age* came before the world with more than ordinary claims to attention. It had the novelty of being an original contribution to the literature of the subject by an American scholar, and the further novelty of reaching its results by methods hitherto more familiar to the German than to the English reader. It was issued as a volume of the "International Theological Library" and deemed worthy to be associated with the other works of that series emanating from well-known theologians and designed for the use of theological students on either side of the Atlantic. As such, it was ushered into the world with the apparent sanction of those who, as editors of the series, are presumably responsible for the selection of the writers, if not for the indorsement of their general views. And it was sent forth under the imprint of an eminent publishing firm long and honorably known for its services in introducing to the English public translations of Continental theology and not less enterprising of late in the publication of new works, English or American, in that domain.* It is a book, moreover, marked by freshness, vigor and adequate scholarship as well as by readiness of resource, power of ingenious combination, and ample license of conjecture, discarding commonly received opinions and advancing others with singular freedom and self-confidence.

* [Dr. Dickson's allusion is to the well-known publishing house of Messrs. T. & T. Clark, of Edinburgh, by which the work was issued in Great Britain. His words of praise would, however, apply equally well, *mutatis mutandis*, to the American publishers, Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons.—EDITORS.]

VI.—PRACTICAL THEOLOGY.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. A Sociological Study of Foreign Missions. By the REV. JAMES S. DENNIS, D.D., Author of *Foreign Missions After a Century, etc.* Vol. iii. 8vo, pp. xxv, 486. New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1899.

The first volume of Dr. Dennis' remarkable study of the sociological results of modern Protestant missions (for it is to this particular portion of the wide field that he has confined his investigations) appeared some years ago, and was admirably noticed by Prof. Chalmers Martin in this REVIEW for April, 1899 (x, p. 374). To that notice the interested reader must be referred for an account of the origin of the work and its general scope and *schema*. Let it suffice to repeat here only that it was suggested to Dr. Dennis by the students of Princeton Seminary that he should undertake for them a survey of "The Sociological Aspects of Foreign Missions," and he accordingly, having obligingly consented, lectured to them on that subject in February, 1896, dividing his material into six lectures respectively on: "The Sociological Scope of Christian Missions," "The Social Evils of the Non-Christian World," "Ineffectual Remedies and the Cause of Their Failure," "Christianity the Social Hope of the Nations," "The Dawn of a Sociological Era in Missions," and "The Contribution of Christian Missions to Social Progress." It cannot be said that Dr. Dennis did not appreciate from the beginning that he had undertaken a task of great magnitude. From the first, therefore, he not only set diligently to work gathering material from printed sources, but instituted the most wide-reaching inquiries among living missionaries in all parts of the world. When he came to deliver the lectures he was already embarrassed by the richness of his collections: and when he came to publish, he perceived that he could do no sort of justice to them within the narrow limits of six lectures, and consequently undertook to expand them into two large octavo volumes. Even these have proved insufficient for the purpose, however, and on the appearance of the second volume, we are now promised yet a third, to bring the work to a completion. Thus the task has continuously grown on his hands, and the result is that the public is put into possession of a very remarkable body of facts illustrative of the effects of Protestant missions on the social development of the backward races of the world.

As was most natural, the expanding pressure of the facts has exhibited itself more especially within the confines of two of the original lectures—that which exposed the social evils of the non-Christian world, and that which would exhibit the "contribution of Christian missions to social progress." In these two lectures lie, of course, the gist of the subject, and they bear to one another the relation of background and foreground of the picture to be painted. The former of the two fell within the scope of the first volume, which included the first four of the lectures: the latter begins at the one hundredth page of this second volume, and "overflows all its bounds"—for it is to pass on into the third volume, and, indeed (along with the appendix of statistics), to constitute the whole of it. This is, of course, as it should be. Naturally this lecture is the treatise itself; and to it all the rest merely lead up.

It cannot be said that Dr. Dennis is a specially succinct writer. It is quite possible that all that he has given us in this rich and well-packed volume might have been compressed into a good deal less space. It may even be allowed that material is introduced that does not directly advance his particular subject. For example, he is a bit prone to discuss the policy of mis-

sion action, and the nature and history of reform movements on other than mission ground. In other words, he cannot always lay aside the eager Christian moralist, and assume the garb of a cold investigator of the facts of mission progress. The reader is too much the gainer from all this, however, to object to the swelling of the size of the book which results. And the effect of the whole is to place in our hands a veritable thesaurus of facts as to mission work and progress—or say, more directly, of facts as to the working of the leaven of Christianity on the social life of the lower races—which must serve as the mine for students of the subject for many a year. It is especially fortunate that this great book should come before the Churches at the close of the century, summing up as it does what has been done by this century of missions, and offering us thus a natural starting-point for another century's endeavors.

Dr. Dennis is to be congratulated on the happy progress his book is making toward its completion. We shall look forward with high expectations to the appearance of the third and concluding volume which is promised for next spring: and we shall account the three bulky volumes as one of our most useful possessions. It occurs to us to add, that an additional service to the Christian public might be rendered, if, when this *opus magnum* is completed, Dr. Dennis would issue the six lectures substantially as originally delivered—to serve as a more rapidly read *résumé* of the whole subject, to which those might go who lack the time and energy to review the whole body of evidence: and equally to serve as a *précis* of the larger book to be read by serious students before entering upon its packed pages.

Princeton.

B. B. WARFIELD.

"In Trust With the Gospel." Baccalaureate Sermon delivered at the Theological Seminary at Columbia, S. C. By *Rev. Russell Cecil, D.D.*, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Selma, Ala. 32mo, pp. 24. (Richmond, Va.: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1897.) The Faculty and students of Columbia Seminary were well advised to request the publication of this admirable sermon, enforcing a high ideal of the Gospel ministry. It should be in the hands of every young man seeking the office of pastor and shepherd of souls.—**Christian Unity.** A Sermon. By *Rev. Francis R. Beattie, D.D.* 16mo, pp. 22. (Louisville, Ky.). Dr. Beattie gives us in this instructive discourse a very clear exposition of the nature, grounds and results of Christian unity, distinguishing it from "Church unity" and exhibiting it in its true character.—**The Westminster Standards and the American Republic.** By the *Rev. William Henry Roberts, D.D., LL.D.* 12mo, pp. 20. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication, 1898.) This is the admirable sermon delivered by Dr. Roberts in connection with the celebration of the formation of the Westminster Standards, and has been extracted from the volume of addresses delivered on that occasion with a view to giving it greater circulation. It well deserves it.—**The Pastor and His Elders.** By *Rev. A. R. Holderby, D.D.* 32mo, pp. 18. (Richmond, Va.: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1899.) An excellent survey of the relation that should subsist between the pastor and his elders, and a plea for its realization.—**Publication.** By *Rev. M. S. Kennedy.* 32mo, pp. 16. (Richmond, Va.: Presbyterian Committee of Publication, 1898.) A telling plea for the usefulness of denominational houses of publication, based on the importance of a provision of good reading.—**Aunt Melissa's Question.** By the *Rev. W. B. Crumpton.* 12mo, pp. 16. (Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society, 1898.) A moving story of how "Aunt Melissa" asked a man of wealth "Why not put Christ into your will?" and how the question worked.—**My Christmas Class.** A Suggestion. By the *Rev. F. A. Horton.*