

THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW.

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I.

JAMES McCOSH AS THINKER AND EDUCATOR.*

I.—AS BELFAST PROFESSOR.

A SCOT, born in Ayrshire, on the banks of the "Bonnie Doon." of sturdy and God-fearing ancestry, who had played the man more than once in the struggle of the Covenanters against oppression—a scion of the great middle class of Scotland, made up so largely of cultivators of the land, who through the exercise of the proverbial thrift and intelligence of the "canny Scot" had forced an unwilling soil into fertility and had achieved easy circumstances—James McCosh inherited all the virtues of his class and ancestry. These formed the basis of his character, and held the secret of his unvarying success in the larger spheres in which he was destined to become an actor. Born of highly intelligent and conscientious parents, who possessed in full measure that tough moral fibre and that firm adherence to high ideals of religion and duty so characteristic of the Scotch, the parental traits entered as so much clean grit into the constitution of the boy and gave a pledge of the force he was to become in later years in his own and other lands. Young McCosh was fortunate in his home-life and training, thanks to a

* The sources from which the materials used in the following article have been obtained are (1) *The Autobiography of James McCosh*, so ably and gracefully edited by William M. Sloane; (2) the works of McCosh, including books, pamphlets and addresses, a complete bibliography of which has been made out by Joseph H. Dulles, Librarian of the Princeton Theological Seminary, (3) and most important of all, a personal acquaintance ranging over twenty years, in which, as pupil and later as teacher in the department of Philosophy at Princeton, the writer had abundant opportunity to study McCosh's many-sided life.

VI.—PRACTICAL THEOLOGY.

THE EARLY EDITIONS OF DOCTOR WATTS' HYMNS. By LOUIS F. BENSON. Philadelphia: The Presbyterian Historical Society, 1902. Svo, pp. 15.

THE EVOLUTION OF A GREAT HYMN. By LOUIS F. BENSON. Philadelphia: The Presbyterian Historical Society, 1902. Svo, pp. 15.

In these two interesting essays (which are reprinted from the *Journal of the Presbyterian Historical Society*) the learned author gives the public the results of some of his studies in the archæology of Hymnology. Both are concerned with Dr. Watts' hymns. The former is bibliological and describes in sufficient detail and with admirable care those early editions of Dr. Watts' hymns which seemed only a little while ago hopelessly lost. The latter is a textual study and makes known to us the stages through which the great hymn beginning with "Before Jehovah's awful throne" has reached its present form.

Even the British Museum, it seems, has no earlier edition of Watts' hymns than the fifth, of 1716. Dr. Benson has brought together copies of the first four editions and gives us here a most interesting account of them, illustrated with fac-similes of the title-pages of the first two. The first edition appeared in 1707, the second in 1709, the third in 1712 and the fourth in 1714, and so on, fourteen editions appearing before the author's death, although he made no alterations in the text after the second edition of 1709, and (as Dr. Benson conclusively shows) had no intention of making any at the time of his death. Dr. Benson gives a full history of the early editions and marks the changes made from edition to edition.

It has been common to say that "Before Jehovah's awful throne" first appears in Watts' *Psalms of David* of 1719. Dr. Benson points out that it is found in a crude form in the first edition of the *Horæ Lyricæ* of 1706 (issued in December, 1705), and that it is only the final form given it by its author that appears first in the *Psalms of David* of 1719. The noble first verse of the current text was the composition of Wesley, who, however, omitted the fourth verse. This verse was afterward restored by Barlow, in 1785. And in this its perfected form the hymn has become one of the classical hymns of the English-speaking Churches. The whole history is set down by Dr. Benson in an intensely interesting narrative, marked at once by scrupulous accuracy and keen sympathy.

Princeton.

BENJ. B. WARFIELD.

The Sinless Christ. By George Tybout Purves, D.D., LL.D. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication. Pp. 160. 75 cents.—The many who enjoyed Dr. Purves' preaching will rejoice in the publication of these sermons. In rhetorical excellence they are quite up to the high standard of those published in the previous volume (*Faith and Life*). In popular attractiveness, in spirituality and evangelical fervor, they are even higher. They have to a remarkable degree the tone and spirit of the ambassador for Christ, entreating and beseeching men on His behalf to be reconciled to God.

Princeton.

S. A. MARTIN.

The Religion of the Mature Mind. By George Albert Coe, Ph.D. Chicago: Fleming H. Revell Company. Pp. 450. Price, \$1.35.—These essays are, on the whole, thoughtful and judicious discussions of great religious questions viewed from the standpoint of higher criticism. The substance