

THE PRESBYTERIAN QUARTERLY.

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I. THE LATEST PHASE OF HISTORICAL RATIONALISM.

IN the last number of the QUARTERLY (pp. 36 *et seq.*), we undertook to give some general account of the new historical rationalism which is being now introduced to the American churches by certain enthusiastic pupils of Adolph Harnack; and then, for its better elucidation, began a somewhat fuller exposition of one or two of the more fundamental positions assumed by Dr. A. C. McGiffert in his *Inaugural Address*, in his advocacy of it. We pointed out in that section of our article Dr. McGriffert's conception of Christianity as a development, and gave some account of the "transformations" which he conceives Christianity to have undergone since its origination by Christ. The most important of these "transformations" he represents, certainly with the best of right from his point of view, to be that from the primitive to the Catholic Church, to the better understanding of which his *Address* is devoted. For our better estimation of the significance of his teaching here, we should next consider more closely:

V. DR. MCGIFFERT'S THEORY OF THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH.

One of the most striking passages in Dr. McGiffert's *Inaugural Address* is that in which he draws a picture of "primitive Christianity" as it is conceived by him, preliminary to expounding what he calls the momentous "transformation of the primitive into the Catholic Church, of the church of the apostles into that of the old Catholic fathers." That important changes did take place

nal Life, The Second Epistle of John, The Third Epistle of John. These titles, though quite comprehensive, give but little idea of the real scope and contents of the discussions, for every chapter is rich with thought.

The sub-title—The Manifested Life—gives the key-note to all the studies, and leads our author to unfold the deep underlying truths of the Epistles. The chapters on Fellowship and its Tests illustrate this. Fellowship has its foundation in a manifested life, fellowship reveals the character of the life, and the manner in which this fellowship is revealed. The tests of fellowship are keeping his commandments, walking as he walked, and loving our brethren. Each of these points is well worked out.

The degrees of life and fellowship are developed from these words, "I write unto you fathers," "I write unto you young men," "I write unto you little children." The life and character of God's children is expounded along such lines as these: Righteousness in being and in act is one of the forms in which the divine life unfolds itself, the true children of God will love one another, and in various particulars these two lines are opened up.

Under the Confidence of the Holy Spirit, the filial, prayerful spirit is enlarged upon, and the indwelling, renewing Spirit abides in them ever. From the words "Let us love one another" we have one of the very best studies in the series. The love of God in Christ is the great motive prompting our love to God and for one another. The testimony concerning eternal life leads our author to speak of the witnesses, the reception of the testimony, and the testimony itself. This is twofold: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. In this connection the truth is well brought out that the believer may have this full assurance, though all may not as a matter of fact possess it. It is their privilege, but may not be their possession.

The chapters on the Second and Third Epistles are brief, but practical and very readable. We can make no attempt to give even an outline of them in the space at our disposal.

We congratulate the author on his good work, and we rejoice in the clear evidences which this volume affords of his ability, learning and devout spirit. We congratulate the congregation that sits under such ministration of the word, and do not wonder that they are a people who are intelligent, and liberal in their gifts to the Lord.

It is a matter of cheer also to find one and another of our younger ministers devoting themselves with marks of ability and scholarship to biblical studies. This gives good promise that our church will not want for men to maintain her standard of learning and devotion in the Master's service.

We only add that for devotional reading this book is admirable, and should have a place in Sabbath-school libraries. The publishers have done their work well in every respect.

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BRIMM'S MAN AND THE BIBLE IN THE LIGHT OF REASON.

MAN AND THE BIBLE IN THE LIGHT OF REASON. *By William Waldo Brimm.*
Franklin Printing and Publishing Company, Atlanta, Ga. 1894.

This volume is from the pen of one of the Presbyterian ministers of the Synod of Georgia, and will attract attention on the patriotic ground of special interest in

the production of Southern authors, as well as for the sake of its own merits. The design of the author is to show the intrinsic reasonableness of the Christian revelation, to prove that the system of truth taught in the Scriptures solves in the most satisfactory manner the standing problem of the human reason, and satisfies, as does no other system, the deepest needs of man's nature. The volume consists of fourteen interesting and suggestive chapters, presenting some profound subjects in a manner level to the popular comprehension. The thought is clear, though sometimes abstruse, and any man of average intelligence ought to be able to follow the course of the reasoning.

The first four chapters of the volume discuss the nature of man in the light of reason, showing that he is a free, moral, religious, and yet fallen, being, possessed not simply of a body, but of a soul, which is spiritual as to its essence. The next three chapters present the rational evidence for man's origin, design and future existence. The remaining seven chapters discuss various topics connected with revelation, such as, need of a revelation, origin of the Bible, supernatural evidence of its divine origin, the harmony of the Bible with all truth, etc. The careful reader will find in these chapters much to interest and instruct. The ablest part of Mr. Brimm's volume is found in the chapter entitled "The Religion of the Bible the Religion of the True Philosophy." The author gives us here some admirable statements upon a most difficult subject, and yet in simple and popular style.

We would like to see the thirteenth chapter, entitled "Christianity and Infidelity Contrasted," published as a tract and given a wide circulation among all classes. In fact, this book is sure to exert a most salutary influence upon all its readers, and we hope it will secure the wide distribution justified both by its merits and beneficial influence. We commend especially the successful attempt which the author has made to throw his thoughts upon these abstruse topics into such form that the popular mind can easily grasp them. We like the company which the author keeps; Hamilton, McCosh, Dabney, Calderwood, Bp. Butler, the Duke of Argyle, Cocker, Tiele, Hodge, *et al.*, appear by quotation or suggestion; and while the book is not scholastic or technical, it yet indicates good and sufficient scholarship.

We would not be hyper-critical, yet we hope that in the second edition our author will correct the use of the word "eternal" on the 9th and 204th pages. We suggest, also, that there is too much valuable material collected on these pages to be practically wasted for purposes of future reference on account of the lack of a good and satisfactory index. These are blemishes, however, which can be easily removed. We congratulate Mr. Brimm upon his first venture into the field of authorship, and hope for him great success in this and all future efforts.

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DRUMMOND'S "ASCENT OF MAN."

THE ASCENT OF MAN. *By Henry Drummond, LL. D., F. R. S. E., F. G. S.*
New York: James Pott & Co., 114 Fifth Avenue. 1894. Pp. 346.

This book is the Lowell Lectures which were given by Professor Drummond two years ago in Boston. When they were delivered they produced a very pain-