

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

spoken of in contrast to 'corporate unity,' and as though it might be accepted as a substitute for it. Such language would have been unintelligible to St. Paul." Was it, then, wrong after all to declare that Apostolical Succession (defined as above) is an essential part of our heritage? Did not our Reformers, by striving earnestly after the ideal of verses 3, 4, show plainly that they held it to be so? and may we not find somewhere here the answer to the question as to where there is any Scriptural warrant for the "assumption" that Nonconformists are "self-deprived of the fulness of covenant blessings"? Those who have failed to keep the Apostolic injunction surely suffer, though it is not for us to pronounce in what way. And be it remembered that, in so far as we Church-people are responsible for their schism, we suffer too: "Whether one member [of the body] suffereth, all the members suffer with it."

We Church-people are surely right in insisting upon "regular" ordination, but we need to insist upon it very humbly.

H. T. MALAHER.



Notices of Books.

STUDIES IN THE PSALMS. By Joseph Bryant Rotherham. *Allenson*.
Price 10s. 6d. net.

Mr. Rotherham is the translator of "The Emphasized Bible"—a translation "made from corrected Hebrew and Greek texts, distinguishing narrative, speech, parallelism, and logical analysis," and reproducing by certain simple signs the emphatic idioms of the original texts. It was at the Westminster Bible School, conducted by Dr. G. Campbell Morgan, that Mr. Rotherham received the impulse to "make an attempt on the Psalms." The present volume is the outcome.

In an interesting introduction the author discusses the Psalms as literature, as lyrics, as a summary of sacred learning, and as a stimulus to holy living. He cordially adopts Dr. Thirtle's theory about the titles of the Psalms. According to this theory, we ought to distinguish the strictly *literary* titles from the purely *musical* instructions. The headlines describing (1) the nature of the poem, such as psalm, song, or michtam; (2) the name of the author, as "David," "Asaph"; and (3) the occasion when the Psalm was written, are *literary* titles, and ought to stand at the *beginning* of the Psalm, as they do at present. On the other hand, all the *musical* or liturgical instructions, as "to the chief musician," "upon" such and such instrument, or "for" such and such choir, rightly belong to the *conclusion* of the immediately *preceding* Psalm. As a justification for this theory, we are referred to the prayer or Psalm in the third chapter of Habakkuk, where the *literary* inscription stands at the *beginning* and the *musical* assignment at the *end*. Let us apply this rule to Psalm lvi. The full title of this Psalm is: [a] "For the chief musician; set to the dove of the distant terebinth;

[b] By David—a Michtam—when the Philistines seized him in Gath.” Remove the musical part [a] to the end of the *preceding* Psalm [lv.], and the effect will be very satisfactory. “Set to the *dove* of the distant terebinth” thus becomes the *subscription* of Psalm lv., which contains the wish “would that I had pinions like a *dove*.” This theory deserves more attention from scholars than it has actually received. In his arrangement of the text, Mr. Rotherham has consistently followed Dr. Thirtle’s theory.

The translation is that of the author’s “Emphasized Bible,” “diligently revised.” It closely follows the translations of Briggs and of Driver, and is printed in stanzas. Each Psalm has a descriptive title, and is followed by an exposition. We have compared Mr. Rotherham’s translation with the Hebrew, and found it quite reliable. Eccentricities of rendering are few. He is too fond of small emendations of the Hebrew text. We are not opposed to *judicious* emendations when necessary, so long as a literal translation of the Massoretic text is given in the footnotes; this, however, is not always done. The emendation of Psalm cx. 7 is unnecessary, as the Hebrew is quite clear, and a literal translation gives good sense. “Quiet” for “prosper” in Psalm cx. 6 is tame. The alternative renderings, culled from the works of other scholars, are valuable.

The exposition, which follows each Psalm, is chiefly concerned with discussing the historical background. Mr. Rotherham believes that every Psalm bearing the name of David is either David’s composition or an adaptation, or a fragment of a Psalm of which David was the author. He further believes that Hezekiah has “overhauled” several Davidic Psalms to adapt them to altered circumstances.

The book is not a commentary on the Psalms, and has no index. The aim is “to induce readers of the Psalms to become students.” Lovers of the Psalms who cannot read Hebrew will derive much help from this volume, which is both reverent and successful in giving to the English reader some of the force and beauty of the Hebrew text.

K. E. KHODADAD.

THE EMPIRE OF THE OLD WORLD TO THE FALL OF ROME. By M. Bramston, S.Th. *Blackie and Son*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

A most ambitious book. The author has attempted in less than 300 pages to cover 4,700 years of history in Egypt, Babylonia, Assyria, Greece, Israel, and Rome. Of course, the treatment is necessarily scrappy; but where we have tested it by recognized authorities the details are accurate. The book is written in a bright and interesting way, and may well fulfil its author’s purpose of serving as a reading-book for children of twelve and upwards. It certainly gives good “general knowledge,” and has a plentiful supply of nice illustrations.

THE GROWING GENERATION. By Barclay Baron. *Student Christian Movement*. Price 1s.

Mr. Baron is acting warden of the Oxford and Bermondsey Medical Mission, and therefore writes with knowledge, and his work has been edited by the S.C.M. Social Service Committee. There are seven chapters, primarily intended for study circles, but they are interesting as general

reading. It is needless to add that they are instructive, and if Mr. Baron has not found the solution of social troubles, who can be surprised? The chapters are on Physique, Education, Finding Work, Play, Finding Interests, Social Relations, Religion. We hope many students and schoolboys will find time to read the book.

OUR LORD'S WORK IN HEAVEN. By the Rev. W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D. *Longmans, Green, and Co.* Price 1d.

The name of the author of the latest addition to the English Church manuals is a sufficient guarantee that its contents are scriptural, full and condensed. Recent literature on the subject is noticed, and the facts are presented in a clear, analytic way. We hope that a second edition will speedily be required. When the times come, may we suggest to the author that the two subjects with which he has attempted to deal are large enough to require separate treatment. He begins and ends with our Lord's High Priestly work, but he inserts between the two sections a long digression dealing with the Eucharistic Sacrifice and its related topics. This is not strictly relevant to the subject nominally in hand, though of course our view of the one is vitally affected by our view of the other. We cannot help feeling that it would have been better if the author had dealt only with "Our Lord's work in heaven." He could then have treated certain parts of it in the fuller and more positive way they deserve, and his book would be more helpful to the members of an average congregation, upon whom his condensed and occasionally allusive way of writing makes too great demands.

DICTIONARY OF CHRISTIAN BIOGRAPHY. Edited by Henry Wace, D.D., and W. C. Piercy, B.A. London: *John Murray.* Price 21s. net.

Most modern dictionaries tend to become so large that they are both difficult to use and expensive to buy. One always fears that if they are made smaller they will immediately lose their value. We have here a dictionary of four volumes reduced to one, and the edition before us will be a work, unless we are much mistaken, of much greater value for most people and of much wider use. The four-volume edition is a monument of learning, and, as a work of reference, indispensable. But for the ordinary clergyman's library we want something smaller; we can be satisfied with something less than the "596 Johns," of whom we are told in its pages. This book deals with the first 600 years, instead of the first 800, which of course saves space. Many of the less important names have been omitted, and some articles slightly condensed; but the great articles of the old book have been in the main retained, and a number of new ones have been added. The editorial work has been thoroughly and excellently done, and the volume before us ought to find a place in the reference libraries of most clergy. We are all too ignorant of the life and work of those who guided the Church of God in the critical stages of its early existence. The book is no mere shortened form of a larger work; it is a dictionary, comprehensive and complete enough for most students, dealing fully with the men of the period which it professes to cover.

NOTES ON THE FULHAM CONFERENCE. By the Rev. N. Dimock. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 2s. net.

Another volume of the Memorial edition of Mr. Dimock's works. Mr. Dimock was a member of the Fulham Conference on the Doctrine of the

Holy Communion, and he took his membership seriously, as this volume abundantly proves. It contains a little of his own writing, and valuable indeed that little is. It contains much of quotations from others, and the quotations are pertinent and important. It is a real contribution to the study of the subject.

THE LIFE HEREAFTER. By Edward Hicks, D.D. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 2s. net.

Perhaps the main contribution that Dr. Hicks makes to the study of this difficult subject is the emphasis that he lays on Mellone's view that the notion of mere endlessness without growth is a poor and cramped conception. He believes that real life is always growing to fuller life, and that as our life depends upon union with Christ, so that fact will make it both fruitful and eternal. Dr. Hicks discusses the various difficulties in a simple and practical manner, and his little book, although it does not solve all the problems, will help at least some to a better understanding.

HERE AND HEREAFTER. By Rev. J. E. Watts-Ditchfield. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 3s. 6d. net.

We are always curious to know how a great writer lives and works. Here we are enabled to see how a man of vigorous life and inexhaustible work writes. If this book were not worth reading, we should be disposed to bid our readers forgive its imperfections, and work their way through it. Mr. Watts-Ditchfield has done so much for East London, for society, and for the Church that whatever he writes deserves to be read. But this book requires no apology of this kind; for itself it is abundantly worth reading. It is a series of sermons and addresses, the first five being addresses to the great midday congregation of St. Paul's at Lenten Services. Then there follow a number of sermons preached on special occasions: one preached before the University of Cambridge, two in Westminster Abbey, some in other cathedrals, and some in his own parish church at Bethnal Green. They are full of practical common sense, they are full of real thought, they are marked by wide experience of men and things, and, best of all, they are full of the simple Gospel. Mr. Watts-Ditchfield is an evangelical who is not ashamed of the fact, but he is blind neither to the faults of his own school nor to the virtues of other schools. Here is a passage in proof: "It is little use men calling themselves Protestants and living 'at ease in Sion,' with town and country houses, railing at the 'Mirfield monks,' who, at any rate, give of their own substance, and live a life of self-denial which puts many of us to shame." And to those who desire to gain faith and strength for the work of their lives this book will come as a real help. His sermons are well arranged, excellently illustrated, forcefully put. One is tempted to ask how, in the midst of all his work, the author can have written them, but the real answer is ready to hand. They are the product of his life, the result of his work; and, after all, such are the only sermons worth the reading.

IDEALS FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE. By the Rev. W. D. M. Sutherland, with Introduction by the Rev. G. H. Morrison, M.A. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 2s. 6d. net.

A collection of the best of a series of articles in the *Ardoxan and Saltcoats Herald*, dealing with a variety of mainly ethical topics from a Christian point of view. There are many fine and shrewd sayings; one example must suffice. In the essay on Conscience the essential points are well put in a few lines. Conscience is an inborn faculty. It distinguishes right and wrong, and it is "moral knowledge together with another, and that other, God," who educates it.

SHALL I BELIEVE? By Rev. G. N. Oakley, B.D. London: S.P.C.K. Price 2s. 6d.

A book of Christian evidences on a small scale, written with real ability, and suitable for distribution among thoughtful young men.

Received: LATER LETTERS OF MARCUS DODS. Edited and selected by his son, Marcus Dods. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 6s. Readers of the earlier volume will be glad to have these additional letters, and those who did not read the earlier volume will find here the revelation of the personality of a remarkable man and some interesting religious discussions. GOLDEN SUNBEAM. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s. 4d. The Annual Volume of the Church Magazine for Children. THE GOLDEN KEY. By Lilian Street. London: *H. R. Allenson, Ltd.* Price 3s. 6d. A volume of daily thoughts, from prose and poetry, admirably chosen, carefully arranged, and beautifully got up. THE DAWN OF DAY. London: S.P.C.K. Price 1s. The Annual Volume of the well-known Parish Magazine. THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE OF LIFE. London: *H. R. Allenson*. Price 1s. net. The words are used in their natural, not their sectarian, sense. A series of practical essays, in letter form, dealing with the ordinary problems of life. OUR ENGLISH BIBLE: HOW WE GOT IT. By Rev. R. B. Girdlestone, M.A. London: S.P.C.K. A second edition of a useful little book. THE HISTORY OF THE EVANGELICAL PARTY. By G. R. Balleine. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 1s. net. A cheap edition of Mr. Balleine's most valuable book. SONGS OF THE TWILIGHT. By F. V. Harcourt. London: *Morton and Sons*. Price 6d. A small pamphlet of religious poems. PRAYER. By Rev. W. P. Warburton, M.A. London: *Putnam's Sons*. Price 1s. net. A devotional paper on prayer read to a clerical society. TOWARDS A PERFECT MAN. By H. W. Clark. London: *Robert Scott*. Price 2s. net. Some practical studies in character building, likely to be very useful, especially to young men and women. UGANDA; A CHOSEN VESSEL. By Rev. H. T. C. Weatherhead. London: *C.M.S.* Price 6d. net. The Missionary Study Book for 1912, of a simpler and more elementary kind than the larger books. Just the thing for a parochial study circle. MINISTERS DIARY, 1912. London: *Hodder and Stoughton*. Price 2s. and 3s. net. A usefully arranged and very complete pocket-book for a working clergyman. THE CHURCHMAN'S ALMANACK, 1912. London: S.P.C.K. Price 6d. The usual but absolutely indispensable batch of Churchmen's Almanack. THE JOURNAL OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES. Published by Henry Frowde. London: *Clarendon Press*. Price 3s. 6d. WILD WALES. By George Borrow. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 6d. net. MR. HORROCKS PURSER. By C. J. Cutcliffe. London: *T. Nelson and Sons*. Price 7d. net. EMBLEMS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. By F. E. Marsh. London: *Morgan and Scott*. Price 3s. 6d. net. A series of devotional studies on the work of the Holy Spirit, written with simplicity, aptly illustrated, and sure to be helpful. THE SIX NECESSARY THINGS. By J. Hammond. London: *Duckworth and Co.* Price 2s. 6d. net. The six things are: Knowledge of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Repentance, Faith, and Obedience. Some unconventional theology for the man in the street. THE HEBREWS EPISTLE. By Sir Robert Anderson. London: *T. Nisbet and Co.* Price 3s. 6d. net. The writer discusses the types and similes of the Epistle in the light of the Old Testament and of the Gospel. A clearly-written and useful book. SCRIPTURE POST-CARDS. By Harold Copping. London: *R.T.S.* Price 6d. net each packet. A series of picture post-cards, depicting Scripture incidents, reproduced from Copping's Bible. These beautiful cards will give much greater pleasure than the very unsatisfactory and inartistic cards of which we have far too many. We recommend them to the buyers of picture post-cards. A DEFENCE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND AGAINST DISESTABLISHMENT. By Roundell, Earl of Selborne. London: *Macmillan and Co.* Price 1s. net. A very opportune reprint of Lord Selborne's book, with an additional chapter on the Report of the Royal Commission. Full of facts for speakers in the present campaign. DR. ALEC'S SON. By Irene H. Barnes. London: *C.M.S.* Price 1s. 6d. Miss Barnes's name ought to be sufficient to circulate this book, which is an excellent missionary story, printed and illustrated even better than some of its predecessors. The children will thoroughly enjoy it, and it will help them. READING FROM THE BIBLE AND APOCRYPHA. By E. M. Crocyd. London: *Henry Frowde*. Price 2s. net. A series of Bible readings arranged for every day in the year, and printed from the Revised Version. STUDIES IN THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. By C. H. Robinson, D.D. London: *Longmans, Green and Co.* Price 6d. net. A reprint with an extra chapter of Canon Robinson's well-known book. The extra chapter deals with the presence of Christ in the Holy Communion, and although we cannot agree with all that it says, it combats one mischievous heresy—the heresy that suggests that, when what you see in the Sacrament passes away, the hidden blessing is also lost.