

Period. 2006
v. 8
1896-97

ANDOVER-HARVARD
THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

THE
UNION SEMINARY MAGAZINE

NO. 1—SEPT.-OCT., 1896.

I.—LITERARY.

THE TESTING SYSTEM FOR MINISTERIAL STUDENTS IN THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRELAND.

The testing system for ministerial students in the Southern Presbyterian Church is far from giving universal satisfaction. No proposed changes have met with a favorable reception at the hands of the majority of our rulers. But all parties are ready to admit that practically the examining of our candidates is very often most imperfect and unsatisfactory. Laxity is the common characteristic of most of the examinations conducted by the Presbyteries, while incompetence on the part of the examiners is not unheard of.

We are not concerned here to inquire whether the trouble springs from the requirements of the Book, or from the nature of the personnel of the Presbyteries—whether the standard set up in our Constitution is too high, or the material of our Presbyteries too low. We merely affirm as an acknowledged fact that there is dissatisfaction with the system by which we test the students' qualifications for the work of the ministry.

This being so, it may be fairly assumed that an account of the testing system in application in a sister church of noble repute will be received with interest. We do not think of advocating the adoption of the Irish scheme by our own church. We hope simply to stir up the minds of our brethren, by giving them a new plan to think on, to the bettering, in a way which shall seem good to them, our testing system.

The last lecture gives an inspiring summary of the success of missions in the 19th century.

The book ought to be in the hands of every pastor in the land. Imperfections attach to it. But they are slight in comparison with its good qualities; and we know of no other book which will do for the pastor at home the important work which this book does. It supplies facts for monthly concerts and missionary sermons which the people should know.

THOS. C. JOHNSON.

February 3rd, 1896.

A SERMON. Delivered in the First Presbyterian Church, Waco, Texas, on Thanksgiving Day, November 29th, 1894. *By the pastor, Rev. S. A. King, D. D.* Columbia, Mo.: E. W. Stephens, Printer, 1895.

This sermon is printed in a neat pamphlet of about 26 pages. The sermon is preceded by a good photogravure of the author. It is followed by one of his church building in Waco. It may be obtained from the author at 10 cents a copy, or at \$1.00 per dozen.

Dr. King takes for his text, Luke 12:48: "For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required; and to whom men have committed much, of him will they ask the more." Among the great things which God has done for us, he mentions: *The reservation of this great land to our Protestant forefathers; the settlement of the land and the shaping of its institutions by colonists, especially the influence of the Scotch-Irish on this country; the consequent religious liberty, and provision for education.* The preacher then makes an eloquent plea that the sacred trust which has passed down to us may be kept, points to the Bible as the source of our peculiar blessings, and pleads with all comers to our shores to respect the Bible, the home, the sanctuary and the Sabbath.

This sermon is a scholarly, historical production, a Biblical one in its tone, an eloquent one.

Several years ago when about to hear the honored pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Waco for the first time, we were advised to expect a great sermon. The present pamphlet is a noble example, we imagine, of Dr. King's preaching. Long may his bow abide in strength.

THOS. C. JOHNSON.

Orlando, Fla., March 18th, 1896.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. Their Place in the Pastorate, in Prayer, in Conference. Ten Lectures. *By Augustus C. Thompson.* Author of "Moravian Missions," "The Mercy Seat," "The Better Land," etc. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1889.

Every pastor ought to have this book. It will give him a better idea of his sphere. It will heighten his sense of obligation to support Foreign missions. It will do something toward showing him the relation between prayer and the success of the Gospel. And it will be of great practical

value in his efforts to increase the interest of his people in the evangelization of the world.

Incidentally, the book should make him ashamed of his present piety and consecration. It will give him a glimpse of the proper method and spirit of prayer. It gives a most vigorous blow to the purely selfish and unchristian prayer put up from so many lips in Christendom.

Though it is an old book, we know of no other which has displaced it of right. If you have not got it, get it if you have to "sell a coat to do it."

Having commended it so heartily, it is proper to say that it has some blemishes—e. g. unreserved praise of women's doings in Missionary Conferences. These, however, the men of our church can easily spot.

THOS. C. JOHNSON.

Hampden-Sidney, Va.

CLERG KELLY: ARAB OF THE CITY. His Progress and Adventures. *By S. R. Crockett.* Author of the Lilac Sunbonnet, Bog Myrtle and Peat. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1896.

"The Men of the Moss Hags," by Mr. Crockett, led irresistibly to a comparison of the author with Sir Walter Scott. This was owing both to the subject matter and to the style of the book. We would not be understood to intimate that Mr. Crockett wrote "The Men of the Moss Hags" in the stately style of Sir Walter Scott. Our age is apt to regard the "Great Wizzard" as bordering on the stilted. Nobody would be tempted to say the same of "The Men of the Moss Hags." Still there is an elevation and dignity about the manner of it as well as about the matter that makes its writer compare favorably with the author of "Old Mortality."

No other manner would suit the chief characters in Mr. Crockett's great historical novel. They were people of true gentility, viz: Of that gentility which springs of high character and devotion Christian principles. The selection of such characters naturally called forth a style from a man of Mr. Crockett's talents which puts him alongside of the very prince of older novelists. For they are the princely characters of Sir Walter Scott's novels that explain his uniformly dignified and noble style. He never seemed to care to write of scullions, kitchen maids, and the "rag tag and bobtailed," except incidentally, unless indeed they were people of real worth. In this respect Scott stands in glaring contrast with Charles Dickens, who deals so much with trash. Hence, also, Dickens' style.

Of course, Dickens' style is good. It is wonderfully good for the purpose. It suits Fagin and the Artful Dodger, and Dick Swiveller, and his friends. It suits Barkis, and Barnaby Rudge, and Mr. Micawber. It suits all his characters. But everybody feels that in going from Scott to Dickens, he goes from the *Salon* of the gentle to the one room of the unwashed; goes from the house to the kitchen; goes from parlor, music hall and library to the kitchen with its pots and frying pans, and generally into a very ill-kept, dirty kitchen, too.