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I. Literary.

ICONOCLASTS.

BY J. W. LAPSLEY.

“YE shall destroy their altars, break their images, and cut down their groves.” This was the divine command to Israel as they invaded Canaan. Policy as well as reverence for the divine authority demanded strict obedience to the command. But it was not so obeyed as to put out of sight the temptations to idolatry; and again and again Israel sinned after the example of the heathen they had supplanted, became image worshippers, and suffered grievously for their apostasy. Hence image breaking was accounted a sign of devotion to Jehovah. Jehu said, “Come with me and see my zeal for the Lord,” and he went and broke down the image of Baal, and the house of Baal, burnt his images with fire, and slew his priests and votaries with the sword. But this was as far as Jehu’s zeal for the Lord carried him. While he had no real devotion to God, and, in fact, renewed the idol worship at Dan and Bethel, he made the divine commission an excuse for pursuing with lavish bloodshed his own schemes of worldly ambition. And there have been others besides Jehu in other ages who have trod in his steps. “Mohammed,” says Dr. Schaff, “started as a religious reformer fired by the great idea of the unity of the Godhead, and filled with horror of idolatry.” And he and his Caliphs, long after they became world-wide conquerors, full of ambition and given up to every cruel and sensual passion, continued to proclaim, “There is but one God,” and continued to the last their warfare on image and image worship. They made their professed zeal for the one God a cover and ex-

THE INFLUENCE THAT FORMED THE PURITAN PARTY. A Dissertation Presented to the Faculty of the Illinois Wesleyan University for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. *By J. M. Wells.* Bloomington, Ill.: The University Press. 1899.

The Rev. John Miller Wells, Ph. D., of the Second Church, Staunton, Va., the author of this pamphlet, is one of the most vigorous and promising of the younger *alumni* of Union Seminary in Virginia. In the midst of the duties and burdens of a busy pastorate he has found time for an extended course of study; and has proven his mastery of this course by passing examinations thereon, and by the production of the dissertation before us.

We never knew Mr. Wells to do a shoddy piece of work. The work before us is ably done. We congratulate him heartily on having done it so well.

If we understand him, he overrates, in our judgment, the Lollard influence in the formation of the Puritan party; and occasionally, throughout the paper, statements are made in such a way as to be liable to mislead, out of desire to be brief, perhaps; but the defects are few and relatively unimportant. The production is worthy of hearty praise. We hope that Dr. Wells may continue to spend his surplus energy in this department of research.

THOMAS C. JOHNSON.

Union Seminary, Richmond, Sept. 2, 1899.

DAVID HARUM. A Story of American Life. *By Edward Noyes Westcott.* New York: D. Appleton & Company. 1899.

This book is a novel. Throughout it runs a love story which grows in interest. But it is even more a realistic portrayal of several types of American life and manners. "The title role is taken by the old country banker, David Harum; dry, quaint, somewhat illiterate, no doubt, but possessing an amazing amount of knowledge not found in printed books, and holding fast to the cheerful belief that there is nothing wholly bad or useless in this life. Or, in his own words, 'A reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog—they keep him f'm broodin' on bein' a dog.' This horse-trading country banker and reputed Shylock, but real philanthropist, is an accurate portrayal of a type that exists in the rural districts of central New York to-day. Variations of him may be seen daily driving about in their road-wagons or seated in their bank parlors, shrewd, sharp-tongued, honest as the sun-light from most points of view, but in a horse-trade much inclined to follow the rule laid down by Mr. Harum himself for transactions: 'Do unto the other feller the way he'd like to do unto you—an' do it fust.'" So, at any rate, says Mr. Forbes Heermans in his brief but interesting introduction to the volume.

Mr. Heermans tells us that in his introduction which gives a touch of unusual pathos to this work: Edward Noyes Westcott died of consumption March 31, 1898. He had been a busy banker all his active years. "The book was finished while the author lay upon his death-