

THE Union Seminary Magazine.

Vol. XL

APRIL—MAY, 1900.

No. 4.

I. Literary.

THE UNITY OF SECOND CORINTHIANS.

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It is admitted by nearly all critics that the Second Epistle to the Corinthians is wholly the work of Paul. A few Dutch scholars have recently been bold enough to maintain that none of the letters attributed to the apostle were really written by him, at least in their present form (Cf. Pierson and Naber, "Verisimilia," 1886; R. Steck, Galater brief, 1888; Von Manen; Expository Times, February and March, 1898); but in view of the small adhesion given to this school by even rationalistic writers, it may be set aside as one of the eccentricities of criticism. The epistle bears every evidence of Pauline authorship. It is, in fact, the most autobiographic of the apostle's writings. It is written in his most intense and characteristic style. It deals with a particular situation occasioned by his relation to the Corinthian church. It contains those doctrinal ideas which were his favorite thoughts. Yet it is no set thesis. It is the outpouring of his heart to his fickle but beloved Corinthians. There can be, therefore, no question that from beginning to end of the epistle we have the genuine product of the apostle's pen.

But, while this is generally admitted, not a few contend that our extant epistle consists of several fragments; all of them by Paul, but not all written at the same time. One epistle is said to be a compilation of Pauline documents which it is possible for criticism to distinguish and possibly to assign to their real occasions. This view is not a new one. In the eighteenth cen-

V. Criticisms and Reviews.

THE END OF AN ERA. *By John S. Wise.* Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. The Riverside Press, Cambridge.

This is one of the freshest, raciest, and most readable of books. It is the work of a raconteur. It is the story of the life and times of the story-teller himself during the first eighteen years of his life, 1846-1865. Those were wonderful years. Young John S. Wise had very unusual opportunities for a lad of his age to see what was to be seen and to hear what was to be heard at the heart of the Confederacy. He was observant and precocious. In his later years he tells easily and forcefully always, and sometimes gracefully, the thing he wishes to tell. In this book he takes a high rank amongst relaters.

We would not point one to it who is in search of history, though he might find in it not a little with which to fill in a historic outline. We would not point one in search of philosophic handling of the questions between the great sections to it. Mr. Wise does not betray a profound grasp of these questions. He is a story-teller, with a story-teller's license.

We have been reminded at times in reading this book of an experience with the driver of an Irish jaunting-car. We had convicted him of a historical mistake. He replied, "Well, you know, the Irish don't tell the truth when they tell a lie, and when they tell the truth they add a little to it." Some latitude must be allowed a good story-teller. He may make a man greater or less. He may represent a custom as more or less ludicrous, according to the emergencies of his course in entertaining. Even the story-teller, however, ought to confine himself to strict truth when he deals with principles of morals. In our judgment Mr. Wise fails at times to do this, as, for example, in his inferences from Dr. Palmer's sermon, referred to on page 146. Other instances might be given.

There is, too, at times an apparent lack of sympathy and a ruthlessness in his recounting. Some men could have told the story of the last few days of Lee's army before Appomattox in a way just as truthful and yet more respectful to that glorious army. The army was in a sorry plight in those days, it is true; but Mr. Wise's story grates on us at this point and several others. The dignity of his subject demanded a more sympathetic, less ruthless, more reverent treatment.

We have had the same feeling in connection with other parts of his book. But, on the whole, it must be set down as a very fascinating volume, and a helpful book to those who can make allowances and can winnow the wheat from the chaff.

5 May, 1900.

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