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I.—LITERARY.

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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