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THE RESURRECTION AND THE ORIGIN OF THE CHURCH IN JERUSALEM.

There are various ways of approaching the study of early Christianity. One way is to begin with Paul. The writings that have come down to us in the New Testament under his name, so far as they are genuine, are primary sources for the history of the apostolic age. Pfleiderer, for example, begins his *Urchristentum* with the words: "One can only regret that we know so little that is certain about the first beginnings of the Christian Church, but the fact itself can not well be contested. Only from the time of the emergence of the Apostle Paul, in whose Epistles authentic information is preserved, does the historical darkness become in a measure illuminated; concerning the first beginnings of the Church, however, Paul gives but scanty hints (1 Cor. 15: 3ff.), from which a distinct conception of the process can not be obtained. This lack, moreover, is not fully supplied by the Gospels and Acts which were written later."² A more common way, however, even among those who share Pfl-

¹ An address delivered in substance at the opening of the ninety-fifth session of Princeton Theological Seminary on Friday, September 21, 1906.

² *Urchristentum*³ I, p. 1. Man mag es bedauern, dass wir über die ersten Anfänge der christlichen Kirche so wenig Sicheres wissen, aber die Tatsache selbst ist nicht wohl zu bestreiten. Erst vom Auftreten des Apostels Paulus an, in dessen Briefen authentische Nachrichten

THE DEVOTIONAL AND PRACTICAL COMMENTARY ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.

Edited by W. ROBERTSON NICOLL, D.D., LL.D., Editor of the Expositor's Bible. Vol. I: COLOSSIANS AND THESSALONIANS. By JOSEPH PARKER, D.D. Pp. vii., 303. Vol. II: EPHESIANS. By JOSEPH PARKER, D.D. Pp. 272. Price per volume, \$1.25, net. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. 1904 and 1905.

These two volumes may be regarded as Dr. Parker's legacy to the Church. They are the first in the new series of Devotional and Practical Commentaries, edited by Dr. Robertson Nicoll, and similar in design to the popular Expositor's Bible. Those familiar with Dr. Parker's methods as a commentator will not expect minute and thorough exegesis so much as striking and original comment upon selected portions of the text. He has little patience with the letter that killeth. "It is very neat and natty if we begin to explain armour, and loins girt about with truth, and breastplate, and feet. That is not to expound the passage at all." Yet he writes strongly on "Be strong in the Lord." Of devotional commentators, Bishop Moule in his Colossian and Ephesian "Studies" (Armstrongs, 1898 and 1900) follows more closely the thought of the Apostle; but Dr. Parker has a way of his own of seizing the leading ideas of a passage, clothing them in poetic imagery and applying them to the experience of the reader. He has a firm grasp upon the fundamentals of religion, a sympathetic insight into the needs and struggles of the human heart and a remarkable gift of expression. His comments on Second Thessalonians and Ephesians are especially fresh, vigorous and spiritual. We doubt if he has ever written anything better. The notes on Ephesians are unevenly distributed—only two expressions in chap. I are noticed, while to the single word "till" in chap. IV twenty-eight pages are devoted—but the comment is always suggestive and often eloquent. If the standard of the two opening volumes is maintained the new series will take a worthy place beside its predecessor.

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WM. HALLOCK JOHNSON.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

JOHN WITHERSPOON. By DAVID WALKER WOODS, JR., M.A. Fleming H. Revell Company. 1906. 8vo. pp. 295.

We commend this book as an attractive sketch of the life and work of John Witherspoon. The author, who, we understand, is a great-grandson of his distinguished subject, reveals an ample knowledge of the colonial period of our history, while his access to many hitherto unpublished documents in the possession of his family has enabled him in an exceptional manner to bring to view the rich and many-sided personality of the famous Scotch-American. It is, indeed, a strong and

beautiful character, one of nature's true noblemen, that is mirrored in these pages: commanding presence, rugged independence of spirit, vigor and versatility of mind, breadth and intensity of sympathy, loyalty to convictions of truth and duty, zeal in behalf of every righteous cause in Church or state, an invincible optimism of faith that did honor to the best traditions of his Calvinistic orthodoxy,—these were characteristics of the man which impress us in this biography, as they impressed his contemporaries, with a sense of his greatness.

Three brief chapters, devoted to the "Scotch Period" of his life, portray the ecclesiastical and religious situation of his youth and early manhood, and furnish repeated evidences of the high ideals of the pastoral office that inspired his labors at Beith and Paisley. It was here, amidst the crying evils of lay patronage in the Scotch Church, that he learned his first lesson of the necessity and importance of championing the rights of the people against a tyrannical use of authority.

His work in America falls under three heads: his administration of Princeton College, as its president; his labors for the higher organization of the Presbyterian Church; and his distinctly political services, especially in the New Jersey Convention (although, according to our author, Witherspoon had no part in framing the Constitution of New Jersey), in the Continental Congress (of which he was the only clerical member), and in the conduct of the Revolutionary War. It goes without saying that Princetonians will find special delight in the chapter that shows how much Witherspoon did in the sphere of college life to promote the best elements of the *genius hujus loci*, and all readers will admire the insight and boldness that enabled him, on the larger stage of public life, to voice with such telling effect the best American sentiment on the subject of a free church in a free state. Taken as a whole, the book is the most satisfactory account we have seen of Witherspoon's life and achievements.

Here and there, unfortunately, as, for example, on pp. 34, 126 and 131, the proof-reading has been carelessly done.

Princeton.

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

BUSHIDO, THE SOUL OF JAPAN. By INAZO NITOBÉ, A.M., Ph.D., Professor in the Imperial University of Kyoto. With an Introduction by William Elliot Griffis, Author of "The Religions of Japan," etc. Tenth Revised and Enlarged Edition. The Knickerbocker Press. 1905. 12mo. pp. xxv, 203.

A perusal of this beautiful little book will enable one to understand why it has in six years found its way into three Asiatic and five European tongues, and is now entering upon its tenth edition in English. Whoever would know modern Japan must make a study of that characteristic institution of the country—invisible yet everywhere present, the slow organic development of a thousand years—of which Dr. Nitobé, in this modest philosophy of the past millenium of Japanese history, gives the best exposition.