

# THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW.

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## I.

### TERTULLIAN AND THE BEGINNINGS OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY.

#### FIRST ARTICLE.

IT is exceedingly impressive to see Christian Latin literature Athena-like spring at once into being fully armed in the person of an eminently representative man, in whom seem summed up the promise and potency of all that it was yet to be. This is what occurred in Tertullian, whose advent and career provide a remarkable illustration of the providential provision of the right man for the right place. Seldom has one been called to a great work who was better fitted for it by disposition and talents as well as by long and strenuous preparation. Ardent in temperament, endowed with an intelligence as subtle and original as it was aggressive and audacious, he added to his natural gifts a profound erudition, which far from impeding only gave weight to the movements of his alert and robust mind. A jurist of note, he had joined to the study of law not only that of letters, but also that of medicine; born and brought up in the camp he had imbibed from infancy no little knowledge of the military art; and his insatiable curiosity had carried him into the depths of every form of learning accessible to his time and circumstances, not even excepting the occult literature of the day. When he gave himself in his mature manhood to the service of Christianity, he brought in his hands all the spoils of antique culture, smelted into a molten mass by an almost incredible passion.

The moment when he appeared on the scene was one well calcu-

THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN. By Rev. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN, D.D. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1904. 12mo; pp. 114.

The "Life of the Christian" is here treated under the following six heads: Its Nature, Its Substance, Its Expression, Its Consciousness, Its Testing, Its Value. To say that this book is thoroughly worthy of the man who to-day is so widely regarded as the greatest popular expounder of the Word of God is high but well-deserved praise. Often child-like in his simplicity, even when speaking on the profoundest themes of the Gospel; absolutely fearless in handling the problems of experimental religion; overmastered by the desire to give his words a practical bearing upon the reader's daily conduct; in the best sense apologetic in aim, yet never condescending to apologize for his God-given message, but delighting most of all to let the sacred oracles interpret themselves; abounding in apt, even if sometimes homely illustrations; with a genius for making the commonplace things of life full of new interest and meaning; with a vision of faith that often startles by the amplitude of its sweep and the energy of its hold upon some gracious promise of Scripture or some unseen but eternal reality of the spiritual realm; and with a directness of speech that immediately grips the reader and then never fails to carry him along by the sheer inertia of the author's thought and the fervor of his convictions—the celebrated preacher here gives us a series of truly wonderful discourses. It is a cause for gratitude and joy that such works as this are having so large a vogue. We may not, from some points of view, regard Dr. Morgan's sermons as models, but the fact remains that he knows well how to speak to this age the message it needs most of all to hear: it is the old, old story, told with simplicity, candor, beauty, and the power that is born of the conviction that the message is true and therefore supremely worth telling.

*Princeton.*

FREDERICK W. LOETSCHER.

HUMANITY AND GOD. By SAMUEL CHADWICK. New York, Chicago: Fleming H. Revell Company. 8vo; pp. 356.

A volume of sermons characterized by vivacity of style and deep evangelical thought. These discourses are much more theological than are most volumes of popular sermons now appearing. There is in them much strong food for solid thought and devout reflection. They are neither didactic nor dogmatic, and yet they set forth some of the great doctrines of the Christian faith in such a rational light as to give them their true bearings upon all our knowing and all our doing. Their style is monotonously epigrammatical. The sententious declarative, page after page, is hardly best suited for discursive reading or for the best poise in setting forth the many-sided truths of the Gospel. Yet, all in all, the faults to be mentioned are incidental and few, while the merits of the volume are many and great.

*Trenton.*

HENRY COLLIN MINTON.

ELIMS OF LIFE AND OTHER SERMONS. By the Rev. J. D. JONES. New York, Chicago, Toronto: Fleming H. Revell Company. 12mo; pp. 256. \$1.00 net.

It is always difficult to appreciate a sermon one has only read. Probably these sermons appeared to the preacher and his friends as above the ordinary. They will likely seem to the reader just like thousands of sermons which are preached every Sunday—no better, no worse. This is not to condemn them. Most of us need to have our everyday privileges and duties put before us quite often. These discourses present sometimes very one-sided views, notably the one on "The Unaccountable Man," but generally these views are corrected by other passages or sermons. As modes of thought and expression, they express what is current in theology.

*Princeton.*

W. B. SHEDDAN.