

# THE PRESBYTERIAN AND REFORMED REVIEW

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## I.

### PRESENT HINDRANCES TO MISSIONS AND THEIR REMEDIES.

**T**HE cause of Foreign Missions is manifestly growing in favor with its friends, and possibly in disfavor with its enemies and critics. The number of its friends is steadily increasing from year to year. They are greatly reinforced from the ranks of the young. The prayers of Christian mothers who have been enlisted in the work of Foreign Missions for the last twenty-five years have been answered, not only on the mission fields, but in the enlarged knowledge and quickened interest of their own sons and daughters here at home. Students' Volunteer Movements, Inter-Seminary Missionary Conventions, and Christian Endeavor Societies are the results. And very naturally under such circumstances an increased interest is taken by many pastors and churches; and the preaching of an earnest missionary sermon, or the holding of a missionary congress in Synod or Presbytery, is a much more frequent occurrence than formerly. Theological instruction in our seminaries has never before placed so much emphasis on the work of Foreign Missions.

But on the other hand there is also an increase in the forces opposed to Foreign Missions. The enemies of the cause are multiplied; they are more outspoken; they are more inventive of objections; they are more bitter; and this, perhaps, for the reason that the work of missions has assumed greater proportions, and by its success has challenged increased attention among intelligent men and women of all classes. The secular magazines and newspapers have found it worth while to discuss the subject—its progress—its economics—its diplomatic bearings—the burden and bother of it

ince of Asia : he dates it from the Roman imprisonment, but declines to be too sure exactly when this took place. An interesting section of the Introduction discusses the relation of the epistle to other parts of the New Testament; the relative date of Philippians is left an open question.—*The Epistles to Timothy and Titus*. With Introduction and Notes. By the Rev. A. E. Humphreys, M.A., Rector of Fakenham, Norfolk, etc. 16mo, pp. 271. (Cambridge: At the University Press; New York: Macmillan & Co., 1895.) This carefully wrought little commentary is the latest issue of the excellent "Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges" published under the editorship of Dr. Perowne, Bishop of Worcester. Its ecclesiastical standpoint is that of Anglicanism, and its critical point of view is one of hearty belief in the genuineness of the epistles dealt with. The Introduction occupies some eighty pages, and treats of the persons addressed, and the theme and contents of the epistles, as well as very fully of their genuineness and date. The tone and character of the book may be gathered from the words with which the discussion of the last matter is summed up: "The conclusion which we may derive with confidence, from both the external and internal evidence, is that all three Epistles are the genuine works of St. Paul, and belong to the last years of his life, A.D. 66-67. 'The three stand or fall together. Every attempt to prove one of them Pauline and the others forgeries has failed from its inherent inconsistency.' They stand."—*In Scripture Lands*. New Views of Sacred Places. By Edward L. Wilson. With 150 Illustrations from Original Photographs by the Author. 12mo, pp. xvi, 386. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895.) When Mr. Wilson's views and descriptions of travel "in Scripture Lands" were first published in a luxurious volume some five years ago, they at once took their place as a permanent acquisition of the student. They are now compressed into the compass of a compact volume which the visitor of the scenes depicted may stow away comfortably in his handbag; and so will doubtless enter upon a new career of usefulness. Mr. Wilson is an admirable traveler, and his book will prove an indispensable companion to other travelers who follow in his path.

### III.—HISTORICAL THEOLOGY.

PETRUS DER IBERER, ein Charakterbild zur Kirchen und Sittengeschichte des fünften Jahrhunderts. Syrische Uebersetzung einer um das Jahr 500 verfassten griechischen Biographie. Herausgegeben und übersetzt von RICHARD RAABE. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1895. Preis 15 Mark.

The subject of this biography is twice mentioned in the ecclesiastical history of Evagrius, who was born about thirty-five years after the death of Peter. The name of the biographer seems to have been unknown, even in the time of Evagrius, since the latter speaks of him not by name, but as "the one composing the life of Peter." This life was written originally in Greek. So far as known, no copy of the original has been preserved. Two manuscripts of a translation into Syriac are known to us; one of them, which, according to the postscript, was written in the year 741 A.D., is to be found in the Sachau collection of the Royal Library in Berlin; the other, in the British National Library. This edition is based principally upon the Berlin manuscript, the lacunæ being filled in from the later British manuscript, which is dated 1197 A.D.

The Syriac text bears evidence of having been a faithful rendition of its

original. The style, even in the translation, is clear and flowing, the story being related in an easy and natural manner. The author's power of reproducing scenes and incidents is remarkable. After having read this book, the character of Peter stands out before us as vividly as life. The veil is lifted from his soul and we see the mainsprings of his actions. We come to understand the point of view from which those old hermits saw the world in which they lived. We see the intensity of their beliefs, which made them willing to give up everything in this world, and even life itself, for the sake of orthodoxy. We honor the noble bands who, with Baxter or with Chalmers, surrendered their benefices for conscience' sake: shall we not also honor those who in the fifth century suffered exile and death rather than deny the faith which in their opinion had been delivered to the saints? This life of Peter the Iberian shows us of what stuff those men were made, whose fiery eloquence, enduring zeal, and abounding faith pushed them into the thickest of the fight which determined for the Holy Catholic Church what its system of doctrine was to be.

In the volume before us, there are, besides 146 pages of Syriac text, and 120 pages of translation, seven pages of Preface, in which the sources and manuscripts are described, and eleven pages of Introduction, where the question of authorship is discussed, and also, the importance of this work is set forth and the differences between it and the short notice of Peter made by Zacharias of Mitilene, in his ecclesiastical history, are reviewed. Mr. Raabe has fulfilled, with true German thoroughness, his work of editor. We have followed carefully page after page of text and translation without noting a single mistaken rendering. In our opinion, scholars who cannot read Syriac may rely upon the faithfulness of the German version here given to us.

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#### THE HUGUENOTS AND THE REVOCATION OF THE EDICT OF NANTES.

By HENRY M. BAIRD, Professor in the University of the City of New York; author of the *History of the Rise of the Huguenots of France*, and of *The Huguenots and Henry of Navarre*. With Maps. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895. Vol. i, pp. xxviii, 566; Vol. ii, pp. 604.

Although this work of Prof. Baird's is a complete monograph on the special subject so clearly given in its title, yet it is so conceived and executed as to continue and bring to a close the author's great work on the history of the Reformed Faith in France. This history naturally falls into three periods, of unequal durations but very distinct limits. The first of these periods, beginning with the dawn of Reformed ideas and extending to the massacre of St. Bartholomew, or the end of the reign of Charles IX, Dr. Baird has adequately treated in his *History of the Rise of the Huguenots of France*. The second, beginning with the definite struggle of the Reformed Church for a charter and extending over the successful issue of this struggle and into the time during which the Reformed remained in the full enjoyment of the immunities and privileges guaranteed by the charter during the life time of the man who secured it, is the subject of the author's *The Huguenots and Henry of Navarre*. The third period begins with the first efforts to wrest the liberties of the Reformed from them, put forth immediately after the assassination of Henry IV; and extends through the years of struggle which issued in the loss of the charter, ending, however, only with the rehabilitation of Protestantism as a result of the great Revolution. It is this last period that constitutes the subject of what the author very appropriately calls "the last piece of the Huguenot trilogy."

This period is the longest of the three and covers nearly two centuries of