

# THE PRINCETON THEOLOGICAL REVIEW

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HERMAN BAVINCK.

The Free Churches of Holland possess at the present moment in Dr. Abraham Kuyper and Dr. Herman Bavinck theologians of genius and of erudition worthy of the best traditions of the Reformed theology. In the autumn of 1898 Dr. Kuyper delivered at Princeton Seminary the L. P. Stone Lectures, and thus for the first time made his voice heard by an English-speaking audience. During the present month Dr. Bavinck is to deliver these Lectures. The circumstance seems worthy of notice; and the occasion seems to call for some introduction of Professor Bavinck to his American audience. The following account of the position he occupies and the work he has done in the churches and for the people of the Netherlands has been derived from an authentic source.—EDITORS.

The Reformed Church in the Netherlands underwent a great change in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Rationalism had already penetrated into the church and caused a tremendous upheaval; but it now made itself master of almost the whole of the church in the form of a moderate supranaturalism. Everywhere the old truths of atonement and regeneration were set aside in favor of new dogmas of the example of Jesus and of moral improvement. The hope was cherished that an end could be put to the old faith by means of official preaching, elementary education

essence of Christianity, or the Gospel of the glory of a risen, living, divine Lord.

*Princeton.*

CHARLES R. ERDMAN.

THE PRESBYTERIAN DIGEST. SUPPLEMENT. 1898-1906. Edited by the Rev. WILLIAM H. ROBERTS, D.D., LL.D., Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication and Sabbath School Work. Cloth. 8vo., pp. 1127. Price, \$1.00 net.

This Supplement includes the Acts, Decisions, and Deliverances of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. of a general nature, from 1898 and up to and including the Reunion with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, May 1906. It also contains the Acts of the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church vital to the Reunion. This supplement is prefaced by a carefully prepared syllabus of its contents, and concludes with a comprehensive index.

*Princeton.*

CHARLES R. ERDMAN.

PRACTICAL IDEALS IN EVANGELISM. By CHARLES HERBERT RUST. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society. Cloth. 12mo., pp. 348. Price, 75 cents.

This is a valuable discussion of an important theme. One who speaks from a wide and successful personal experience, and after thoughtful observation, presents to us rational and effectual ideals for evangelistic work. The various topics treated include "The Ideal Evangelist", "The Ideal Message", "The Ideal Method", "The Ideal After-meeting", "Evangelism with the Young", and "Evangelism with the Individual".

*Princeton.*

CHARLES R. ERDMAN.

THE PARABLES OF THE KINGDOM. By G. CAMPBELL MORGAN, D.D. New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. 1907. Pp. 221.

He is a bold man indeed who ventures to increase the already extensive literature upon the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew. This exposition of the "Parables of the Kingdom" is, however, a real addition to the popular literature on the subject and, hence, is to be cordially welcomed. The introductory chapter on "The Parabolic Method" is devoted to a forceful argument against "the view that our Lord adopted the parabolic method with His hearers because He had abandoned them in anger, and that His purpose was to hide His truth so that they should not see it," a view which is held today with greater or less variation by many teachers and preachers. To all such as are more or less of this mind Dr. Morgan's discussion will be instructive. In the second chapter, on "The Scheme of The Discourse," certain general canons of interpretation are suggested. These canons control the discussion of the eight parables of the chapter, to each of which in turn careful consideration is given. And the canons are so simple, so sane, that the expositions are always most suggestive and usually very satisfactory. We say "usually very satisfactory" because it is impossible with the space at our command to specify points of

agreement and disagreement and because the details of these interpretations are of necessity colored by the special views of the author on a multitude of other Scripture passages. This book is well worth careful study and deserves a more thorough preparation for the press than the publishers have taken time to give it.

*Princeton.*

LEWIS SEYMOUR MUDGE.

SERMONS PREACHED IN ENGLAND. By REV. ALEXANDER LEWIS, Ph.D.  
New York: Fleming H. Revell Company. 1906. 12 mo. Pp. 233.  
\$1.25 net.

As the title of the book indicates, this is a collection of sermons preached in various English Churches by the Rev. Dr. Lewis, now pastor of the First Congregational Church of Kansas City, during a year spent abroad in study and travel. It is not clear to the reviewer just what it was that caused their publication. The author in his introduction says that "many words were spoken, and letters received expressive of their helpfulness when the sermons were preached". Possibly this was the reason for their being put into more permanent form. Certainly their publication was not demanded by their intrinsic merit; for their thought is superficial and their theology confused. Excellent photographs of some of the churches in which these sermons were delivered adorn the book, while the frontispiece introduces us to the attractive personality of the author.

*Princeton.*

LEWIS SEYMOUR MUDGE.

THE REPRESENTATIVE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE. By GEORGE MATHESON, D.D., LL.D., F.R.S.E. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Crown 8vo. Cloth. Pp. 169. Price, \$1.50 net.

There is a pathetic interest attaching to the production of this volume, in that the author was engaged upon it the day before his death. The book, which was not quite complete, was designed to conclude the series on Bible Characters, of which the three preceding volumes treated of the Representative Men of the Bible. The work is not the best which the author produced, and, suggests, as did some of the other biographical studies, not the accurate interpreter of biblical narratives, but the dreamer, the poet, the literary artist. For example, as to Eve, we are told that she existed as long as Adam, and the story of her alleged creation is merely the statement of the fact that Adam at last came to appreciate the worth of one with whom he had long been acquainted, but whom he had before underrated and despised. The eating of the forbidden fruit was an act of "extravagance;" and its result was a "nobler stage" of experience. Miriam's rebellion is interpreted as being in no sense an act of ambition, but of loving solicitude for Moses, who was in danger of becoming untrue to his mission because of the influence of his Ethiopian wife; and her deed of "humility" probably "did shake the power" of that wife, and warned Moses of his peril.