

A BUNDLE OF SERMONS.

Religion a Revelation and a Rule of Life. By the Rev. William Kirkus, M.A., LL D. (New York : Thomas Whittaker.)

Sermons New and Old. By Archbishop Trench. (New York : D. Appleton & Co.)

The Unity of God and Man, and Other Sermons. By the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke, M.A. (Boston : George H. Ellis.)

The Life of Christ in the World. Sermons. By the Rev. Arthur Brooks. (New York : Thomas Whittaker.)

Christ at the Door of the Heart, and Other Sermons. By Morgan Dix. (New York : E. P. Dutton & Co.)

Notes of Sermons. By J. M. Pendleton, D.D. (Philadelphia : American Baptist Publication Society.)

Five-Minute Sermons. By Priests of the Congregation of St. Paul. (New York : Catholic Pub. Soc. Co.)

The Churchette. A Year's Sermons for the Young. By the Rev. J. Reid Howatt. (New York . A. C. Armstrong & Son.)

This winter harvest of sermons is a valuable addition to the homiletical granary. It not only fills a bin, and gives evidence of a fruitful season, but it is full of nourishment for the hungry people. It is a harvest worth gathering. The juices of a whole season are stored in some of these ripe volumes. The taste of old wine of a rare and ancient vintage delights the sermon-taster, and he is sure that they are not all newly gathered, but only removed from some musty manuscript drawer to this more accessible position. Why should any one for a moment doubt the power of the pulpit when he looks at the names of these preachers—Kirkus, Trench, Brooke, Brooks, Dix ? What personal influence is added to the thought ! With what momentum is it carried into the lives of hearers and readers ! All the characteristics of these well-known men appear in their respective volumes. Startling figure and brilliant rhetoric must be sought elsewhere. Wit and humor are not here. A serious purpose animates each, and in topic and treatment the sermons are noble specimens of the pulpit teaching of the day. Even that with which we disagree in the Five-Minute Sermons of the Paulist priests and in the utterances of Mr. Brooke claims the thoughtful regard of the reader from the honest effort of the preachers to make themselves understood and felt. There is an education of the intellect in regular attendance upon the ministry of such men as the authors of these volumes that cannot be too highly esteemed. Entirely apart from the religious influence, the church is the great helper to a larger life in the quickening and informing of the mind. Multitudes are unconscious of the debt of gratitude they owe to him who has fed them with spiritual food, and taught how and what to think. These sermons, most of which were preached in the pulpits of Protestant Episcopal churches, will also compel many to admit that with a ritual service there may be preaching sound, stimulative, spiritual, and helpful. Mr. Howatt has done well in preaching to children, and his volume will be useful in suggesting to other pastors the way to cultivate the gift of feeding the lambs. It is a pleasure to say of so many sermons that they are good, and cannot fail to do good in the widened audience to which they are sent.