

**Life, Lectures, and Essays of William Robertson Smith.** By John Sutherland Black and George Chrystal. In 2 vols. The Macmillan Company, New York. \$8.

The authors remark that the history of Scotland since the Battle of Culloden has been mainly a history of ideas. These two volumes form part of that history. They relate the struggle of a great and vital principle for admission to Christian minds. The price of that admission was the academic martyrdom of the greatest Scotch scholar of his generation, William

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Robertson Smith. He contributed two articles to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which introduced his countrymen to the modern view of the Old Testament. For this exercise of the freedom of scholarship in the interpretation of the Bible he was deposed in 1881 from his professorship of Hebrew in the Free Church College at Aberdeen. Practically the same thing has happened in this country again and again. The first of these volumes is devoted to the story of Professor Smith's career. It gives a full account of his six years' painful struggle with the party of ignorance, his deposition by whom was solaced by the professorship of Arabic at Cambridge. His biographers have done just honor to his memory and service to a younger generation. They reveal a man whose passion for fact and reality, and detestation of evasion and obscurantism, brought him undeserved reproach for obstinacy and pugnacity—a man admired by his peers in learning, laborious to a fault in the pursuit and dissemination of fresh knowledge, beloved from youth to age by troops of friends, and struggling for truth among assailants and trimmers who do not shine in comparison. The second volume preserves a limited and valuable selection from such of his writings as are either wholly unpublished or are not yet collected in book form. His biography, with the appended documents, is also a large part of the history of the Free Church of Scotland, especially during his years of trial.