

*Social Aspects of Christianity.* By B. F. Westcott, D.D., D.C.L., Canon of Westminster. (New York: Macmillan & Co.) The learned and venerated author of this book needs no introduction to the Christian public. His work and fame are secure. And although the present volume is perhaps among the least of the productions of his pen as regards quantity, surely the subjects treated yield to no other essays in the intrinsic value and timeliness of their contents. In clear and connected form, with lucid arrangement and facile expression, Dr. Westcott enforces the ideas and principles fragmentarily suggested by him during the past thirty years. In his view the sorrows, the emergencies, the problems, the inheritances, the institutions pertaining to what we call life, are best interpreted by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and in our day the social aspects of the Gospel are confronting us with the insistence of a practical need, as never before. This thought is the keynote of several rich and weighty chapters on "The Christian Aspects of the Elements of Social Life," as applied to the family, the ne

tion, the race, and the church, and also "Christian Aspects of the Organization of Social Life" in connection with the progress of the kingdom of God. Under this head are considered mediæval and modern efforts toward the realization of this kingdom, first by the Franciscan Order of Monks, second by the Quakers. Following these chapters there is an appendix which is called "Types of Apostolic Service," in which Sainthood, Authority, Suffering, as illustrated by St. Paul, Doubting, by St. Thomas, and Waiting, by St. John, are recognized as the elements contributing to the extension of the world-wide idea of spiritual fellowship. In the immediate preparation of these discourses the author acknowledges deep gratitude both to Maurice and Comte—two writers not often joined together, he confesses, but in this very fact there is evidence of the breadth and catholicity of Dr. Westcott's opinions; positivism is generally taken to mean all that is false and erroneous in social theory. In style this distinguished prelate reminds us somewhat of Newman. There is the same mingling of simplicity and clearness of thought with strains of lofty eloquence. We will not undertake a review of the doctrines inculcated, but leave the reader in full enjoyment of their impressive statement. He will not long hesitate in avowing that balanced judgment and ample knowledge have not vainly grappled with present-day problems in religion.

*Wealth and Progress: A Critical Examination of the Labor Problem.* By George Gunton. (New York: D. Appleton & Co.) The central thought of this book is that the standard of living is the basis of wages, and that more leisure for the masses as expressed in less hours of labor is the natural means for increasing wages and promoting progress. The entire work is a discussion of various wage theories. Mr. Gunton rejects the theory that wages depend entirely upon the law of supply and demand, and also rejects Professor Walker's theory that they depend upon the productiveness of the labor. He asserts that they are governed entirely by the amount of comfort and luxury which the laboring class insist upon obtaining. He does not succeed, however, in demonstrating his thesis. When Mr. Gunton says that the doubling of wages in the fourteenth century at the time of the plague was not due to the decreased number of laborers, but to the higher standard of living, he fails to convince any one except himself. He is merely reading into history the facts which he deduces from his own general ideas. So, too, in his reply to General Walker he fails entirely to account for the fact that laborers who have been used to one standard of living in Germany insist upon double wages when they reach Australia or the United States. This fact can only be explained by Professor Walker's conception that it is the productiveness of labor that chiefly determines wages. Nevertheless, Mr. Gunton's idea is important. When the laborers are content to live without the ordinary comforts of life, and raise large families expecting the children to shift for themselves when at ten or twelve years of age, the rate of wages must fall, since the cost of labor, like the cost of everything else, is the amount required to reproduce it. Nevertheless, though we acknowledge that this consideration has weight, we are not at all prepared to accept Mr. Gunton's statement that the earnings of the laboring class are not increased by the wages of their wives and children. The reward of the laboring class must in the end be the amount of useful things they produce, and unless women and children are producing "useful things" the reward must be lessened. Regarding Mr. Gunton's general position that more wealth can be produced in short hours than long, it may be said that past experience confirms it where the labor is exhausting.

*The Science of Politics.* By Walter Thomas Mills. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls.) The author of this book is the Secretary of the National Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, and the book itself has the character of a political science scrap-book made by a Prohibitionist. It is full of quotations, many of which are pithy and pointed, and the author himself has a nervous, energetic style, and makes his points sharply. There is, perhaps, too much harmless exhortation on the duties of citizens, but much of it is warranted, and is strongly put. He defends Third Party Prohibitionists by urging that "a dominant political party can never bring its members to an effective agreement on any question when a portion of its membership greater than its own average majority, backing its refusal with its vote, persistently refuses to consent to just terms of settlement." He characterizes our political corruption as "the result of the joint influence of monopolies and whiskey rings—the one furnishing money to improperly influence voters, and the other the only large body of voters subject to these criminal methods." Were it not for its pretentiousness one might be inclined to speak more favorably of the work. It is in no sense a "Science of Politics," nor is Mr. Mills warranted in speaking of himself as "a pathfinder" in an unexplored realm of political science.

*God in Creation and in Worship.* By a Clergyman. The aim of the author in writing is to show that the early historic peoples believed in "one God, Maker of heaven and earth," and that no theory of Spencerian evolution will adequately explain the ancient belief and worship. In seeking to prove the point much evidence is accumulated, and some of Herbert Spencer's alleged omissions and misstatements in "Ecclesiastical Institutions" are seized upon with courteous but firm intent to show the inadequacy of his mode of historical treatment. The latest sources of information are well considered, and many facts of apparent force are urged in favor of the view presented.

*Introduction to Physical Science.* By A. P. Gage, Ph.D. (Boston: Ginn & Co.) Professor Gage is a thorough believer in laboratory work, and as instructor in the Boston

English High School has carried out his ideas with the most gratifying success. This volume of elementary instruction in the sciences is, as might be expected, eminently practical. Every exposition of principle is accompanied by clear illustration and directions for experiments. The latest decisions of scientific investigation are always given, and in every way the book will arouse and encourage intelligent interest on the part of the pupil.

*Uncle Sam at Home.* By Harold Brydges. (New York: Henry Holt & Co.) Mr. Brydges evidently keeps a scrap-book and is a faithful reader of the comic weeklies. His book on this country as seen by the English visitor is a hodge-podge of jokes, quotations, statistics, and personal observations—the last playing much the smallest part. It is an amusing mixture, quite good-natured and fair-spirited, and if its English readers succeed in making the proper allowance for extravagance and the paragon's American humor, they may get from it a tolerably good idea of some of our national peculiarities.

A translation by General J. W. Phelps of *The Fables of Florian* has just been published by J. B. Alden. These fables have long been popular in France, having run through a hundred editions. The author died in 1794, having escaped the guillotine only by the fall of Robespierre. His style is not to be compared with that of La Fontaine, but there is great merit in his keen wit, odd turns of thought, and clear, strong moral purpose.

*Beyond.* By Hervey Newton. (Boston: James H. Earle, 60 cents.) This is a somewhat sugary book, full of rhetoric, flowers, visions, Scriptural quotations, and speculative spiritual maps of the world toward which we all journey. It is not destitute of merit, and will prove helpful to many who are desolate and bereaved. If one is contented to take many things for granted that are debatable, this little volume may do him good. A sweet and assured faith sheds balm upon its pages.

*Olden Time Music.* By Henry M. Brooks. This is a compilation from books and old files of newspapers of all manner of extracts and illustrations bearing on the early history of music in New England, and particularly in Boston and Salem. It contains many quaint and curious bits of information. (Boston: Ticknor & Co.)