

# Our Book Table.

**SERMONS AND ADDRESSES.** By Rev. Jacob Merrill Manning, D. D. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Price, \$2.

This volume of sermons and addresses by the late pastor of the Old South Church, will bring to mind afresh a much-beloved and able Christian preacher. The subjects discussed are wide in their scope and large in their importance. We cannot forbear to quote these sensible words from a sermon entitled, "Preachers, and What they should Preach." He says: "Dear friends, I wish to put in a word for these co-laborers of mine, and to assure you that you have not the least cause to be disturbed about the foundations of the truth. 'Every little while,' you say, 'some student from the theological school is found so loose in doctrinal views that he cannot get a license to preach the Gospel, or some pastorelect is rejected by an ecclesiastical council, or some one who is publicly branded a heretic says he gets a great many private letters and words of approval from the very party of those who denounce him. There are articles in the newspapers, and magazines and reviews, which broadly intimate that the writers have had much talk with preachers, and that congregations would be very much astonished if ministers should come into their pulpits and honestly and frankly preach just what, and only what, they really believe. Now, this sweeping charge of hypocrisy, concealment, and deceit in the pulpit does strike me at first view as indeed formidable." Then a little later he adds: "I know of no change in regard to the Gospel among evangelical ministers, except that they love it with a more intense devotion, and with a stronger purpose to know nothing else, the longer they preach it. If there has been any change among them in regard to speculative or theological teachings, I believe it is very largely due to this very devotion. They are learning to recoil from that whole body of human doctrine which threatens to displace, and sometimes has displaced, the saving words of Christ and His apostles. This is the head and front, the beginning and the end, of their offending. They do not think as much of theories of the Gospel and speculations about it as they once did, and they are ready to say so either publicly or privately." This whole volume will be read with interest, not only by his immediate parishioners of the Old South, but by others.

**A KNIGHT OF FAITH.** By Lydia Hoyt Farmer. J. S. Ogilvie: 67 Rose Street, Chicago.

This story is intended, so it is stated, to be an answer to Robert Elsmere; and so far as the religious teaching is concerned in it, it is. It is as orthodox as Robert Elsmere is unorthodox. But if by answer is meant a complete refutation, we cannot agree. The style of the novel is not above mediocrity, and the incidents are not above commonplace. Dorothy is a marked character in many respects, and to trace her winding life in these pages, we agree, will afford interest and profit to the Christian.

**THE ODD NUMBER.** Thirteen Tales, by Guy de Maupassant. The translation by Johnathan Sturges. New York: Harper & Bros.

Guy de Maupassant does not belong to that French school which finds its spirit in the ideal; for he is the hardest of hard realists. These short tales are not to be reckoned among those which we would classify as the best, for they have not material enough to warrant it. Realism of this type runs hard on such a short track, even if it does not wreck itself. However, we may say that there is a vividness and beauty about most of these tales that make them especially readable. We notice that de Maupassant never becomes overwrought and extravagant, but, on the other hand, he holds himself well in hand. He, if anywhere however, does not do this in "The Wolf" and "The Confession," both of which are hard and cruel, touched but slightly with gentleness.

In paper covers we have lately received the following:—

From Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston: **ELSIE VERNER**, by Oliver Wendell Holmes. (Riverside Paper Series.) Price, 50 cents.

From Harper & Bros., New York: **THE CRIME OF SILVESTRE BONNARD** (member of the Institute), by Anatole France. The translation and introduction by Lafcadio Hearn. Price, 50 cents.

From D. Appleton & Co., New York: **LILY LASS**, by Justin Huntly McCarthy, M. P. **JULIUS COURTNEY**; or, Master of His Fate, by J. Maclaren Cobban. (Gainesborough Series.) Each, 25 cents.

From the American News Company, New York: **HIS HONOR**, or, Fate's Mysteries, by Cynthia E. Cleveland. Price, 50 cents.

From Fleming H. Revell, New York: **A CENTURY OF CHRISTIAN PROGRESS**, by Rev. James Johnston, F. S. S.

**THE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATOR: THE LANGUAGE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.** By Rev. Wm. Henry Simcox. Edited by Rev. W. Robertson Nicoll, M. A. (New York: Thomas Whittaker. Price, 75 cents.) This is not a complete grammar of New Testament Greek, but simply a critical, and, as far as we can judge, a scholarly and candid examination of the difference between classical and post-classical Greek, and the usage of the New Testament writers. — **NONE OF SELF AND ALL OF THEM.** By S. S. Hewlett. (New York: Robert Carter & Bros. Price, \$1.50. For sale by C. R. Magee.) A tale of life in India with a twofold purpose: To furnish an interesting story, with India as a background and natives as actors, and to present Christianity and encourage its acceptance. There is incident enough to warrant the title of a "tale," and there is surely religion enough in it to entitle it to be called an earnest, sincere and faithful presentation of Christ. — **TOPICAL INDEX.** Prepared by William B. Jones. (Albany, N. Y.: Brandon Printing Co.) This volume embraces an index, topically arranged, of all the different singing-books now in general use; and also a hand-book of Bible readings and song services. Besides these, scattered through the book are short papers by different authors, and a few "skeleton sermons." — **THE BIBLE AND MODERN THOUGHT.** By Geo. H. Emerson, D. D. (Boston: Universalist Publishing House.) This is a very fragmentary discussion of the subject, so much so that to most people it would do more harm than good. We say this not because Dr. Emerson believes in the results of the higher criticism, but because he defends it in such a piecemeal way that it would injure. And this is not denying that, in the limit of his work, he has not done well. — **ESSAYS DOCTRINAL AND PRACTICAL.** By Fifteen Clergymen. Edited by Orello Cone, D. D. (Boston: Universalist Publishing House. Price, \$1.) This is a series of fifteen essays by Universalist clergymen, in defence indirectly of that faith. It is not a closely critical volume, although it deals largely with subjects that demand such a spirit. With it we are not expected to agree, but some of the papers are characterized by a breadth of faith that is beautiful, while others show a breadth which is narrow. Whoever reads this volume will surely get no harm; but can he get some good? We can only say, read it and see. — **THE CHURCH IN THE HOUSE.** Daily Family Prayers for

Morning and Evening. By Rev. Rufus W. Clark. (New York: Thomas Whittaker. Price, 60 cents.) We have no more nor less cordial welcome for such an idea as is embodied in all books of this kind. Family prayers should be spontaneous, not stereotyped. We can hardly believe that there is any Christian so ignorant of grammar and syntax that God, for that reason, will turn him empty away. Such books as this, among other things, presuppose this. But if it be true that any man needs help to pray or to begin to erect a family altar, then this book is valuable. — **THE IMITATION OF CHRIST.** By Thomas à Kempis. (New York: Anson D. F. Randolph & Co. Price, \$1.) This is an attempt to put into rhythmic sentences this famous work, which was the original intention of the author. We do not see that this method of presentation either mars or improves the work.