

# THE Presbyterian Quarterly.

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## I. INSPIRATION.

A few years before his death, Theodore D. Woolsey, President of Yale University, was asked by a leading Quarterly to write an article for its pages on Inspiration. He declined to do so, on the ground that the time had not yet arrived for such a thing to be successfully done. President Woolsey died in 1889, and during these intervening years perhaps no biblical subject has had fuller discussion. Yet inspiration is still regarded by most biblical students as a *question*; notwithstanding this, inspiration is generally regarded as also a *fact*.

“The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”<sup>1</sup> To every believer in the truthfulness of the Bible, these words of the apostle reveal the fact of inspiration, declare that the Scriptures are, in some sense, the product of a divine influence brought to bear upon human writers. The process by which the Scriptures were formed has been long and gradual. “At sundry times and in divers manners”<sup>2</sup> has God spoken to us in times past. The Koran was given all at once. Full-grown it sprang from the shield of Mahomet, a prophet who not only had no forerunner, but who, as the professed bearer of divine revelation, had no successor. The Bible, however, has come to us through many prophets, each

<sup>1</sup>2 Pet. 1:21.

<sup>2</sup>Heb. 1:1, 2.

repay perusal. It enlarges one's view and warms his spiritual man and helps him to deeper consecration and greater faith.

THE PREPARATION FOR CHRISTIANITY IN THE ANCIENT WORLD. A Study in the History of Modern Development. *By R. M. Wenley, Sc. D. (Edin.), D. Phil., (Glas.), Professor of Philosophy in the University of Michigan, some time Honorary President of the Glasgow University Theological Society.* New York, Chicago, Toronto : Fleming H. Revell Company. 1898. 16mo. Pp. 194. 75 cents.

The problem which the learned author sets before himself in this work is, What were the essential features in the development of man's religious, moral, and social needs throughout the ancient classical and Hebrew civilizations that ultimately ended in a spiritual impotence curable by Christianity alone? To the solution of this he brings, in the compass of a work unusually compact and terse, a great array of facts and a careful study of great philosophical movements. Special attention is paid to Socrates and the Greek Self-criticism, as well as to the mission of the Jews, and the general preparation of the world, as elements in the opening of the way for the appearing of Christ in the world. The little volume belongs to the collection of the Church of Scotland called the "Guild Series."

BIBLE COURSE. Outline and Notes. *By Rev. F. H. Gaines, D. D. II.* From the Kingdom to End of Old Testament. Atlanta : The Franklin Printing and Publishing Company. 1898. 8vo. Pp. 118.

This volume completes the author's Outlines of his Bible Course. Like the two volumes which have preceded it in publication, it is made up of Notes and Outlines. He divides the history covered into periods determined by the accession of Saul, the disruption of the kingdom, the fall of Samaria, the Babylonian exile, and the restoration. The subdivisions, analyses of historical books, and studies of the leading characters are marked by great thoughtfulness and painstaking care. The author's chief work is found in the arrangement and analysis. On leading events and characters he usually quotes, with discriminating taste and care, such well known writers as Blaikie, Geikie, Stanley, and others, and uses largely the compilations of Dr. Glentworth Butler. The analyses of the prophets are excellent. The literary questions connected with certain epoch, as the days of Josiah, for instance, are not considered very fully. Their discussion would not have been germane to the author's purpose. Like all Notes and Outlines, this volume admirably sets forth the author's method of teaching, and it is a fine one, but in this form will not be found so well adapted to general use as it will prove when fully elaborated. An expansion of it would make a valuable addition to the literature on the subject.

TWO PARABLES. *By Charles R. Brown, Pastor of the First Congregational Church, Oakland, California.* Chicago, New York, Toronto : Fleming H. Revell Company. 1898. 12mo. Pp. 250. \$1.25.

A series of ten striking and evangelical sermons, four of them upon the