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THE BUSINESS OF THE CHURCH.

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United States.*

In responding to the invitation to write upon the subject of "The Business of the Church," it is worth while to avail one's self of the limitations of the subject. We assume that we may omit any consideration of the technical definitions of the church; the outstanding characteristics, or "marks" of the church; its spiritual equipment; its past history, and its great mission through the years to come.

The whole question narrows down to the interesting, important, and extremely practical question—"What does Jesus Christ want us who are in His church to do today?"

What is the present task of the church in our country? This inquiry must contemplate the church in the general sense in which that term is used, including all the Protestant Evangelical bodies in our land.

The present task of the church calls upon us to consider how it is related to the people of God themselves. The work of the church in this regard is to gather them out of the world, to nourish and strengthen them, and to inspire them to be "the salt of the earth" and "the light of the world."

As the work of the church relates to what is known as the "world," that is, the unregenerate mass about us, its duty is to evangelize and save as many as possible, and to season and

LETTERS TO EDWARD. *By Malcolm J. McLeod.* Published by Fleming H. Revell Company, New York. Pp. 224. Price \$1.00.

Dr. McLeod is a pastor in New York City. Edward was his intimate friend, a younger minister, who moved to California for his health and took a charge there.

These letters to Edward discuss in a bright and sparkling and at the same time a sane way, almost every conceivable subject that in anyway touches a minister's life. They are full of wit and wisdom. There is many a good story with a point. In fact I can scarcely bring myself to believe that these letters are real, that they were written by a mortal man in the ordinary course of correspondence. Yet they claim to be. If they are real we have proof positive that letter writing is not altogether a lost art. I can commend this book to those who enjoy a good admixture of fun and of philosophy on many phases of the minister's life and work. We have read it aloud in our home and it has always kept us looking forward with eagerness and pleasure to the hour for reading.

WALTER L. LINGLE.

MAKING GOOD IN THE LOCAL CHURCH. *By Ernest Eugene Elliott.* Fleming H. Revell Company. New York. Pp. 96. Price 35 cents.

This is a little book, but it is worth while. I do not know the author, but he evidently knows what is interesting and what is vital. The book consists of three chapters, which were originally three addresses. The subjects of these three chapters are as follows: "Spiritual Efficiency," "Business Efficiency," and "Soul Winning Efficiency." These are certainly the three great things about the life of a church. Each subject is treated in a very suggestive and satisfactory way. Pastors, elders, deacons, and church workers in general will find some stimulating ideas in this book.

WALTER L. LINGLE.

HABEEB THE BELOVED. A Tale of Life in Modern Syria. *By Rev. Wm. S. Nelson, D. D.* 101 pages. The Westminster Press, Philadelphia.

In this volume Dr. Nelson has given us a delightful and refreshing story. It is biographical, yet it is more than a biography. The book was written, not simply to exhibit the beautiful Christian character of Habeeb the Beloved, but to introduce the reader to a knowledge of Syrian life and Syrian mission, and it serves well the double purpose of the author. It entertains and informs. In Habeeb we have an illustration of the power of the Gospel not only to save a soul from sin, but to sustain and sweeten a life under persecution. Such examples are most welcome, for they are too seldom met with.

About the portrait of this hero of faith and blending with it are grouped many sketches of Syrian scenery and Syrian life and customs. Everywhere as we read we are aware of the presence of the missionary, traveling, preaching, observing, always busy with the manifold work of his high calling.

The book is full of life and action. There is not a dull page in it. But the chief charm of the book, perhaps, lies in its purity and simplicity. In publishing this story the author has done the cause of missions a good service.

J. B. GREEN.

Greenwood, S. C.

THE GOSPEL FOR THE LAYMEN'S AGE. *By Rev. Wm. Marion Sikes, B. D.*
The Broadway Publishing Company, New York City. Pp. 148. Price \$1.25.

The author of this book is pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Newton, N. C. It always does my heart good when I see a book from the pen of one of our own men.

The book consists of twelve helpful sermons on vital subjects, such as Sin, Repentance, Atonement, Justification, Adoption, Christian Love, Prayer, and Missions.

The publishers have done their work well and the mechanical appearance of the book is unusually good.

I hope that the book is going to have a wide circulation.

WALTER L. LINGLE.

A HISTORY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST MISSIONS. *By Edmund F. Merriam,*
Editor of "The Baptist Missionary Magazine." American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia. Pp. 288. Postpaid, 60c.

This work deals with the missionary activities of the American Baptists outside the limits of the United States. It does not pretend to be exhaustive, but it is evidently thoroughly reliable. The writer is an authority on the missionary activities of the various bodies of the Baptist Church, and in this volume he gives a great mass of interesting and stimulating facts with reference to this particular phase of their work. The book is very readable and instructive.

J. B. MASSEY.

INSIDE VIEWS OF MISSION LIFE. *By Annie A. Baird.* The Westminster Press, Philadelphia. Pp. 138. Price 35c postpaid.

This little book modestly done up in a cover of stiff brown boards gives no hint of the charm of its contents. The author is a missionary of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A., in Korea, and every page bears the impress of her personality. Even the foreword is revealing. A cheerful and sparkling philosophy is the possession of Mrs. Baird. She has a keen appreciation of the underlying humor of life together with a sane view of the relative value of its problems and difficulties. The things which she classifies as missionary temptations are, after all, the universal temptations of human nature, and her remarks on them are very much worth one's while to read. In speaking of the employment of servants she says: "Even a native of America, with all its