

Edmond Stapfer, of the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Paris, widely esteemed for his works on Palestinian life in the first century, has completed two or three volumes dealing in popular style with the person, authority and ministry of Christ. An excellent English version is the work of Louise Seymour Houghton (*Jesus Christ Before His Ministry*, 1896, pp. 181, *Jesus Christ During His Ministry*, 1897, pp. 265, Scribner). The purposes of an historical narrative predominate and the work has admirable qualities. On the basis of very searching inquiry, the author offers his positive version of the life and aims of Jesus with only a slight occasional reference to the criticism which yields these results. The methods of the cautious critical historian are here used by a man of restrained but ardent religious passion and the exposition wins favor by a simple and graceful style. In spirit the work is a coalescence of Renan and Vinet, a blending of scientific conscience, sympathetic intuition, and apologetic conviction. The outcome is harmonious neither with theological orthodoxy nor with radical criticism.

Any dissatisfaction with the book among historical inquirers will rest chiefly with Stapfer's borrowings from the Fourth Gospel. This source is recognized as not purely historical, but yet of secondary value as from the associate of an apostle and entitled to correct certain errors and deficiencies of the first three gospels. Without arguing the detailed questions of incident and chronology, we may hold that the picture of Jesus in the Synoptics will not coalesce with that of the Fourth Gospel, and that the present skillful effort results only in a portraiture which departs from both sources without offering a solution of their discrepancies. The personal Messianic claim of Jesus, the insistence upon his personality as offering a test of allegiance, is brought into the foreground; but this is surely the very peculiarity of the Fourth Gospel which in comparison with the others marks it as a theological presentation. With this main exception all classes of readers will find this a judicious and delightful work.

F. A. C.

In his second volume, covering the presidency of MacMahon (Paris, Félix Alcan, 1897, pp. xii, 549), M. E. Zévort has produced a more satisfactory piece of work than the first volume of his *Histoire de la Troisième République*. Proportions are better observed, and no subjects of importance are omitted or slightly passed over, as was the case in the preceding volume. Attention may specially be called to the portions dealing with the enactment of the constitutional laws of 1875; the unusual ministerial conditions, exceptionally unsettled even for France, between December, 1876, and December, 1877; and the resignation of MacMahon in January, 1879. The last two—the so-called “sixteenth of May,” 1877, and MacMahon's resignation less than two years later—are amongst the half-dozen or dozen episodes in recent French history which specially illumine the workings of cabinet government as a borrowed institution, in one country at least, and which might, furthermore, serve as a valuable corrective to the conclusions of American enthusiasts

who have studied the system only as it works in England. The author very neatly sums up these six years of MacMahon's presidency as being, of all the governments of France, the weakest and most irresolute in internal affairs and the most peaceful in foreign relations. An appendix of a hundred pages contains the constitutional and organic laws of 1875, several notable political speeches, and other documents of interest.

C. F. A. C.

The eighth volume of Mr. Paul L. Ford's new edition of the *Writings of Thomas Jefferson* comprises his correspondence, with certain other papers, from his inauguration in March, 1801, to the end of the year 1808. How great an amount of new matter it contains may be seen from the fact that of the 220 letters which are printed in this volume, only sixty-nine are to be found in the corresponding section of the Congressional edition of Jefferson's *Writings*. On the other hand, the old edition contained some seventy which are not to be found in the present volume. The most interesting new matters in this volume are the pieces relating to Jefferson's inaugural addresses and annual messages (his drafts and the comments of Madison and Gallatin), his various letters and memoranda respecting the proposed constitutional amendment intended to legalize the acquisition of Louisiana, and a series of letters which exhibit him as looking out with anxious friendliness to provide a succession of public offices, as nearly sinecures as possible, for his old friend John Page.

The Southern History Association begins its quarterly *Publications* (Vol. I., No. 1) with its January issue, of 88 pages. An account of the organization of the association is given, followed by an interesting and valuable survey of the present state and prospects of historical studies in the South by Dr. Stephen B. Weeks. It exhibits the historical work recently done by the Southern states, colleges and historical societies,—a notable record on the whole. The lack of extensive historical libraries is plainly the chief hindrance. Dr. Weeks emphasizes the need of better and fuller bibliographies, and the importance of publishing documentary materials rather than more essays. Mr. T. L. Cole presents a first installment, dealing with Alabama, of an elaborate bibliography of the statute law of the Southern states. Aside from the "Current Notes" of historical publication and progress and the excellent contributions already mentioned, the other contents of this first number call for no remark. The new journal is well printed and carefully edited. Its possibilities are manifest to anyone who thoughtfully surveys the Southern field. Its scientific importance remains, naturally, to be established by the future numbers. A scientific intention and spirit on the part of its chief promoters is, at any rate, already evident.

In No. 2 the most important pieces are a journal of a removal from Virginia to Alabama in 1818, and a series of extracts from the journal of the Moravian bishop Spangenberg concerning his travels in North Carolina in 1752. Mr. Cole continues, with Arkansas.