

BOOKS

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

The Coming Religion. By Charles F. Dole, Author of "The Ethics of Progress," "The Spirit of Democracy," etc. Boston. Small, Maynard & Co. Price, \$1.00.

Religion, as Mr. Dole traces its history through the centuries, is a continuous series of lessons or messages with a gradual broadening influence on the life of mankind. It is not, in substance, a matter of forms and creeds but of faith and love and social justice. In the nominal Christian religion Mr. Dole deprecates the stress laid upon points of doctrine upon which Jesus put no emphasis whatever. "The good Samaritan," he says, "unorthodox in doctrine, but a good neighbor, was acceptable enough to Jesus." He sees no dark mystery about religion. It is only an unfolding glory which will open more and more upon our vision as we enter more and more into its living spirit. The new necessity is that each should think for himself and recognize the truth that if God exists, He is present here and now; that He has no favorite sons; that immortality is based on reality and not on the authority of priest or prophet. He looks for "the religion behind the creeds;" he finds "the new message" that this is God's world and therefore a good world under a Divine Governor. He cites abundant proofs of the true religion manifested in all conditions of life. He shows us that the mightiest of all forces is good will to men; that the good life is the normal life and not at all the difficult thing that a false piety has taught; that what we call evil is a process and not a fulfillment of law; and that the "will of God" means the highest, holiest and best possible good for each of us, not suffering and sorrow and renunciation, as the pietists have sought to make us believe.

The author of "The Coming Religion," with his uncommonly prophetic vision, preaches a "Democratic Gospel" in which the humblest soul has an important work, just as valuable and effective in its way as that of the gifted leader and

hero who represents only the average power of the life standing back of him and making his accomplishment possible.

"Religion is the life of God in the soul of man," is quoted from an old Scotch writer as a true definition of the state at which humanity may hope to arrive—has already arrived when the soul recognizes its one source of being and doing. Prayer is mainly such a recognition with genuine desire to act in accordance with the Supreme Love and Wisdom.

The whole world is the province of the coming religion. We who accept it must be tolerant and see good and truth wherever good and truth are. It is not division but union that real religion seeks.

Freedom of thought must be exercised and regarded by all as an individual right. But co-operation in great uses is the invincible power of the coming religion which is broad enough to embrace "the church that puts its emphasis on the words, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,' and goes forth to do what it sees in its vision." "The main thing at present, however, is that the leaders of churches should clearly see what their churches are for."

There are many pages in Mr. Dole's book that tempt to large quotation, but the reader will find greater satisfaction in the grasp of its full argument than in a few detached statements that might not adequately unveil the writer's hopeful and inspiring idea of the coming religion.

A. L. M.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—Rewards and Fairies. By Rudyard Kipling. Published by Doubleday, Page & Co., New York. 1910. Price, \$1.50.

—The Industrial History of the United States. Revised Edition. By Katherine Coman. Published by the Macmillan Co., New York, 1910. Price, \$1.50 net.

—Francesco Ferrer. His Life Work and Martyrdom. With messages written especially for this publication by Ernst Haeckel, Maxim Gorky, Edward Carpenter, Havelock Ellis, Jack London and others.

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