

wholly erroneous impression. It can only be said that, great as may sometimes seem, the difficulties which the Problem of Jesus presents according to the view of him which the ages have held, they are incomparably less than would be presented, did we think that such an one as we are shown in this book had been the founder of Christianity and the Master of apostles, martyrs and saints.

DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

**At Jesus' Feet.** By J. R. Gunn, author of "Redemption of Destitute Childhood." 1908. The Anderson Printing Co., Macon, Ga. Pp. 183.

In this book the young and earnest pastor of the Baptist Church of Madison, Ga., gives to the world sixteen discourses, the book taking its title from the first, which fairly suggests the preacher's temper throughout. He has chosen important topics, in worthy contrast to the merely novel, or at best unimportant subjects often chosen by preachers in these days. "Divine Authority and Power of Jesus," "Discipleship," "The Child's Saviour," "The Immortality of the Soul," are sample themes, and these really important subjects are treated in a simple, direct, earnest manner and style which cannot but be attractive and helpful to many. The author says of these discourses in his preface: "The blessing of God was upon them in their delivery, and many of my congregation have testified of the help received. I am sending them forth with the hope and prayer that He whom they seek to honor will continue to use them in a wider sphere." Doubtless this hope will be gratified.

DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

**The Teaching of Jesus About the Future According to the Synoptic Gospels.** By Henry Burton Sharman, Ph.D., Instructor in New Testament History and Literature in the University of Chicago. University of Chicago Press. 1909. Pp. xiv., 382. Price, \$3.26 postpaid.

The object of the author is to ascertain the exact teaching of Jesus in reference to the events "subsequent to the final sever-

ance of relations between Jesus and his disciples." The method is painstaking in the extreme. Holding that it is possible to identify the documents used in the composition of the Synoptic Gospels, the author first identifies as such documents: (1) a document identical in large part with our Gospel of Mark; (2) a Galilean document used by both Matthew and Luke, and containing the material standing in Luke 3:7-15, 17, 18; 4:2b-13 (14, 15), 16-30; 5:1-11; 6:20-49; 7:1-8:3; (3) a document called the Perea document, also used by both Matthew and Luke, and in whole or part identical with Luke 9:51-18:14 and 19:1-28; (4) a document used by Matthew but not by Luke, presumably the Logia of Matthew; and (5) additional sources used by the first and third evangelists.

These various documents are compared with each other, and the materials not found in our Gospels are compared with the documents in a first chapter occupying a hundred pages. Then on the basis of this comparison, the alleged teachings of Jesus are considered in minute detail in reference to the Destruction of Jerusalem, the Rise of Messianic Claimants and the Son of Man, the Final Discourse of Jesus on the Future, the Day of Judgment, Life after Death, the Kingdom of God and The Church and its Institutions. The result of this prolonged and detailed comparison of passage with passage is to show that the author of this book fails to accept as really the teaching of Jesus much which is given as such in the Gospels.

The chief criticism to be made on this work relates to its extreme subjectivity. There is no possible way in which the conclusions of the author can be proved true or untrue either as to the extent of the documents or as to their character in general or in detail. Using the same material and method another scholar might come to markedly different conclusions. While the book is admirably printed, and is valuable as an illustration of the methods which it employs, any readers other than trained and independent students may easily overestimate the finality and consequently the value of the results which it attains. To very many the probability of error on the part of a modern student would seem immensely greater than on the part of an

ancient investigator working with the carefulness which Luke claimed for himself.

DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

**Among the Gospels and Acts.** Being Notes and Comments Covering the Life of Christ in the Flesh and the First Thirty Years' History of His Church. By Peter Ainslie. Baltimore, Temple Seminary Press, 1908. Pp. 405. Price, \$1.50.

The author of this book has for seventeen years been minister of the Christian Temple, Baltimore, and is widely known as an earnest and effective worker. In this book he attempts "to make a practical classification of the material in the Gospels and the Acts," and accompanies this classification with various geographical, historical and theological notes and comments. The work makes no pretence at learning or originality, but is simple, almost commonplace and superficial in character. Yet from this very fact it may be helpful to a greater number of persons than if it were more formal, fresh and thorough.

The author begins his book with a quotation from a private letter of the late President Grover Cleveland, which deserves to be widely read and marked. He wrote: "I very much hope that in sending out this book you will do something to invite more attention among the masses of our people to the study of the New Testament and the Bible as a whole. It seems to me that in these days there is an unhappy falling off in our appreciation of this study. I do not believe as a people that we can afford to allow our interest in and veneration for the Bible to abate. I look upon it as the source from which those who study it in spirit and truth will derive strength of character, a realization of the duty of citizenship, and a true apprehension of the power and wisdom and mercy of God."

DAVID FOSTER ESTES.

**The Acts of the Apostles.** An Exposition by Richard Belward Rackham, M.A., of the Community of the Resurrection. Fourth Edition. 1909. Pages cxvi., 524. Methuen & Co., 36 Essex Street, London, England; Edwin S. Gorham, Fourth Avenue and Twentieth Street, New York.

The first edition came out in 1901 and now a fourth is de-