Irish Church Quarterly

The Gospel According to St. Mark by W. C. Allen

Review by: H. J. Lawlor

The Irish Church Quarterly, Vol. 9, No. 35 (Jul., 1916), pp. 239-240

Published by: [Irish Church Quarterly](#)

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/30067648>

Accessed: 14/06/2014 10:41

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at
<http://www.jstor.org/page/info/about/policies/terms.jsp>

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Irish Church Quarterly is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Irish Church Quarterly*.

<http://www.jstor.org>

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. MARK, with introduction and notes, edited by the Ven. W. C. Allen, M.A., Oxford Church Biblical Commentary. (Rivingtons.) 7s. 6d.

This is an exceedingly useful commentary. Archdeacon Allen eschews the "Talmudic method" of quoting from previous commentaries; he refrains from writing long notes on subjects about which ample information may be obtained from easily accessible dictionaries; and he omits discussions on other matters of a kind with which readers of commentaries are too familiar, and of which many of them are weary. Thus his book is a small one, and it tells us what we want to know, and very little else.

In his Introduction the Editor assigns the Gospel to a date between 30 and 50 A.D., or, more definitely, between 44 and 49 A.D., and he expresses the opinion that it was originally written in Aramaic. In these things some may perhaps hesitate to follow him. Nevertheless what he has to say about them is important, and stimulates if it does not always convince. For the other sections of the Introduction—especially those on the Characteristics, the Theology, and the Historicity of the Gospel—we have nothing but admiration.

Instead of the Greek text, we are given an English translation in which an attempt is made to reproduce the solecisms of the writer. It is, as might be expected, "generally bald, and frequently un-English in idiom." But when Archdeacon Allen tells us that it "needs much apology" we do not agree with him. Students will probably learn more from it than from dissertations on the style of the Evangelist. But we must make one criticism. The proofs of the translation might have been more carefully read. *E.g.*, St. Mark mentioned "green grass" in vi. 39, but he did not repeat the phrase in the following verse; and he mentioned "loaves" in viii. 4, though the Editor does not credit him with having done so. He wrote "words," not "works," in viii. 38. In some cases the Archdeacon does not seem to have followed his style of printing characteristically Marcan modes of expression in italics. Perhaps, too, it is to an oversight in proof-reading that we owe the heading "The Widow's Mite" (she is said in the Gospels to have had two), and a statement about the relative values of quadrants and mites (on ix. 42) which is, on arithmetical grounds, difficult to receive, if it be

true that "two mites make a farthing." These slight blemishes are referred to only because a second edition of so excellent a book is sure to be called for; careful revision would banish them.

It is impossible here to give specimens of Archdeacon Allen's notes, but attention may be called to the instructive dissertations on "the alleged 'little Apocalypse' in St. Mark xiii," on the chronology of Mk. xvi. 1, 2, and on the meaning of *σκανδαλίζω* which the Editor translates "ensnare." The volume is supplied with a good, and not overcrowded, map.

H. J. LAWLOR.

THE MINISTRY OF DR. JOHN MACLEOD IN THE PARISH OF GOVAN. By Roger S. Kirkpatrick, B.D. (Blackwood and Sons.) 2s. net.

This very readable book was originally composed as a Lecture—the seventh Macleod Memorial Lecture, was delivered as such in Oatlands Parish Church 14th December, 1913, and was subsequently expanded by the author into its present form. The Rev. Roger S. Kirkpatrick, Minister at Yarrow, was an assistant in Govan Parish Church during the ministry of Dr. John Macleod, and writes not only with skill and knowledge, but with a sincere admiration and deep affection for his subject.

The title of the book indicates a limited theme. The life of Dr. John Macleod, his ministry as a whole, his place and part in the general activities of the Church of Scotland, his convictions and teaching, his character and personality, are not dealt with, save in a casual way, in this volume. The subject before the author is Dr. Macleod's ministry in Govan Parish, and as a record of one of the most fruitful and remarkable ministries in the annals of the Church of Scotland, the book is a marked success. There are only three chapters (so that a danger is avoided that besets many recent biographies—the danger of undue length; the first chapter, from Dr. Macleod's induction to the dedication of the new parish church; the second, the new church; the third, from the dedication of the church to Dr. Macleod's death. In the Appendix there is a mass of valuable information concerning Dr. Macleod's ministry, but as its main interest lies for those who had a personal acquaintance with the Parish and the Parish Minister, it is, we think, wisely relegated to an Appendix.

Govan is a suburb of Glasgow, and the increase of the population during the latter half of the 19th century was, perhaps, unprecedented in Britain. From a country village, Govan increased by thousands and tens of thousands every decade, until it became a city of more than a quarter of a million people. Such a transformation brought with it social, religious, and ecclesiastical problems. The circumstances clamoured for vigorous initia-