

D. Adams, D.D., of Baltimore, C. J. Keevil, D.D., of Trenton, N. J., C. D. Case, Ph.D., of Brooklyn, N. Y., Wayland Hoyt, D.D., of Philadelphia, and Robert Boville, D.D., of New York City. But many Baptists, ministers and laymen, will find the question of the organic union of Baptists, Free Baptists and Disciples the *livest* and most kindling question of the lot. The "Proceedings" are everywhere of a character and quality to repay reading.

GEO. B. EAGER.

**The Memorial Supper of Our Lord.** A Plea for Organic Church Life.

By J. M. Frost, Corresponding Secretary, Nashville, Tenn., Sunday School Board, Southern Baptist Convention.

The ordinances of Baptist and the Lord's Supper have often been a bone of sectarian contention. A reaction is now generally evident, and it takes more than one form. Some have lost interest in them altogether, since they have ceased in large measure to be the subjects of controversy; and so there is a marked tendency to treat them as matters of no consequence. Observed as a matter of form handed down by tradition, their significance is neglected and their relation to great spiritual truths and, therefore, to life has dropped out of the consciousness of many Christian people. In a word, with many people they are not felt to be of sufficient practical importance to justify serious discussion, much less controversy. But there is a reaction in another direction, and that is to bring back to Christian people the consciousness of their spiritual significance. Perhaps the controversies that once were waged so bitterly around these symbols gave undue emphasis to their *mere form* in the minds of Christian people, and as mere forms they cannot maintain an important position in a non-ritualistic system of religion. Hence a new interpretation of the ordinances is called for, a non-controversial treatment which emphasizes their relation to spiritual truth. Such a treatment of Baptism Dr. Frost gave us in his book, "The Moral Dignity of Baptism"; and such a treatment of "The Lord's Supper" he has given us in the volume before us.

In his conception of the ordinance as to its position in the Christian system, its symbolism, its relation to Baptism and its restrictions Dr. Frost is, as we might well have expected, in thorough harmony with the conservative Baptist contentions. The significance of the book lies not in any new theories concerning the ordinance nor in any new arguments in support of the theory commonly accepted among Baptists, but in a new and welcome emphasis upon the spiritual significance of the ordinance and its organic relation to the church-life.

The titles of many of the chapters have a spiritual flavor, e. g., "A memorial Service for Disciples", "The Christian Holy of Holies", "The Memorial Signet Set in Red", "In Memory of Christ Himself", "Foregleam of the Heavenly Kingdom". He grasps fully the fact that the ordinance was given that it might be a practical aid to spiritual living, that it is this function which gives it a hold upon Christian hearts and a claim to perpetual observance in the churches. "In the presence of the emblems, and by their emblematic power, we face the cross as the world's greatest tragedy, and stand under its appalling shadow. They take us beyond themselves, and beyond the cross, within the vail, to that profounder something of heavenly enactment; wherein God is just in justifying him that believeth in Jesus, and wherein also there is fullness of redemption and remission of sins through the shedding of blood. \* \* \* \* Here they are shut in with their Lord, and the ground whereon they stand is holy ground." Unquestionably the best work that can be done in defence of the ordinances against the tendency to depreciate them is so to interpret them as to make them helpful in building up spiritual life in the churches. Those things which are helpful to life cannot sink permanently into insignificance.

Dr. Frost's mind takes delight in an *organism*. He loves to contemplate the inter-relations and supplementary functions of an organic whole. He takes pleasure in thinking of the church as an organism, and emphasizes the function in it of this ordinance. To leave out or to prevent the ordinance is to mar or to destroy the organic unity of the church life, and when thus

marred the church does not give an adequate expression of the Kingdom of God.

"The Memorial Supper" is likely to have a wide reading among Southern Baptists, and will doubtless also find many readers beyond the author's constituency; and, wherever read, will strengthen conservative conviction as to this ordinance, and will deepen the sense of its spiritual significance and value.

C. S. GARDNER.

### **Baptist Opportunity.**

By W. O. Carver, Th.D., Professor of Comparative Religion and Missions in the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville Ky. American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia. Pp. 72. Price 15 cents.

The booklet opens with the following striking sentence: "Baptists have today the greatest opportunity in history." This sentence is an epitome of the book. The author finds in the "World Conditions", "The Religious Situation" and "The Baptist Situation" an unrivalled opportunity for Protestants in general and for Baptists in particular. The general awakening in Japan, China and elsewhere; the increasing individualism and sense of brotherhood; the gradual spread of religious freedom; the rise of Christianity into the standard by which other religions measure themselves; a world-wide revival of interest in religion ("It is twenty-five hundred years since the world was so universally interested in religion as it is today," p. 31); a growing demand for a simple Christianity, constitute the chief elements in the Baptist opportunity so far as world conditions are concerned.

To meet these conditions the Baptists have numbers, enlightenment, wealth; the unity and self-consciousness of a great brotherhood, a sense of the imperialism of the kingdom of Christ and a new grip on the meaning of our doctrines and ordinances. The demands which this opportunity makes upon the denomination are first of all loyalty to spiritual truth, to the personal Christ, to the church as "the working organization in the kingdom of God", to the ordinances "as the pictured evangel", to the Gospel "as God's love message to a