

features in which there are marked resemblances but with differences of great significance, as in the teachings concerning the divine attributes whether metaphysical or moral. Even in the first group, the Old Testament religion, while gathering up into itself much that came from a common Semitic inheritance, is decidedly superior to other Semitic faiths; for the Old Testament limits the application of the sacrificial system to sins of error and human weakness, proclaims through the prophets the true nature of sin, and relates the rewards and punishments of the future to conduct and character. In the second group the Old Testament soars far above its competitors; and in the third group of features its superiority is assured.

How, then, did the Hebrews come to such exalted religious conceptions? They were inferior to the Babylonians in education, in civilization, and in material prosperity. Their Semitic neighbors were all religious, both in action and in thought. "There seems, then, to be no *human* cause for the result that is clearly evident. What could be expected from human nature at those times and under those circumstances is shown by the religions of the other Semitic nations. The marked superiority of the Old Testament teachings in reference to that which is most fundamental indicates clearly, then, that here a new cause is in operation. That cause, it seems evident, is the unique presence of God, the illumination of God-giving perception of spiritual truth, that which is usually called, and fitly, the special revelation of God."

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Decisive Hour of Christian Missions. By John R. Mott. New York. 1910. Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions. Pages 239. Illustrations; map. \$1.00.

Those who read the nine volumes reporting the Edinburgh conference of 1910 will want this book to summarize the impressions of the study of the conference. Those who do not get the time to read the full report will want to read this volume as the best substitute for such reading. It is the first

textbook of the Laymen's Movement study classes and will be wanted by the study classes of other movements. Mr. Mott is so simple, direct and calm in all his dealing with the problems of the world task of Christianity that he sometimes hardly impresses the reader with the magnitude and importance of what he is saying to him. A prepared public will find here a statesmanlike call to the best manhood of the Church of Jesus Christ. It is a call to the test that challenges the highest motives and deepest impulses of redeemed men; and it is a call with the rational hope of real success in the effort to make Christ effectively known to all mankind. Thinking business men, who are men of God, will respond to the call of the facts, arguments and appeals of this work if they will read it and ponder it. It is a work on kingdom strategy of a very high order. Every pastor should have it at once.

W. O. CARVER.

The Unique Message and the Universal Mission of Christianity.
By James Franklin Love, D.D. New York. 1910. Fleming H. Revell Company. Pages 256. \$1.25 net.

The announced purpose of the author "is to show that the fundamental and saving doctrines of Christianity are peculiar to the Christian religion, to secure larger rights for the message which these doctrines constitute and to help fulfill the universal mission of Christianity". He has brought to his task extensive reading, not always of the later works, and serious reflection. He speaks with conviction and enthusiasm.

In Part I we find a general discussion of man and religion. The main discussion falls in Part II where the "Unique Message" is outlined under seven headings that are so incisive and suggestive as to give the author's interpretation of Christianity better than many sentences could. Here they are: "A Self-verifying Revelation from God—The Old and New Testament Scriptures"; "A Personally Revealed Deity—The Doctrine of the Incarnation"; "Deity Suffering on Behalf of Humanity—The Doctrine of the Atonement"; "The Moral Transformation of the Individual—The Doctrine of the New Birth"; "The