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The Gospel in the Book of Job by Cecil Hugh Massy

Review by: J. P.

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It is the supreme merit of Professor Du Bose that he has frankly abandoned the old artificial theories, and has insisted so strongly on the fact that a perfect Atonement cannot be anything enacted merely outside man, but must in the end be something wrought in him, which effectually changes and makes him at one with God. In order to accomplish this, Christ's life and death must, so to speak, be re-enacted in him, making him die to sin, and rise with Christ to newness of life. His exposition of the *Hebrews* scarcely adds anything to this.

W. S.

THE GOSPEL IN THE BOOK OF JOB. By Cecil Hugh Massy. (Skeffingtons.) 2s. net.

The standpoint from which the author of this little book approaches the study of the Book of Job is an unusual one. We have come, at all events of late years, to regard it as a dramatic setting of the early sense of the problem of pain. Job suffers undeservedly, and asks why his life is so cruelly weighted; the old crude notion, that all suffering was immediately and directly the result of some previous misdoing, had been felt to be inadequate, and the human consciousness sought for some deeper reason. The answer to that persistent question was not fully given, but the line of the true answer is indicated.

But in this study of the Book of Job, the cry of the problem of pain is not the central thought, but rather there is a search after certain correspondences with subsequent evangelical doctrine, foreshadowings of which are sought, and the discovery of them hailed with satisfaction. Chief amongst these is the doctrine of Justification, which is ingeniously discovered "in the bud," as the author phrases it, in the Book of Job. Unless on the principle that "everything must have something to do with everything, or else how could things hold together," as someone has put it, this correspondence is hard to find. Nor, indeed, does there seem to be much gained by finding it; but the search is ingenious.

Then again a distinction is made between the patience of Job at the earlier and later stages of his trial, which may perhaps be found in the story. But the old-fashioned view that Job's patience was throughout something more than doggedness—something truly admirable—seems still preferable; nor does the brief which the author undertakes for Elihu commend itself. Elihu was, in his own way, just as hard on Job, just as far from touching the real point of his trouble, as the other friends.

But the author makes an earnest plea for a belief in a

personal Satan. His readers may not always go with him in the methods of his argument, and there has to be some certainty about the definition of personality before the lines of such a controversy can be laid down ; but this is a brave and manful assertion of the position that evil does not come from the All-Father, but from some force outside ourselves which makes for unrighteousness. That is undoubtedly part of the message of the Book of Job, set in primitive shape, but needing to be reiterated in some form for every age, and by no means to be omitted in these days in which we live; and the author of this little book does well in finding it in his subject and asserting it with what strength he may.

J. P.

#### LOLLARDY AND THE REFORMATION IN ENGLAND.

An Historical Survey. By James Gairdner, C.B. Two vols. (Macmillans.) 21s. net.

Dr. Gairdner is well known to all archivists as the most erudite of Public Record Office officials. He is familiar to the general reading public as the author of an excellent life of *Henry VII.* A somewhat narrower circle, perhaps, has enjoyed the masterly introduction to his elaborate edition of the *Paston Letters*. It is admitted by those best qualified to judge, that he is the foremost authority on the social and ecclesiastical history of England, during the 15th and early 16th centuries. Perhaps no one save the Abbot Gasquet is capable of following him in all the intricacies of the "originals" of that period. This review then is strictly limited in its scope. It merely attempts to present the author's standpoint as shortly and as clearly as is compatible with the complicated nature of the subject. And in so doing it may perform a useful function ; for these volumes are liable to be misunderstood of many.

The author gives us a more complete and documented statement of the views set forth in the volume contributed by him to Stephens and Hunt's *History of the English Church*. In that work he had been limited to a sharply defined period of fifty years. Now, working on a larger scale, he studies the "predisposing causes" and the "subsequent developments." The treatment of events is rendered subsidiary to the tracing of the growth and progress of ideas. The second volume ends with the death of Henry VIII., but the preface encourages the hope that a continuation will deal with the Elizabethan settlement. Dr. Gairdner considers that the effective factors of change down to 1558 were—(1) Lollardy, largely arising out of Wycliffe's Translation, an influence which presented the Bible as an infallible guide, capable of infallible interpretation by private