

Great Bible of 1539, attributed to the artist Holbein, and here reproduced. These panel pictures are historical and peculiarly significant, portraying as they do the temper and activity of the times in relation to the Bible and its circulation. The scenes are more remarkably significant when we call to mind the fact that only fourteen years before this universal activity in the circulation of the Scriptures herein represented, all England was engaged in burning Tyndale's New Testaments!

The volume of 507 pages is well printed, well bound, admirably indexed, and furnished with a wealth of footnote references to works on the subject which together constitute a rich bibliography.

GEORGE BOARDMAN EAGER.

**Barnas Sears, A. Christian Educator, His Making and Work.**

By Alvah Hovey, D.D., LL.D. Silver, Burdett & Co. New York.

This is one of the last productions of the distinguished author. It was a labor of love, since Dr. Hovey had enjoyed the instruction and the life long friendship of Dr. Sears. It was worth doing in itself in as much as Dr. Sears filled a prominent place in the educational and philanthropic work of the country through a long series of years. He was born in Massachusetts in 1802, educated in the common schools and in Brown University, graduating from the latter institution in 1825. He was compelled to earn the necessary money by teaching school and by manual labor. Little is known of his standing in the college, though it was certainly not at the head of his class. He had already felt himself called to preach, and entered Newton Theological Institution, then just opening its doors, in October, 1825. He began to preach to the First Church at Hartford, Conn., in 1827 and soon afterwards was ordained pastor. The beginnings of his pastoral la-

bors promised great success, but a bronchial trouble soon developed which led him in 1829 to accept a position as professor of ancient languages in the Hamilton Literary and Theological Institution. This proved to be a deciding point in his life. Henceforth he gives himself to education, collegiate, theological and popular. He was soon transferred to a new chair of biblical theology in the same institution. In order to prepare for this work he determined upon study abroad, and, accordingly, in 1833 he embarked for Germany, leaving his family behind. He spent three years abroad studying chiefly in Halle, Leipsic and Berlin. He enjoyed the lectures of Gesenius, Winer, Neander, Hengstenberg, and others, and "formed a life-long friendship with Tholuck and Gesenius." He had remarkable facility in acquiring language, and returned to America an accomplished linguist as well as a profound scholar. While abroad he continued practical Christian work as far as possible, and had the great pleasure of baptizing the first Baptists of Germany and at the same time of organizing the first church and ordaining the first pastor (Oncken) at Hamburg. This was in 1834. This residence abroad was of untold value to him. Henceforth he combined the German habits of thought and study with deep piety.

Soon after his return to America he was called to Newton Theological Institution, which he served with distinguished ability as professor of Christian Theology from 1836 to 1848 and much of the time as President. Both as teacher and administrator he was a distinguished success.

In 1848 he became Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Education as the successor of the celebrated Horace Mann. In this position he carried forward the plans and reforms which his distinguished predecessor had introduced. In 1855 he succeeded the celebrated Dr. Wayland as president of Brown University. This position he held until 1867, and though it was the period of

the distractions preceding and during the civil war, the college made substantial progress.

In 1867 he became the first secretary of the Peabody Fund for the promotion of popular education in the South and in this position he is probably best known to the country at large. The donor of this munificent gift gave large discretion to the board of trustees which he named, and as the first secretary, Dr. Sears was the principal factor in determining the plans and policies of the fund. All the South owes him an unspeakable debt of gratitude for his wise conciliatory and uplifting work. He removed to Staunton, Va., in the romantic valley where he lived until his death in 1880.

Dr. Sears was not a prolific writer, seeming to think that he could best serve his generation by word of mouth. Besides some articles for theological reviews he translated a German grammar, undertook a "Life of Martin Luther," which he never finished, got out "Select Treatises of Luther" in German and some other minor works. It is to be regretted that so few of his letters have been published. Most of them seem to have failed of preservation. Those written from Germany are brilliant, vivid. My chief criticism of the book is the fact that it lets us see little of the inner spiritual and intellectual life of Dr. Sears. Perhaps the existing material made this unavoidable.

W. J. MCGLOTHLIN.

### **Forms of English Poetry.**

By Charles F. Johnson, L.H.D., Professor of English Literature in Trinity College, Hartford. American Book Co., New York, Cincinnati, Chicago. 1904.

This book deals with the construction of English verse and its main divisions both by forms and by subject matter, but it also gives an admirable sketch illustrated by examples of the historical development of these divisions. The author deals with the subject throughout in such a