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Romans. A Devotional Commentary in Three Volumes by W. H. Griffith Thomas

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There is a delightful tale of the National Anthem being played by a Nationalist band, under a misapprehension of musical history induced by Dr. Whitty: there is a charming incident of a Suffrage meeting got up as an opportunity for a lady speaker, whose sympathies have been misunderstood. But the sketches must be read to have the pleasure of meeting these and other interesting people in their pages. Mr. Birmingham will have still further increased his reputation in the style of literature which he has made so peculiarly his own, by this book.

J. P.

ROMANS. A DEVOTIONAL COMMENTARY IN THREE VOLUMES. By W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D. (R.T.S.) 2s. each.

The author's intention is to provide a commentary combining brevity with clearness and real suggestiveness. After a short introduction, dealing with such essential preliminary considerations as the writer, where, when, why, and to whom he wrote, our author passes on to give some useful suggestions as to the right method of study.

Finally, before commencing his commentary on the text verse by verse, he endeavours, by a brief analysis, to give us a view of the whole letter as forming a systematic doctrinal structure, built up around the great central conception of the "righteousness of God."

The author has striven, with considerable success, to instruct intelligent Bible students for whom the study of the larger standard commentaries is too intricate and laborious. Such readers, and they are not few in number, chiefly wish to understand what the Apostle meant in his letters. The chief difficulty in doing so lies in following his argument, and keeping its threads from getting tangled. In this the author is especially helpful. He had adopted three different methods for attaining this end. In the first place we find carefully numbered divisions, made clear at a glance by dark print side notes. Not content with this, he frequently pauses to recapitulate the argument both of short sections and of groups of chapters. But not the least helpful towards the reader's grasp of the argument are the "Meditations" at the close of each section. They show carefulness in arrangement and considerable suggestiveness.

We have only space to give an example of the latter method. Naturally we turn to the eighth chapter. Here are the subjects for meditation on vv. 1-5, each followed by a brief and suggestive sentence of explanation:—1, Our perquisi^{te}; 2, Our position; 3, Our power; 4, Our protection; 5, Our provision; 6, Our possibility; 7, Our principle.

The chapters of the Commentary itself are short, and adapted to daily devotional study.

H. G. S. K.