

CHRISTIAN ARCHAEOLOGY.

(Continued.)

III. PUBLIC WORSHIP.

The pentecostal firstfruits of New Testament Christianity were not gathered in the streets of Jerusalem by a band of Salvationists, but in a meeting of the disciples who *were all with one accord in one place,*¹⁾ sitting in a house,²⁾ probably one of the thirty halls connected with the temple. We know that the 120 who formed the nucleus of this first Christian congregation, men and women, had been accustomed to meet for prayer and supplication.³⁾ At this pentecostal meeting, the *wonderful works of God*⁴⁾ were proclaimed, and Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and preached the gospel of Christ crucified and glorified.⁵⁾ There were those who *gladly received his word,*⁶⁾ which could not have been known to the apostles but by a profession of faith, which the new converts made before they *were baptized.*⁷⁾

Here, then, we have the various acts performed in the first meeting of the first congregation of primitive Christianity: the preaching of the word, the administration of a sacrament, confession of faith and prayer. Nor was this

1) Acts 2, 1.

2) Acts 2, 2.

3) Acts 1, 14.

4) Acts 2, 11.

5) Acts 2, 14 ff.

6) Acts 2, 41.

7) Acts 2, 41.

is putting rather a low estimate upon young America. If some one were to say, "Our schools are in need of a great intellectual revival; I would like to see at least addition and subtraction taught in them," this would be quite a compliment compared with what the Doctor has to say of the children in our public schools. For if inculcating "the existence of a God, man's immortality, and his accountability," is to be the coming ideal basis for "far better ethical training" than these children are now enjoying, in what Egyptian darkness of profound moral and religious ignorance must they be groping about until the great ethical revival shall have come!

A. G.

Theological Review.

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A. G.