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prevent its having been at Tell-es-Safiyeh, a site which agrees with Jerome's data; but I am inclined to place it even farther north. It is significant that the Crusaders reckoned it at Jamnia, but it must have been farther inland.

Such were the famous Five Cities, mothers of those mysterious men, who suddenly break out of the darkness of early history to war against the chosen people of God, and in their light have remained through all ages, types of idolatry, impenetrableness and obscurantism.

In the next paper we shall turn to the debatable ground between the Philistines and Israel—the second of the parallel zones—the Shephelah.

GEORGE ADAM SMITH.

### BRIEF NOTICES.

Prof. Rendel Harris' *Codex Bezae, A Study of the so-called Western Text of the New Testament*, is a model of original research and felicitous exposition. It forms the first part of the second volume of the series of *Texts and Studies* edited by Mr. Armitage Robinson, and published by the Cambridge University Press, and it is sufficient of itself to win the amplest recognition and a permanent place for this series. The purpose of Prof. Harris' study is to throw light upon the origin of the Western Text by investigating and tracing to their source the anomalous readings and general affinities of Codex Bezae. He finds that the MS. itself is of Gallican origin. This is proved in a most interesting chapter in which the local pronunciation is shown to have affected the orthography of certain words. As Augustus becomes in French Aôût, Lugdunum Lyons and so forth, so in this remarkable MS. AION is found for AEFIQN, AON for AOFON and other similar traces of Gallican pronunciation. But it is in tracing the text represented in Codex D that Prof. Harris breaks into a new field. He adduces evidence to show that the Latin text of this MS. is genealogically contiguous to the Latin translation of Irenæus, that Tatian used a Latin copy of the gospels and a copy whose text was closely related to the Latin of Codex D, and he makes it

appear probable in the highest degree that the whole body of Western readings go back to a single bilingual copy, the remote ancestor of D, and existing early in the second century. So much evidence for these results is adduced, and the reasoning is so perspicuous, that it seems likely that Prof. Harris' conclusions will be accepted. His attempt to identify the birthplace of this text is perhaps not so successful. The abundant traces of Montanist influence enable him, he thinks, with some certainty to assign its origin to Rome, Carthage, or Lyons, but his grounds for preferring Carthage seem scarcely adequate. Such studies as this not only maintain the credit of English scholarship but materially advance Biblical learning, and must almost inevitably attract to this field of inquiry a larger number of well-equipped workers. It is scarcely necessary to add that the volume is beautifully printed.

The reputation of the *Expositor's Bible* is more than sustained by Mr. Denney's volume on *The Epistles to the Thessalonians* (Hodder and Stoughton). Were one compelled to characterize it in one word, that word would be "strong." It is pervaded by the strength that indicates an earnest moral nature rooted in carefully ascertained and firmly held truth. The spirit of power and of love and of a sound mind is everywhere discernible. Hence there is a rare and remarkable combination of uncompromising orthodoxy with the most perfectly frank outspokenness. If independence in thought be the faculty of looking with one's own eyes and seeing for oneself, unbiassed by what others have seen and led one to expect to see, few men can be more independent than Mr. Denney. This appears perhaps most conspicuously in his treatment of the Man of Sin, but also in his firm and lucid interpretation of every difficult passage in the Epistles. Mr. Denney is a born exegete; but strong as are his doctrinal expositions, his enforcement of ethical points is even stronger. His book distinctly advances our knowledge of the Epistles to the Thessalonians.

In *Pictured Palestine* Mr. James Neil, formerly incumbent of Christ Church, Jerusalem, has laid himself open to the suspicion of bookmaking. Neither letterpress nor illustrations are quite up to the level of his former very successful volumes. Not that there is nothing to be enjoyed or learned from the present work,

for Mr. Neil presents us with some illustrations of Scripture which are both striking and novel, and the "pictures" are often above reproach. All through the book the reader feels the satisfaction of listening to a man who is perfectly at home in what he is describing, and who imparts his information in an interesting manner. But why should Mr. Neil, or any one else at this time of day, elaborately inform us that in the East sons are more welcome than daughters, or that one daily sees exemplification of the truth that fingers were made before knives and forks, or that superstitions abound, or that Eastern customs are slow to change? In this year of grace one or two things may be taken for granted. Mr. Neil's book is published by Messrs. James Nisbet.—Another book on Palestine has been produced by Mr. D. M. Ross, of Dundee, and is published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton under the title *The Cradle of Christianity*. This is a book that deserves to be widely read. It is written for those "who are not deeply versed in recent literature on Palestine," and the author succeeds in presenting the broad features of the country and the most outstanding characteristics of its population. So fresh are Mr. Ross' descriptions that the reader feels he has never seen Palestine before. The shadeless roads, the bare hills, even the Jordan and the Sea of Galilee, seem to be seen for the first time. The chapter on "The Queer Folk in Palestine" will surprise and delight many; and the bright, broad intelligence with which everything is described, and which enters sympathetically into the most various customs and religious observances, makes it a very great treat to sit at the fireside and travel with Mr. Ross for a guide.

Mrs. Harris has very admirably seconded her husband's work by giving a brief and popular account of Prof. Rendel Harris' discovery of the Apology of Aristides in the library of the convent of St. Catherine. From this small and pretty volume, published by Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton, and entitled *The Newly Discovered Apology of Aristides*, any one may in an hour or two obtain a fair idea of the fortunes and contents of this remarkable relic of the 2nd century. In *Social and Present Day Questions* (Hodder and Stoughton), Archdeacon Farrar proves himself worthy of the position he holds as the preacher in what may popularly be called the most national pulpit in the land. The sermons in this volume exhibit the usual eloquence and felicity of

quotation to which we are accustomed in Dr. Farrar's writings they exhibit also a very earnest interest in the social problems with which we are at present beset.

Messrs. Unwin Brothers (The Gresham Press) have sent us a copy of their edition of *The Collected Sermons of Thomas Fuller, D.D.*, 1631-1659. These two handsome volumes may be recommended to all book-fanciers as beautiful specimens of typography. The editing of the sermons has been a labour of love to the late John Eglinton Bailey and Mr. William E. A. Axon. It is too late in the day to recommend Thomas Fuller. In these sermons, as in all his writings, we are entertained with an overflowing and wise wit, with inexhaustible learning, and with a devoutness of spirit which insensibly elevates the reader. But the chief feeling which these handsome volumes evoke is one of regret that we have not all Fuller's works in a similar form.

MARCUS DODS.