

THE DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING OF THE SLAVONIC ENOCH.

THEOLOGICAL students do not often read astronomical journals, but if any one interested in apocalyptic literature will turn to *The Observatory* for August, 1918, he will find on pp. 309-316, sandwiched between the report of a paper on the green flash of the setting sun and an article on the new star in Aquila, a brilliant little paper by Mrs Maunders entitled, *The Date and Place of Writing of the Slavonic Enoch*. After a little merriment at the flimsy evidence on which Dr Charles has assigned this work to an Egyptian Jew of the first century of our era, and the difficulty of supposing that a Greek work so widely current as Dr Charles imagines, though it survived to be translated into Bulgarian between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries, should have disappeared altogether in its Greek form, Mrs Maunders goes on to examine the astronomy of this work. She has no difficulty in shewing that, while it ignores the Jewish calendar, it regards as of divine origin the Julian calendar and the Christian Easter calendar, including lunar epacts which we first meet in the third century A. D. and the 532 years cycle which is not found elsewhere till the fifth century. I may note in passing that April and November seem each to be given one day more, May and December one day less, than their due, but this does not appear seriously to impair Mrs Maunders's argument. Dr Charles had supposed that the reference to the 532 years cycle was one of a number of late interpolations. Mrs Maunders holds that it is easier to believe in a late author. She proceeds to examine Bulgarian literature and calls attention to the 'Historiated Bibles' which characterized the Bogomils. That the present work is Bogomilian is, she maintains, proved by the presence of the legend of Satanail. Her final conclusion is therefore that the book is not an Egyptian Jewish work written in Hebrew in the first century of our era, but a Bogomil work written in Bulgarian between the twelfth and fifteenth centuries.

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