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Studies in Texts:

SUGGESTIONS FOR SERMONS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

BY THE REV. HARRINGTON C. LEES, M.A.

VIII.—A FORECAST OF BROTHERHOOD.

Text:—"Behold Philistia; this one was born *there*. Yet of Zion it shall be said, This one and that one was born *in her*."—Ps. lxxxvii. 4, 5 (R.V.).

[Book of the Month: "THE PHILISTINES"¹=P. Other references: Perowne's "Psalms"=PP. "Biblical Educator"=BE. Spurgeon's "Treasury of David"=TD. Speaker's Commentary=S. A. J. Tait's "Christ and the Nations"=T. Dr. Masterman in *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly*, July, 1914=PEFQ.]

RELATION between Israel and Philistines transformed here. "Except for naturalized Philistines in David's entourage (2 Sam. viii. 18) but one lull in storm of war between the two: charming poem, Ps. lxxxvii." (P. 70). "No exact parallel in other passages" (PP. 424). Philistines "here described as actually enrolled, by a new birth, among her sons" (PP. 424). "A man will say 'Mother Zion'" (v. 5, LXX).

I. SOURCE OF THE SAYING.—Hebrew hymn written for Temple use, perhaps in reign of Hezekiah (P. 70). "That king conspicuous for renewing international intercourse" (BE. iv. 215; 2 Chron. xxxii. 23). "The proper kernel of Psalm is "Zion, birthplace of nations," thrice expressed, verses 4, 5, 6 (Hengstenberg in TD. iv. 124).

II. SUBJECT OF THE SAYING.—"Philistines, the great upholders of culture at that period" (PEFQ. 113). "Whoever held that part of country was at enormous advantage. Possibly most fertile land in Western Palestine" (P. 78). Inveterate foes of Israelites. "When we stand on eminence that commands this rich strip of territory, find it easy to understand

¹ "The Philistines," by Professor R. A. S. Macalister. Schweich Lectures. Published by Oxford University Press. In *Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly*, July, Dr. Masterman calls them "extremely interesting lectures."

bitterness with which Hebrews regarded the Philistines" (P. 78). "Yet in struggle Hebrews learned culture needed for own advancement ; and, besides, their own essential unity. Pressure of external opposition welded, as nothing else could have done, their loosely-knitted clans into a nation. This was the historic function of the Philistines. Influence of Philistines remains, even if indirectly, a heritage of humanity to the end of time" (P. 130). "One of most startling contrasts to general tone of Jewish sentiment" (PP. 423), here found in Ps. lxxxvii.

III. SPIRIT OF THE SAYING.—In spite of Gen. xii. 2, 3, "Jewish Church was not a missionary Church" (PP. 424). "Declaration one of strongest in prophetic writings" (S. iv. 365). "Psalm a miniature edition of 'Jonah': poet's large-hearted universalism looks forward to abolition of national jealousies" (P. 70). "Psalm stands alone in Old Testament, in representing this union of nations as a new birth into the city of God. It is Old Testament expression of Gal. iii. 28 ; Eph. ii. 19" (PP. 425). Here is recognition "that the nation destined to be instrument of world-wide mission" (T. 110). "True fulfilment to be found only in that kingdom which Christ has set up" (PP. 425). See Rev. xxi. 24.

Clergy Mutual Assurance Society.

THE Annual Meeting of this Society was held on July 21, Sir W. Paget Bowman, Bart., the Chairman of the Society, presiding, when the eighty-fifth Annual Report was submitted. The new Life Business consisted of 534 policies, assuring the sum of £269,251, at annual premiums of £8,859, with single premiums of £1,683. One hundred and six annuities for £5,055 per annum were granted, the purchase-money being £30,581, with annual premiums of £951. The number of deaths was 148, and the claims, which arose under 239 policies, amounted to £231,691, including £7,236 due as interim bonus. The claims by death on lives under age seventy amounted to £100,867, being about 40 per cent. less than the amount expected by the British Offices' *O_m*⁽⁵⁾ Table of Mortality; and on lives over seventy the claims were £123,587, about 30 per cent. less than the expected amount. The funds, increased during the year by £125,435, amounted to £4,801,709. The average rate of interest, subject to deduction of income-tax, on the invested assets at the close of the year was £4 3s. 2d. per cent. The expenses of management were at the rate of £7 3s. 9d. per cent. on the premium income.

