

*SURVEY OF RECENT BIBLICAL LITERATURE.*

MESSRS. HODDER AND STOUGHTON have issued the first volume of their *Anglican Pulpit Library*. This large and sumptuously-produced work promises to contain complete sermons, outlines, and illustrations, original and selected, for the Sundays and Holy Days of the year. The first volume covers from Advent to Christmas. Sermons by all the great preachers are here to be found—Liddon, Vaughan, Keble, Archbishop Thomson, Farrar, Stanley, Illingworth, and a host of others. So that this work, when complete, will form, not merely an aid to preachers, but a repertory of all the best sermons in the language. The illustrations are interesting and apt.—One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the increasing number of sermons which aim at coping with practical social problems. Mr. Elliot Stock publishes a course of such sermons, delivered at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, by various preachers. It is called *Religion in Common Life*, or, *Topics of the Day regarded from a Christian standpoint*. It is evident that the preachers of these sermons have honestly faced the actual condition of men and things around them, and that they are doing their best to bring Christianity into contact with life in all its ordinary and extraordinary phases.—Very heartily to be recommended is Ven. Archdeacon Sinclair's *Words to the Laity* (James Nisbet & Co.). These "Words" are on subjects of contemporary ecclesiastical controversy. Wise counsel on such themes was never more urgently called for, and Archdeacon Sinclair's counsel is based on unusual learning and animated by a thoroughly wholesome judgment and sense.—Messrs. Macmillan & Co. send us *A Charge delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Rochester*, October 29, 30, 31, 1894, by Randall T. Davidson, D.D., ninety-ninth Bishop. It touches almost every point of the Church's relation to its own workers, to the State, and to Society.—*Whispers from the Throne*, by Winifred A. Iverson (Elliot Stock), contains some good religious verse.—The Lost Tribes have once more been discovered and identified with the English; this time the discoverer is J. E. Hendley, who, in *England, Heir of the World* (Elliot Stock), seeks to demonstrate that the Getae of Herodotus are the Israelitish survivors of the deportation.—A much more interesting book is Mrs. Stevenson's *Who are Israel?* (James Nisbet & Co.). The Authoress reads a wholesome and much-needed

lesson in the interpretations of prophecy to all who launch on that perilous sea. His own interpretation is sane and instructive.

Thoroughly deserving of attention is *Oliver Cromwell, A History*, by Samuel Harden Church (G. P. Putnam's Sons). One rather looks askance at a Life of Cromwell appearing after so many seem to have occupied the ground. But Mr. Church's study justifies its existence. It is based on very thorough study of sources, reconдите and well-known; it is pleasantly written; it is fair and judicial, and it is published in a most attractive form with a noble likeness as a frontispiece and several plans of battles.—When Mr. Alex. Brown's *Great Day of the Lord* first appeared, it was hailed in these pages as one of the most satisfactory books on the subject. In this new edition (Elliot Stock) considerable additions have been made to the book, so that now it furnishes a complete and instructive survey of New Testament teaching on Christ's coming and cognate subjects. Mr. Brown's conclusions are all the more remarkable because he appears to have reached them independently and in ignorance of some remarkable work done by others on the same lines.—*Tracings from the Acts of the Apostles*, by C. E. Stuart (E. Marlborough & Co.), is an honest and successful attempt to produce a simple commentary on the Book of Acts. It will be appreciated by Sunday School Teachers.—*The Vision and the Call* gives the title to a volume of brief and telling sermons, by Rev. J. M. Gibbon (Elliot Stock). In the latter part of the volume some of the poetical books of the Old Testament are suggestively interpreted.—The Rev. W. H. Tucker, in a volume entitled *Hereafter and Judgment* (Elliot Stock), reviews the information given in Scripture regarding Satan.—Messrs. Adam & Charles Black publish a translation by Dr. J. Gilchrist of Ernest Haeckel's lecture on *Monism as connecting Religion and Science*, which is welcome as an authentic utterance on this modified form of materialism.—Of the many memoirs and histories of the High Church movement in recent years, the most popular and one of the most unprejudiced is Mr. George Worley's six lectures on *The Catholic Revival of the Nineteenth Century* (Elliot Stock). These lectures deserve to be widely read.—Professor Cowan, of Aberdeen, has added to the series of "Guild Text-Books," issued in connection with the Church of Scotland, an excellent primer, *Landmarks of Church History to the Reformation*. It is published by Messrs. Adam & Charles Black.

Among expository works may be reckoned Dr. Stalker's *The Trial and Death of Jesus Christ* (Hodder and Stoughton). The sub-title describes the character of the treatment, *A Devotional History of Our Lord's Passion*. Dr. Stalker has given us a book which no one can read without profit. But he would have done still better had he given us two books, or a book of devotion with plentiful notes. Some of the details and discussions jar upon the devotional sentiment and mar the delicacy with which such a theme must be treated. Besides, important points should not be raised unless they are to be fully discussed; but there are in the trial of our Lord difficulties which have taxed both the legal and the theological mind, and it would have been better either to treat these much more thoroughly or to pass them by altogether. But, as it stands, it is probably the best book we have on the subject.

Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode have issued a large and important volume entitled *Lex Mosaica, or, The Law of Moses and the Higher Criticism*, with an introduction by the late Rt. Rev. Lord Arthur Hervey, D.D., edited by Richard Valpy French, LL.D., D.C.L., F.S.A. The volume contains fourteen papers by various well-known scholars and theologians, among whom may be named Principal Wace and Professors Sayce and Rawlinson. All the writers occupy a conservative standpoint, and aim at showing reason for pause before accepting the decisions of advanced criticisms of the Old Testament. The subject is divided up chronologically, so that the whole may readily be surveyed. One of the most interesting papers is the first, which is by Prof. Sayce, and deals with the ignorantly reiterated fancy that writing was not known in Palestine till about the year 500 B.C. Whether one agrees with the writers in this volume or not, it is certainly useful to have the main problems of Old Testament criticism thoroughly discussed, and convenient to have an adequate representation of the conservative contention in an easily accessible form.

Prof. Paul Haupt's critical edition of the Hebrew text of the Old Testament, printed in colours, proceeds with as much despatch as could reasonably be expected. The Book of Leviticus, by Prof. Driver and Mr. White, and the Books of Samuel, by Prof. Budde, have recently been issued. In the latter eight different colours are used, so that the eye can at once recognise

the editor's view of the various strata comprising the book. The notes are translated into English and are extensive although merely critical. This Bible is a triumph of the printing art. Whether it is a triumph of criticism or only an evidence of audacity which will be rebuked by critics yet unborn, it is not for us to say. Certainly one cannot but heartily wish success to so thoroughgoing and international an enterprise.

Another aid to Old Testament criticism is furnished by Canon Girdlestone in his *Deuterographs*, issued by the Clarendon Press. In this volume, as the name suggests, the passages of the Old Testament which exist in duplicate are printed side by side in parallel columns. Thus we have a great part of *Chronicles* set alongside of *Samuel* and *Kings*, so that comparison is facilitated. In his Introduction Canon Girdlestone explains the conclusions he draws from this comparison regarding the composition of the books and the present state of the text.

Another book of considerable importance to the study of the Old Testament is Mr. Joseph Jacobs' *Studies in Biblical Archæology* (David Nutt). These studies are reprints of articles and reviews contributed to the *Archæological Review* and other journals. They deal with such subjects as Junior Right and Totem-clans, and significantly modify the conclusions arrived at by Prof. Robertson Smith and the Totemist school of critics. Mr. Jacobs' studies should not be overlooked by any who are interested in Old Testament criticism.

Another large work which promises to be of great service to the student of the Old Testament is *History, Prophecy, and the Monuments*, by James Frederick McCurdy, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Oriental languages, Toronto (Macmillan & Co.). This is really a history of Israel conceived on a large scale, this first volume taking us to the Downfall of Samaria. Another volume will complete the work. The peculiarity of Dr. McCurdy's history is that he aims at setting Israel in a truer perspective, and for this purpose he has spared no pains to exhibit the connection of the Semites and of the Hebrews in particular with their environment. In the present volume their relation to the Babylonians is amply treated, and in the following volume similar treatment will be given to their connections with the Assyrians, Egyptians, Chaldeans and Persians, although necessarily some part of this field is touched upon in the earlier chapters. It is a work of solid learning by a

scholar who shows himself capable of original research. Details will be checked by experts, but it is gratifying to meet with a writer who is of sufficient calibre to take so wide a survey and to carry so weighty a mass of knowledge.

Mr. Elliot Stock has issued a cheaper edition of Dr. Blomfield's *The Old Testament and the New Criticism*, which was noticed in these pages when it first appeared.

MARCUS DODS.

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[The Archdeacon of Westminster requests us to say that not the remotest reflection on Mrs. Lewis was intended by his remarks that "the sisters were unaware of the value of their photographs," which, as the context clearly shows, only meant that from Mrs. Gibson's book he had derived the impression that the *unique* preciousness of their find only became clear after the photographs had been studied by Mr. Burkitt and Prof. Bensly. If this was a mistaken impression, it was a very natural and innocent one. It is surely needless to say that he did not mean to hurt Mrs. Lewis by the very ordinary phrase that the ladies developed the photographs at their leisure.]