

*SURVEY OF RECENT BIBLICAL LITERATURE.*

NEW Testament study is once more indebted to the Trustees of the Lightfoot Fund for the issue of yet another volume from the pen of the late Bishop of Durham. It is entitled *Notes on Epistles of St. Paul from unpublished Commentaries*, and is issued by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. It contains notes on the Two Epistles to the Thessalonians, on the first seven chapters of the First Epistle to the Corinthians, on a similar portion of the Epistle to the Romans, and on the first fourteen verses of the Epistle to the Ephesians. It is only this last part of the volume which has been published precisely as it stands in the author's MS., because it alone had received his final revision for the press. The other commentaries contained in this volume are printed from notes taken of the lectures delivered at Cambridge by Dr. Lightfoot, after being compared with his own original draft. But while it is true that the most valuable portion of the volume is on this account the fifteen pages on *Ephesians*, it will not be imagined that little value attaches to the remainder. In point of fact the volume as a whole is of the highest value. It gives us many of those careful ascertainment of the meaning of N.T. terms which make Bishop Lightfoot's commentaries so acceptable. And although in the Commentary on Thessalonians we sadly miss the essays in which the author would have discussed such passages as that on the Man of Sin, yet the notes, especially on the First Epistle, are copious and helpful. Any student who uses the Index of Greek words—which however might be fuller—will find that in this volume he has a definite addition to his knowledge of the Greek Testament.

To Prof. W. M. Ramsay's *Cities and Bishoprics of Phrygia* (vol. i., The Lycos Valley and South-western Phrygia—the Clarendon Press), it is impossible to do justice in this notice. We can do little more than chronicle the appearance of the first volume of a work which will as a matter of course at once take its place as the standard authority on the subject. The second volume, which proposes to deal with the growth of Christianity in Phrygia, will no doubt interest a wider circle of readers, but in this first volume Prof. Ramsay gives us an exhaustive description of the localities and their history, which is a model of its kind. Any history of Phrygia as a whole was precluded by the fact that from a remote period no true unity has existed in that country. Moreover the authorities are few and meagre. "In such circumstances all that

can be done is to parcel the land into districts whose geographical situation imposes on them a certain unity, to collect all the information that can be gleaned from the authors, from inscriptions and monuments, from the survival of names and religious facts in modern times, and from other such scanty sources, and to interpret these in the light of the geographical and national conditions." Accordingly, we find in this volume a full account of the situation, the government, the trade, the religion, the buildings of the cities and districts of south-western Phrygia. The extraordinary mastery of detail which astonished the reader of Prof. Ramsay's *Historical Geography of Asia Minor* is equally conspicuous in his present work. One does not know whether most to admire his untiring energy and industry or the felicity of the suggestions which nothing but genius for this species of work could enable him to make. He has produced a great work whose merits will be acknowledged by experts. Those who are not experts will find many plums by merely turning over the pages with an eye to their own tastes or needs, and every one should look at the book if only to understand the kind of work which English, or may we say Scottish, scholars are actually producing.

A valuable addition to New Testament literature is made by Rev. H. A. A. Kennedy, D.Sc., in his *Sources of N.T. Greek* (T. & T. Clark). Dr. Kennedy's chief purpose is to ascertain with precision the relation of N.T. Greek to the language of the LXX., and of both to the colloquial language. In pursuance of this purpose he has examined with great care the history of individual words and the results of his investigation are given in several statistical tables. There are linguistic phenomena brought out which will probably surprise scholars who have not given so much attention to the subject as Dr. Kennedy, and his general conclusions also modify some current opinions. The book is indispensable to any one who wishes to acquire a thorough knowledge of the language of the New Testament.

Attention may also be called to two theses by Rev. Myron Winslow Adams, M.A., on *St. Paul's Vocabulary* and *St. Paul as a Former of Words* (Hartford Seminary Press, Conn., U.S.A.). These theses are published together and furnish useful lists of Paul's words with notices of their occurrence in other writers. An attempt is made to ascertain what words St. Paul may be supposed to have created.

A second edition of Prof. Ryle's *Canon of the Old Testament* has been issued by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. It must continue to hold

the place it immediately won as the unrivalled text-book on this subject. It is learned, judicious, and interesting. It gives a full and satisfactory history of the process by which the canon was gradually formed. At some points this history is obscure, but where ascertained fact fails the enquirer, and conjecture must fill the blank, Prof. Ryle commands confidence by the sanity of his suggestions. The book is the work of one who evidently understands both history and literature, and it cannot be read without conveying juster conceptions of the life of Israel and of the connection between the life and the literature of any people. Let it be understood that Prof. Ryle's work is not a mere text-book, but is itself brilliant with flashes of insight and suggestion—a book to read for its own sake.

Another standard work of recent date on *The Origin of the Canon of the Old Testament*, that by Prof. Wildeboer, of Groningen, has been rendered available for English readers by the diligence of Dr. B. W. Bacon (Luzac & Co.). Both in method and in form Prof. Wildeboer's work differs from that of Prof. Ryle. The German system of paragraphs with explanatory and confirmatory notes is adopted, so that it serves rather the purposes of a book of reference than invites continuous reading. Prof. Ryle narrates the history of the canonization of the first, second, and third divisions of the Old Testament; Prof. Wildeboer examines the Old Testament, the Jewish-Greek literature, the New Testament, the Talmud, and the Christian Fathers, to find evidence for the existence and growth of the canon. The conclusions reached are mostly, although not in every case, the same; and the two books are useful as modifying and confirming one another's statements. Perhaps there is a greater accumulation of authorities in the Hollander's book, but Prof. Ryle's will meet most satisfactorily the wants of the majority of readers.

The literal accuracy of Scripture still continues to be contested, and Mr. John Urquhart appears as an advocate of *The Inspiration and Accuracy of the Holy Scriptures* (Marshall Brothers). Mr. Urquhart rather prejudices his reader against him by speaking somewhat contemptuously of the "higher critics," and arguing as if they had some interest in finding the books of Scripture not genuine. He has something to learn in regard to the temper in which such investigations should be conducted. Nor does he, at any point, advance the argument in favour of the literal inerrancy of the Bible. Indeed, he seems scarcely to apprehend

what is claimed by those who deny it, or what is needful if their position is to be assailed successfully. But while Mr. Urquhart fails to contribute anything of importance to this discussion, he succeeds, in the second half of his volume, in removing some of the historical difficulties which have attached to *Daniel* and other books of Scripture. His facts have, of course, been public property for a year or two, but his application of them is his own, and is well worthy of consideration. In this part of his volume, also, he is somewhat too jubilant, and it is doubtful whether his readers will share in his belief that he has finally disposed of all the linguistic and historical difficulties in *Daniel*. Sometimes he makes a dangerous use of the supposition that there have been errors in transcription, sometimes he is content to fall back simply on the authority of Lenormant. But it is well to have the conservative side of the question put vigorously. This is also done by Dr. Huntingford in his *Daniel and St. John* (Bickers & Son). The other side of the question is put with much confidence by Dean Farrar in his volume on *The Book of Daniel* contributed to *The Expositor's Bible* (Hodder and Stoughton). Unfortunately there are evidences of haste in misprints and careless sentences. The Dean's arithmetic is also gravely at fault on p. 10, and he seems to give scarcely sufficient weight to some of the recently discovered evidence. The volume, however, is written with great animation, and brings before the reader a large accumulation of facts and ideas.

To the same series Prof. Bennett contributes a volume on the latter half of *Jeremiah*, while Prof. Adeney has dealt with *The Song of Solomon* and *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*. Both volumes read well, are full of information and will help the series.

Dr. Joseph Parker may be congratulated on the issue of the completing volume of *The People's Bible*.

The critical questions regarding the Old Testament books continue to engage the attention of many writers. Dr. Douglas, of Glasgow, has issued through Messrs. James Nisbet & Co. *Isaiah One and his Book One*, in which all that can be advanced in favour of the unity of *Isaiah* is urged.—In the excellent series of Books for Bible Students issued by the Wesleyans (Charles H. Kelly, publisher), *The Age and Authorship of the Pentateuch* are dealt with by the Rev. William Spiers, M.A. This gives a full survey of the argument in defence, and has been carefully prepared.

Those who care to see a novel translation and an equally novel exposition of some interesting parts of the Old Testament may turn to Prof. Dillon's *Sceptics of the Old Testament*: Job, Koheleth, **Agur**. **Even those who distrust** Prof. Dillon's textual emendations may learn much from his brilliant exposition.

We have also received *The History of the English Church and People in South Africa*, by A. Theodore Wirgmann, B.D., D.C.L. (Longmans, Green & Co.); *A Handbook for Welsh Church Defence*, by the Bishop of St. Asaph (Macmillan & Co.); *Short Notes on the Book of Joshua*, by the Rev. W. G. Whittam, M.A. (Relfe Brothers); *Some Titles and Aspects of the Eucharist*, by E. S. Talbot, D.D., [late] Vicar of Leeds (Rivington, Percival & Co.); *Three Divine Sisters: Thoughts on the Trinity of Graces*, by Robert Tuck, B.A. (Alexander & Shepherd); *The Teachers' Prayer and How it was Answered*, by Mrs. Zillah Dugdale (Elliot Stock); *In Jersey and Elsewhere*, by W. H. Macdonald (Glasgow, Robert Anderson); *The Christian Traveller's Continental Handbook*, edited by Rev. George H. Giddins; seventh edition (Elliot Stock); *The Roll-call of Faith, and other Sermons*, a vigorous volume, by Duncan Campbell, B.D., Minister of St. Matthew's, Edinburgh (David Douglas); a second edition of the Rev. S. A. Tipple's striking and original sermons, named *Sunday Mornings at Norwood* (H. R. Allenson). The same publisher also issues new editions of two brilliant books by the late Phillips Brooks, *The Influence of Jesus*, and *Lectures on Preaching*.—A memorial volume of the lamented Dr. A. J. Gordon, of Boston, is published by the Baptist Tract and Book Society, and contains a spiritual Autobiography entitled *How Christ came to Church*. The same publishers also issue Dr. Gordon's latest work, *The Ministry of the Spirit*, in which there is much that is valuable and freshly put. The same Society issues an able and interesting apologetic for Christianity by Dr. George C. Lorimer, of Boston, entitled *The Argument for Christianity*. A book of this kind, which gives a general and readable survey of the whole argument, was much wanted. They also publish Dr. Kendrick's *Moral Conflict of Humanity*, an unfortunate title, because the volume is really a collection of scholarly and wise interpretations of difficult New Testament passages.—Mr. Elliot Stock publishes *Dangerous Deceits*, an examination of the 31st Church of England Article, by Rev. N. Dimock, A.M., in which the author with unusual learning expounds

the Protestant attitude towards the Mass. The Rev. J. D. W. Worden discusses with pungency and sense the question whether the man of the world or the man of God is the more attractive character. His little book is named *Whether of the Twain*, and is published by J. A. Thompson & Co., of Liverpool.

May we remind our readers that in every number of *The Critical Review*, *The Biblical World*, *The Classical Review*, *The Revue Biblique Internationale*, *The Jewish Quarterly Review* and the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review*, they will find articles interesting to the Biblical student and too important to be overlooked without loss?

Of second editions, Messrs. Macmillan & Co. have sent us their re-issue, in the "Eversley" form, of the late Prof. Seeley's *Natural Religion* (4th edition), and *The Expansion of England*, which has been reprinted nine times.—Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. reprint from the second volume of the late Prof. T. H. Green's Philosophical works, his *Lectures on the Principles of Political Obligation*. These lectures are edited by Mr. Bernard Bosanquet, who considers that they form the best conceivable text-book for instruction in political theory.—Of great value is the second revised and enlarged edition of Mr. Waddy's *Harmony of the Four Gospels in the Revised Version* (Charles H. Kelly)—a most convenient and trustworthy harmony.—Attention may especially be called to the issue of a second edition of Dr. John Laidlaw's standard work on *The Bible Doctrine of Man*, or, *The Anthropology and Psychology of Scripture*. This book has long held its place as the most reasonable discussion of the difficult anthropological problems which emerge in Scripture; and it is now entirely recast and improved in form. The lecture-form in which the volume first appeared has been discarded and the more convenient division into chapters has been adopted. It is greatly to be desired that this improvement in form may help to promote the circulation of a scholarly, wise, and useful book.—Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. issue a second edition of Canon Fremantle's Bampton Lectures on *The World as the Subject of Redemption*.

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