

*SURVEY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE ON THE
NEW TESTAMENT.*

As time wears on, interest in the New Testament increases rather than diminishes, and the results of scientific research are more and more widely distributed. Chief among the instruments of this distribution may be reckoned the two great Bible Dictionaries which are in process of publication. Dr. Hastings in the second volume ("Feign" to "Kinsman") of his *Dictionary of the Bible* (T. & T. Clark) fully maintains the reputation as an editor which he established in the first. He has suited his work to the needs of the working minister and enquiring layman, while in no respect foregoing the rights of scientific investigation. A large amount of original work will be found in this volume, and the contributors happily hit the mean between obscurantism and extravagance. It is an incalculable benefit to have so much knowledge and judicious statement arranged and compacted in so accessible a form.—The *Encyclopædia Biblica* of Prof. Cheyne and Dr. Sutherland Black (Adam & Charles Black) takes so distinct a line of its own that it can scarcely be said to clash with Dr. Hastings' Dictionary. The first thing that strikes one about it is the beauty of the typography and the ingenuity of the devices for economizing space. The characteristic of the work is its purely scientific aim. Biblical theology is excluded, but all questions of criticism, archæology, history, geography, chronology, are treated with astonishing completeness of learning. As might have been expected from the origin of the work, the Old Testament receives perhaps both fuller and fairer treatment than the New. But even the articles on New Testament subjects are full of instruction and suggestion. Every one who consults this remarkable Encyclopædia has the satisfaction of feeling that he is abreast of the most recent scientific enquiry.

Meanwhile, many of the subjects dealt with in these dictionaries have been separately handled in volumes devoted to their discussion. Thus we have a fresh instalment of the *Introduction to the New Testament* by the veteran Prof. Godet. This instalment includes "the Collection of the Four Gospels, and the Gospel of St. Matthew," and is translated by Mr. Affleck, and published by Messrs. Clark. Although Godet's conservative tendency inclines him to conclusions which are doubtful, there is much in this

volume which has not received the consideration it deserves.—A most useful, if not even indispensable aid to the study of the Gospels is furnished by the diligence and scholarship of the Rev. Arthur Wright, vice-president of Queen's College, Cambridge. It is published by Messrs. Macmillan, and is entitled *The Gospel according to St. Luke in Greek after the Westcott and Hort Text, edited with Parallels, Illustrations, Various Readings and Notes*. On each opening are four columns, three containing the parallel passages of the synoptic Gospels instructively arranged, and the fourth being occupied by suggestive notes. As a labour-saving arrangement, and as a guide to the actual relation of the Synoptic Gospels, Mr. Wright's volume deserves unstinted praise. His introduction, also, in which he adheres to his oral theory of the origin of the Gospels, deserves careful study. This is the kind of work which substantially promotes the solution of one of the hardest of New Testament problems.—Mr. H. H. B. Ayles, B.D., in his *Destination, Date, and Authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Cambridge University Press), presents in an admirable form the claims of Barnabas. Nowhere are those claims more fully discussed or more powerfully advocated. The volume is small, but must not be overlooked.—Another Cambridge scholar, Mr. E. H. Askwith, inherits the fine scholarship and critical tact of the Cambridge school, and illustrates these qualities in *The Epistle to the Galatians, an Essay on its Destination and Date* (Macmillan & Co., Ltd.). It is evidently Prof. Ramsay's investigations which have prompted this enquiry. But while Mr. Askwith accepts the South Galatian theory, he amends in several points the basis on which it rests, while he differs from Ramsay in regard to the date. It is a piece of work of first-rate quality, and encourages expectations of efficient aid from the same hand.—Another essay in Introduction, which owes its inspiration to Prof. Ramsay, is *The Epistle of St. Paul's First Trial*. This also is from the pen of a Cambridge scholar, Mr. Rocksborough R. Smith, and is published by Messrs. Macmillan and Bowes. It is an enquiry into the circumstances under which the Epistle to the Philippians was written, and it supports Prof. Ramsay's view that the trial was still proceeding, its first stage over, but the verdict not yet given.

From America we receive an increasing number of books which facilitate the study of the New Testament. Among these may

especially be mentioned Prof. George H. Gilbert's *Student's Life of Jesus*, which has deservedly attained to a third edition, and which exactly meets the requirements of the classroom and of private study. No better textbook for colleges and the upper forms of schools could be devised. Disputed points are judiciously dealt with, and the facts of the life solidly based. An eye is constantly kept on current literature. The same may be said of the author's *Student's Life of Paul*.—The *New Testament Handbooks*, edited by Prof. Shailer Mathews, of Chicago, and published by The Macmillan Co., promise to be useful. Already published are the editor's *History of New Testament Times in Palestine*, and Prof. Vincent's *History of the Textual Criticism of the New Testament*. The former, almost necessarily, begins its survey from the years immediately preceding the Maccabæan period, and comes down to the destruction of Jerusalem. It takes into account not merely the external movements, but the inner life of the nation. Prof. Vincent's volume traces the growth of the science of textual criticism, and will be found a useful companion to the works of Scrivener or Gregory. Both books should be kept in view by teachers and students.—Very remarkable is another small volume published by the same firm, *The Rise of the New Testament*, by David Saville Muzzey, B.D. It is a popular history of the formation of the canon, written with unusual literary deftness, and based upon accurate scientific knowledge. Books of this kind are worth their weight in gold, full of facts, yet facts so interpreted and co-ordinated as to be significant, fruitful, and memorable. Mr. Muzzey has produced a book which will be read with delight in three or four hours, and which gives more insight into the formation of the canon than the authoritative treatises. Its one defect is that it does not sufficiently discuss the criterion of canonicity.

Bibles continue to appear in various forms. Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode issue a cheap illustrated Bible, very suitable for schools, the illustrations being real and educative.—Mr. Starley, of Coventry, thinks that by printing the Old Testament in front of the New we turn that into an extinguisher which was meant to be a candlestick. He therefore reverses the order, and prints (with the Sunday School Supply Co.) a very pretty and convenient Bible, in which the New Testament stands first. Mr. Starley has evidently small respect for chronology, and does not

regard the separate printing of the New Testament as sufficient for his purpose.

Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson increase the debt which the learned world already owes them by issuing *The Palestinian Syriac Lectionary of the Gospels*, re-edited from two Sinai MSS., and from P. de Lagarde's edition of the *Evangeliarium Hierosolymitanum*. A Lectionary of the Gospels in Palestinian Syriac has long been known to form one of the treasures of the Vatican Library. It has twice been edited—in 1864 by Count Miniscalchi-Erizzo, and in 1892 after Paul de Lagarde's collation. In that same year the two learned Cambridge ladies discovered in the convent of St. Catherine another MS. of the Lectionary, which is here printed in a sumptuous form (by Messrs. Gilbert and Rivington), and collated both with the Vatican MS. and with another codex subsequently found also in the convent of St. Catherine. Nor have these eminent scholars considered their long and toilsome task finished by the printing of the Syriac text in its purest form, but they have compared it with the Greek text of Westcott and Hort, and have furnished us with more than forty quarto pages of variants. The fruit of their work is thus made directly available for the textual criticism of the Gospels; and although there is difference of opinion regarding the date of the version, it certainly forms an early and independent witness to the authentic text. Praise for the production of this volume is due, not only to the editors and printers, but also to the publishers, Messrs. Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.

The various attempts to render the New Testament into more exact or more rhythmical English deserve remark. Among these one of the most noteworthy is Dr. Henry Hayman's translation of the Epistles. It has been published by Messrs. Adam & Charles Black, under the title *The Epistles of the New Testament, an attempt to present them in current and popular idiom*. On the whole Dr. Hayman may be said to have succeeded not so much in giving a popular rendering, which is impossible, as in illuminating a number of passages by a fresh and intelligible translation. His labour has not been thrown away; for, although it is not likely that his rendering will be widely circulated, it ought to win the attention of serious students of the New Testament. Dr. Hayman prints the Authorized Version on the left-hand page, his own on the right, so that comparison is easy.

To exegetical literature the most considerable recent addition is the second volume of Dr. Nicoll's *Expositor's Greek Testament*. This volume contains the Book of Acts by Prof. Knowling, the Epistle to the Romans by Prof. Denney, and the First Epistle to the Corinthians by Prof. G. G. Findlay. On these books of Scripture we know no more satisfactory commentaries. They differ from one another in character and even in form, yet this lack of uniformity allows each writer freedom to follow his own genius. Thus, while Prof. Knowling completely abandons Alford's plan of relegating to marginal references much of his grammatical and linguistic elucidation, Prof. Findlay enriches his work with extremely full and scholarly notes on the margin. This difference necessarily involves that a somewhat disproportionate amount of space is allotted to these two books. Similarly, while Prof. Knowling uses no contractions, but gives all names and titles in full—certainly a great convenience and pleasure to the reader—Prof. Findlay runs to the opposite extreme, and spares only a couple of letters to indicate a name. In their conception of what a commentary should be, the writers differ. Prof. Knowling gives us the opinions of other scholars, cites passages, and abounds in detail; Prof. Findlay selects what is most telling, and furnishes many interesting illustrations from the classics and terse sayings from the commentators; Prof. Denney aims at giving results, leads us directly to the meaning, traces the course of the argument, but refrains from everything that might in any degree overload his work. Even in passages such as Romans viii. 3, which have become identified with great controversies in the Church, no allusion to these is made. But each writer, left free to use his own method, has materially advanced the knowledge of the book assigned to him. Prof. Knowling sweeps all modern literature, and gives his reader the pleasant consciousness of being abreast of the latest research; Prof. Denney, by his unsurpassed knowledge of theology and masterly grasp of its principles, takes us into the very heart of the most theological of the Epistles; Prof. Findlay's rare aptitude for exposition and trained New Testament scholarship find in his present work a suitable field and their best illustration. Altogether the volume is one which may claim to be at least on a level with the best work in its kind, and we shall be surprised if the public does not quickly manifest its consciousness that it has come into possession

of a thoroughly honest and solid contribution to New Testament study.

Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton publish for Prof. Handley Moule the last of his Expositions of the Prison Epistles, *Ephesian Studies*, Expository Readings on the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians. Following the plan adopted in the preceding volumes, this seems to us to surpass them in interest and usefulness. Indeed, it is impossible to see what more could be done to bring the mind of the modern English reader into direct contact with the meaning of the Apostle. An exact scholar, a careful student of St. Paul, a theologian who retains his humour, his common-sense, and his knowledge of life, Prof. Moule has every qualification for the work he has undertaken.

Principal Garrod's method, as illustrated in his treatment of *The First Epistle to the Thessalonians* (Macmillan & Co.), is different from Prof. Moule's, and is adapted to the use of those who are preparing for examination. The author's position in the Ripon and Wakefield Training College has disclosed to him the actual wants of students, and these he seeks to supply in his analytic study of the Epistles. His books have already made way for themselves and proved their utility.

MARCUS DODS.