

AMONG the last words of Nitzsch were those, spoken to his old friend Twesten, "I can no longer hear or see or work, I can only love."—*J. Ker: Lectures on Preaching.*

THE Epistle finds its climax in this chapter, as that to the Romans in the conclusion of the eighth chapter, and that to the Hebrews in the eleventh. In this one grace of charity was found the true correction for all the evil tendencies of the Corinthian Church. The Apostle's immediate motive is to show the subordination of gifts of mere display, such as that of tongues; but the style of the passage proves that it

rises far above any immediate or local occasion. On each side of this chapter the tumult of argument and remonstrance still rages; but within all is calm: the sentences move in almost rhythmical melody; the imagery unfolds itself in almost dramatic propriety; the language arranges itself with almost rhetorical accuracy. We can imagine how the Apostle's amanuensis must have paused to look up in his master's face at the sudden change in the style of his dictation, and seen his countenance lighted up as it had been the face of an angel, as this vision of divine perfection passed before him.—*Stanley.*

The Epistle to the Romans:

HINTS FOR STUDY.

BY THE REV. PRINCIPAL ELMER HARDING, M.A., ST. AIDAN'S, BIRKENHEAD.

α. INTRODUCTION.

- i. *Farrar*: "Messages of the Books."
Discourse VII. The Form of the Epistles.
Discourse VIII. St. Paul's Thirteen Epistles.
Discourse XIV. The Epistle to the Romans.
- ii. *Godet*: "Studies in the Epistles."
Paul's Gospel to the Romans, *Expositor*, 3rd series, vol. iii. pp. 241-259.
General View of St. Paul's Epistles, *Expositor*, 3rd series, vol. viii. pp. 35-47.
- iii. *Lightfoot*: Article "Epistle to the Romans," *Smith's Bible Dictionary*.
- iv. *Salmon*: "Introduction to the New Testament."
Lecture XX. pp. 392-395.

β. HISTORIES.

- i. *Stalker*: Life of St. Paul.
- ii. *Fuerach*: St. Paul: His Life and Times.
- iii. *Conybeare and Howson*: Life and Epistles of St. Paul.
- iv. *Farrar*: Life and Work of St. Paul.
- v. *Lewin*: Life and Epistles of St. Paul.
- vi. *Lechler*: Apostolic and Post Apostolic Times.
- vii. *Paley*: Horæ Paulinæ.

γ. COMMENTARIES FOR JUNIOR STUDENTS.

- i. *Moule*: Cambridge Bible for Schools.
- ii. *Brown*: Handbooks for Bible Classes.
- iii. *Sadler*: Church Commentary on New Testament.
- iv. *Sanday*: Ellicott's Commentary.
- v. *Vaughan*: Greek Text with Notes.

δ. COMMENTARIES FOR MORE ADVANCED STUDENTS.

- i. *Beet*.
- ii. *Schaff and Riddle*: Clark's English and American Commentary.
- iii. *Gifford*: Speaker's Commentary.

iv. *Godet*.

v. *Meyer*.

vi. *Philippi*.

vii. For *Patristic Commentaries v. Lightfoot's Article* in *Smith's Bible Dictionary*.

ε. EXPOSITIONS.

- i. *Dykes*: "Gospel according to St. Paul" (*Rom.* i.-viii.).
- ii. *Farrar*: "Truths to Live by." Part II. According to St. Paul.
 1. All have sinned (*Rom.* iii. 23).
 2. We have sinned (*Rom.* vii. 24).
 3. The forgiveness of past sin (*Rom.* iii. 25).
 4. Christ a Ransom and a Propitiation (*Rom.* iii. 24, 25).
 9. St. Paul's Theology, from Faith to Faith (*Rom.* i. 16, 17).
- iii. *Godet*: Logical arrangement of *Rom.* v. 5-17. *Expositor*, 4th series, vol. i. p. 285.
- iv. *Morison*: Expositions of chaps. iii., vi., ix., x.

ζ. OUTLINE FOR STUDY.

- i. Personal Matters (i. 1-15).
- ii. Dogmatics (i. 16-xi.).
- iii. Ethics (xii.-xv. 13).
- iv. Personal Matters (xv. 14-xvi. 27).

N.B.—There are two Commentaries on the Epistle to the Romans which exist at present only in MS. The authors have been called to their rest. They are the representatives of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. It is to be earnestly hoped that ere long the literature on the Epistle to the Romans will be enriched by the publication of these works. I refer to the Lectures delivered at Oxford by the late Canon Liddon, and to the Lectures delivered at Cambridge by the late Bishop Lightfoot.

Note on The Great Text Commentary.

I COR. xiii. 12.

ALLOW me to say that I think your expositor has misunderstood the Greek aorist rendered in the Revised Version, "I have been known." He asks

to what time the aorist refers. The Greek aorist does not in itself refer to any definite time, but merely asserts that at some time or times in the past, either ages ago or a moment ago, something took place or existed. It thus differs from the English preterite, which always refers either to a definite time or to a time definitely removed from the present. Our language has no aorist or "in-

definite" past tense. The meaning of the Greek tense I discussed at great length in *The Expositor* for March, April, and May 1880. Dr. Weymouth has done the same in the *Theological Monthly* for July and September 1890. Our judgment is practically the same.

The difference between the Greek and English tenses is proved by the frequent impossibility of translating the one by the other, as in the passage before us, Mark x. 20; Matt. xxvi. 65, xxviii. 19, and many others. Oversight of this difference has been a frequent source of confusion in grammatical exposition of the New Testament.

Practically your exposition of the above passage is correct. But the writer's question shows that he does not see the appropriateness of St. Paul's use of the "indefinite" tense.

JOSEPH AGAR BEET.

[The writer to whom Professor Beet refers is Godet, whose words (given in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, vol. ii. p. 135) should be compared with the scholarly note above. But we hope to have a fuller exposition of the subject from Professor Beet.—EDITOR.]

The Expository Times Guild of Bible Study.

NEW DEPARTURE.

HAVING chosen for systematic study—

GENESIS in the Old Testament (the early chapters), and
EPHESIANS in the New Testament,

We invite our readers—so many of them as discover the need and the opportunity—to study with us either of these Books or both of them. In the issue of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES for June 1891, two sets of examination papers will be published upon each of these books, four sets in all.

1. The first set of questions will take Dr. Dods' *Commentary on Genesis* as basis (Clark's *Handbooks for Bible Classes*, 2s. 6d.) up to page 27, together with such papers upon the early chapters of *Genesis* as appear in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES from the December issue (see Dr. Lumby's introductory paper) to the issue for May. No knowledge of Hebrew will be expected.

2. The second set of questions will take Delitzsch's *New Commentary on Genesis*, vol. i. (T. & T. Clark, 10s. 6d.) as basis, to the end of p. 204, including the Introduction, and such papers as appear in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, as stated above. An elementary knowledge of Hebrew will be counted upon.

3. The third set of questions will take Moule's *Commentary on Ephesians* (Cambridge Bible for Colleges, 2s. 6d.) or Agar Beet's *Ephesians* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1890, 7s. 6d.), including the Introductions and Appendices, together with such papers as appear on Ephesians in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES from December to May. No knowledge of Greek will be expected.

4. The fourth set of questions will take as basis either Meyer's *Commentary on Ephesians*, with Introduction and Notes, or the same portion of Ellicott's *Commentary* (Longmans). Some knowledge of Greek will be expected.

Any person may take Nos. 1 and 3, or 2 and 4, but not Nos. 1 and 2, or 3 and 4. The questions may be answered with the free use of these books and papers, or with the assistance of any other books at command. But it will be impossible to answer them well without careful study of the portions named.

For the best papers the Publishers will offer books of value, as formerly, those to Nos. 2 and 4 being of more value and of a higher class than those to Nos. 1 and 3.

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2. To all and sundry, for the best exposition of some word, phrase, sentence, or passage occurring in the Epistle to the Ephesians.

Accordingly, we offer books this month—

1. To the Ministers and Members of the Baptist Churches only, for the best Notes of a Sermon or Address on any passage in Genesis (Chapters i.-xi.). The Notes must not occupy more than half a column of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, this type. They should be after the nature of the "Methods of Treatment" in the *Great Text Commentary*, i.e. readable in themselves.

2. To all, for the best exposition of some word, phrase, sentence, or passage occurring in the Epistle to the Ephesians. No restriction as to length or manner of treatment will be made at present. The original Greek may be referred to or not as convenient.

The best papers will be published every month in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES; and when the writers see them there they may send to the Publishers for the book they select, out of a list which will be given. The number and value of the books will depend upon the success of this scheme of work. The writer's name and address should be given, but no names or initials will be published except of those whose papers are printed, and who do not express a desire to the contrary. The papers intended for May must be received by the Editor, Kinneff, Bervie, N.B., by the 10th day of April, and so on for every succeeding month.

Those whose papers are found in this issue will kindly let the Publishers know which of the following books they wish sent to them:—

Delitzsch's *Iris: Studies in Colour and Talks about Flowers*.

The Voice from the Cross (Ahlfeld, etc.).

Ewald's *Syntax of the Hebrew Language*.

Beck's *Pastoral Theology*.

Monrad's *The World of Prayer*.

Rothe's *Sermons for the Christian Year*.