

Recent Literature on the Prophets.

ISAIAH.

1. *The Book of Isaiah chronologically arranged.* By T. K. CHEYNE, M.A. Macmillan. Crown 8vo, pp. xxxii, 241. 1870. 7s. 6d.
2. *The Servant of Jehovah.* A Commentary, grammatical and critical, upon Isa. lii. 13–liiii. 12. By WILLIAM URWICK, M.A. T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. 196. 1877. 7s. 6d.
3. *The Students' Commentary on the Holy Bible, founded on the Speaker's Commentary.* Abridged and edited by J. M. FULLER, M.A. Vol. IV. Isaiah to Malachi. John Murray. Crown 8vo, pp. 653. 1882. 7s. 6d.
4. *The Prophecies of Isaiah.* A new translation, with Commentary and Appendices. By the Rev. T. K. CHEYNE, M.A., D.D. In two vols. Fourth edition revised. 1886. Kegan Paul. 8vo, pp. 310, 317. 25s.
5. *Clark's Foreign Theological Library. The Prophecies of Isaiah.* Expounded by Dr. C. VON ORELLI, Basel. Translated by Professor J. S. BANKS. T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. 350. 1889. 10s. 6d.
6. *Bypaths of Bible Knowledge. XIII. The Life and Times of Isaiah, as illustrated by Contemporary Monuments.* By A. H. SAYCE, LL.D. Religious Tract Society. Crown 8vo, pp. 96. 2s.
7. *Men of the Bible. Isaiah: His Life and Times.* By Rev. S. R. DRIVER, D.D. Nisbet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 213. 2s. 6d.
8. *Clark's Foreign Theological Library. Biblical Commentary on the Prophecies of Isaiah.* By FRANZ DELITZSCH, D.D. Translated from the fourth edition. In two vols. T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. 458, 473. 1890. 21s.
9. *The Expositor's Bible. The Book of Isaiah.* By the Rev. GEORGE ADAM SMITH, M.A. In two vols. Hodder & Stoughton. Crown 8vo, pp. 456, 474. 1888, 1890. 15s.
10. *A Popular Argument for the Unity of Isaiah.* By JOHN KENNEDY, M.A., D.D. James Clarke & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 196. 1891. 2s. 6d.
11. *The People's Bible. Ecclesiastes—Isaiah XXVI.* By JOSEPH PARKER, D.D. Hazell, Watson, & Viney. 8vo, pp. 456. 1891. 8s.

From this survey the *Speaker*, *Ellicott*, and the *Pulpit* have again been omitted. It is known that they exist; it is sufficiently known what is their place and aim. The list commences somewhat further back than formerly; chiefly to take in Dr. Cheyne's volume, which marked a distinct departure in English work on the Prophets. Its special aim was a chronological reconstruction of the "Isaiah" prophecies; and though it has been superseded by Dr. Driver's little work in the "Men of the Bible" series, and yet again, and

more completely, by the same author's *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament*, just published, nevertheless it has had to be reckoned with (and sometimes solemnly wrestled with) by all subsequent expositors of Isaiah.

Mr. Urwick is one of the earliest of those who came to wrestle. The body of his book is a grammatical commentary on the great "Servant of Jehovah" passage in Isaiah. But it is preceded, not only by an Essay on this title, but also by a Dissertation on the Authorship of Isaiah. This Dissertation is so well conceived and so faithfully worked out that it is of value still. No critic is attacked, scarcely any one is once named. The writer's whole strength is given to the evidence itself. He believes that the Book is a unity, and that Isaiah wrote it, and he lets the evidence itself speak for his belief.

It is to be feared that the *Student's Commentary* has not succeeded either as the undoubted popularity of the *Speaker* or its own merits might have led one to expect. But abridgments rarely do succeed. Many a man has rued the reissue "in a cheaper form" of some ponderous and expensive work, though nothing was omitted beyond a mass of needless and distracting footnotes. But if Mr. Fuller has had a thankless task, no one will say that he has been slack in the performance of it. Dividing the value by the price, this will come out the best commentary on the Prophets that we have.

There is no need that a judgment should be here expressed upon every volume in the list given above. In several cases that has been done already. Orelli, Delitzsch, Smith, and Kennedy—readers of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES know the place of all these books, and something of their manner of filling it. Sayce has been mentioned also. It is one of the books that have made the "Bypaths" series a necessity.

There remain, therefore, Cheyne, Driver, and Parker.

Professor Cheyne's Commentary on Isaiah, now in its fifth edition, will be preferred by many to Delitzsch's latest edition, notwithstanding its somewhat greater price, partly because of its brevity, partly because of its English tone, and partly because it is written by Cheyne and not by

Delitzsch. The author himself now speaks of it with more candour and less respect than is usual with authors when they refer to their own work. "In 1880 and 1881 the present writer brought out two fresh works on Isaiah, one in two large volumes, the other in but fourteen columns of an encyclopædia. In the former (experience having proved the unpreparedness of the public), scrupulous regard was paid to the delicate susceptibilities of the orthodox, and though the data of criticism were presented to view, and the then state of the controversy was objectively sketched, the reader was left to form his own critical theories for himself. To save his conscience, however, and to help more advanced students, the writer set forth his own matured results in the *Encyclopædia Britannica*."¹ But, however that may be, the value of this commentary, if Dr. Cheyne will permit us to say so, does not depend upon the presence or the absence of critical theory, but on the masterly exposition itself.

It must not be supposed that Canon Driver's new book has superseded his monograph on "Isaiah" in the series, "Men of the Bible." The chapter on "Isaiah" in the *Introduction* goes along the same lines, and gives us the alterations of a maturer judgment; but these alterations are not so numerous as to antiquate the little volume, which is referred to throughout.

Dr. Parker's *People's Bible* is well known. A tremendous tax upon a single man's resources (for the whole series comes out of the man himself, and not out of other people's brains), nevertheless the latest volumes are at least as fresh, stimulating, and surprising as the very earliest.

JEREMIAH.

1. *The Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Jeremiah and Lamentations, with Map, Notes, and Introduction.* By the Rev. A. W. STREANE, M.A., Cambridge. At the University Press. Crown 8vo, pp. xxxviii, 404. 1881. 4s. 6d.
2. *Men of the Bible. Jeremiah: His Life and Times.* By Rev. Canon T. K. CHEYNE, D.D. Nisbet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 205. 2s. 6d.
3. *The Text of Jeremiah.* By the Rev. G. C. WORKMAN, M.A. With an Introductory Notice by Dr. FRANZ DELITZSCH. T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. xlv, 398. 1889. 9s.

¹ Critical Problems of the Second Part of Isaiah, by the Rev. Professor T. K. Cheyne, in the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, July 1891.

4. *Clark's Foreign Theological Library. The Prophecies of Jeremiah.* Expounded by Dr. C. VON ORELLI. Translated by Professor J. S. BANKS. T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. 384. 10s. 6d.
5. *The Expositor's Bible. The Prophecies of Jeremiah.* By the Rev. C. J. BALL, M.A. Hodder & Stoughton. Crown 8vo, pp. 424. 7s. 6d.

Jeremiah has recently risen somewhat out of the neglect in which English exposition had left him. But before there is a complete restitution of expository rights, we shall have to consider our author from other sides than the immediately and exclusively homiletical. For both Jeremiah and Ezekiel have suffered many things of the homilist. And this is not the least of their wrongs, that inasmuch as such divers and strange things could be made out of their language, men have come to believe that it was impossible to fix it down to any reliable meaning. But better days are at hand. For Ezekiel, Dr. A. B. Davidson's commentary, which is announced among the forthcoming books of this season, will surely do something. For Jeremiah, something has already been done; and Dr. Streane's volume takes its place, decided, scholarly, compressed, and clear, among the very best.

Canon Cheyne's *Life and Times of Jeremiah* sprang from a course of Cathedral sermons. It is therefore, like the rest of the series, popular in manner. But the popularity is of a peculiar flavour, a style which belongs to Canon Cheyne, and will never be touched by any other. This book should be first read and then studied, and it will stand both processes.

Professor Workman's volume, on the other hand, you must begin at once to study. It was not written for holiday reading. It is pioneer work, and much of it will be superseded. But men like Delitzsch could not be mistaken in finding here "a work of valuable and lasting service." Moreover, the author's effort to restore the Septuagint to a more honourable position is already finding its accomplishment. With Swete's text and Hatch's Concordance in our hands, we shall give more time and better treatment to the old Greek version.

Orelli's *Jeremiah* is exactly on the lines of his *Isaiah*. It is the only Hebrew scholar's commentary on Jeremiah which we have had for many a day. For a commentary which dares to quote the original, however sparingly, finds little favour in our land.

Perhaps that is the reason why Mr. Ball's volume has been somewhat less successful than others in the series. And yet he quotes the Hebrew very sparingly indeed. In faithful and often felicitous language his discourses expound the words of Jeremiah, and make plain their application to modern ways.

DANIEL.

1. *Nisbet's Theological Library. Daniel I.-VI. An Exposition of the Historical Portion of the Writings of the Prophet Daniel.* By the Very Rev. R. PAYNE SMITH, D.D. Nisbet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 335. 1886. 6s.
2. *Men of the Bible. Daniel: His Life and Times.* By the Rev. H. DEANE, B.D. Nisbet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 203. 2s. 6d.
3. *Daniel the Beloved.* By the Rev. W. M. TAYLOR, D.D. Charles Burnet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 280. 1889. 3s. 6d.
4. *The Story of Daniel.* By the Rev. P. HAY HUNTER. Oliphant, Anderson, & Ferrier. Crown 8vo, pp. 357. 5s.

Mr. Hunter's *Story of Daniel* having already been welcomed, may now be considered at home. Though its aim seems to be precisely the same as that of Dr. Taylor's volume, the difference in the execution is very pronounced. Dr. Taylor's method is well known. He is at present, perhaps, the most popular in our midst of all the American preachers. For he makes all things plain and all things practical, and there is no suspicion of heretical ways, whether in criticism or in doctrine.

But the best book on Daniel that recent years have furnished is Mr. H. Deane's contribution to the "Men of the Bible" series. It is the work of an exact and painstaking scholar, and may be implicitly trusted.

Dr. Payne Smith's book is an exposition with distinct homiletical purposes in view. But the Dean of Canterbury's work is far above the reach of hand to mouth homiletics. He disclaims originality or research; but, of course, he means for this particular volume. Every page bears the mark of abundant research; and because it is not of the immediate occasion, but has been stored up and made the writer's own, its fruit is a genuine originality. It is an originality that rarely startles, it may be, but it always strengthens and refreshes.

THE MINOR PROPHEETS.

1. *Men of the Bible. The Minor Prophets.* By the Ven. Archdeacon FARRAR, D.D. Nisbet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 203. 2s. 6d.
2. *Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges. Hosea.* By the Rev. Canon T. K. CHEYNE, D.D. Cambridge. Crown 8vo, pp. 132. 1889. 3s.
3. *Cambridge Bible. Obadiah.* By the Ven. T. T. PEROWNE, D.D. Cambridge. Crown 8vo, pp. 43. 1883. 1s. 6d.
4. *Handbooks for Bible Classes and Private Students. The Six Intermediate Prophets (Obadiah-Zephaniah).* By the Rev. Principal G. C. M. DOUGLAS, D.D. T. & T. Clark. Crown 8vo, pp. 157. 1890. 1s. 6d.
5. *The School of Life. Life Pictures from the Book of Jonah.* By OTTO FUNCKE. James Clarke & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 289. 1885.
6. *Cambridge Bible. Jonah.* By the Ven. T. T. PEROWNE, D.D. Cambridge. Crown 8vo, pp. 63. 1879. 1s. 6d.
7. *Studies in the Book of Jonah.* By R. A. REDFORD, LL.B. Hodder & Stoughton. Crown 8vo, pp. 295. 1883.
8. *Cambridge Bible. Micah.* By Rev. Canon T. K. CHEYNE, D.D. Cambridge. Crown 8vo, pp. 64. 1882. 1s. 6d.
9. *Present-Day Lessons from Habakkuk.* By the Rev. P. BARCLAY, M.A. Macniven & Wallace. Crown 8vo, pp. 201. 1890. 3s.
10. *Cambridge Bible. Haggai and Zechariah.* By the Ven. T. T. PEROWNE, D.D. Cambridge. Crown 8vo, pp. 159. 1886. 3s.
11. *Handbooks for Bible Classes. Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi.* By Rev. Professor MARCUS DODS, D.D. T. & T. Clark. Crown 8vo, pp. 153. 2s.
12. *The Hebrew Student's Commentary on Zechariah, Hebrew and LXX.* By W. H. LOWE, M.A. Macmillan. 8vo, pp. 155. 1882. 10s. 6d.
13. *Nisbet's Theological Library. Zechariah: His Visions and Warnings.* By the Rev. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D. Nisbet & Co. Crown 8vo, pp. 325. 1885. 6s.
14. *Cambridge Bible. Malachi.* By the Ven. T. T. PEROWNE, D.D. Cambridge. Crown 8vo, pp. 48. 1890. 1s.

When Archdeacon Farrar's *Minor Prophets* appeared, much surprise was expressed. Not because he had chosen to work in what was to him a wholly new and untried field, for men have long since ceased to wonder either at the magnitude or the multiplicity of Dr. Farrar's literary enterprises; but because he who had hitherto been known as extremely cautious and conservative in all questions of New Testament criticism, had sprung forward to the very front rank of the critics of the Old. To bring Joel down to the days of

Nehemiah, to divide Zechariah among three named and nameless authors, and to close the canon with an allegorical Jonah, were things not to be expected from the editor of the Cambridge *St. Luke* and the writer of the *Life of St. Paul*. All were surprised, some agreeably, and some not so. But whichever way the surprise fell, it has come to be understood that the value of the book is not in its critical results at all. It has one most conspicuous merit. Dr. Farrar has seen that the prophets were popular preachers; they spoke to the people, and in a language the people could understand. He has asked the question, Can they speak to the people now? Is their message translatable into the popular tongue of to-day? And having himself beyond most men the double gift needful to that end,—the prophet's enthusiasm and the people's speech,—he has answered it by this book.

In the "Cambridge Bible" two writers have up to the present divided the Minor Prophets between them, Canon Cheyne and Archdeacon Perowne. Well might the General Editor say that he is "convinced that freshness and variety of treatment are more than a compensation for any lack of uniformity in the series." To pass from Jonah to Micah here, is certainly freshness and variety. And yet there is one matter in which even here the strictest uniformity may be found. Both writers work from the original with the true scholar's minuteness and delicacy of touch. Both may be followed with pleasure and confidence in all that belongs to the exegesis. It is when they begin to generalise and reason from their data that they separate, and they separate very sharply then.

If it had not been that in his volume on the post-Exilian Prophets Dr. Dods has held his hand, and with most admirable self-restraint kept the special purpose of his work in view, we might have seen in the *Handbooks for Bible Classes* a contrast quite as striking as in the "Cambridge Bible." Principal Douglas is as unable to receive the results of the Higher Criticism as is Archdeacon Perowne, and he is equally outspoken in his repudiation of them. The importance of these matters may be seen in the fact that Dr. Douglas fills eleven pages with an introduction to Jonah, while the text and the commentary are covered by eight. But, as it has been said, Dr. Dods forbears. It is a few years since this commentary on the

last three prophets was written, and questions of historical criticism were less popular a few years ago. No one will regret it as they read this delightful little book. We have always thought it the best thing Dr. Dods has done. The introduction on *The Prophets and Prophecy*, or the exposition, or the questions at the end of every chapter—it is hard to say which is the most charming, the most exemplary piece of workmanship.

Otto Funcke is the next, and his name and place we know. We do not look for criticism here. Dates make no difference: it is the universal human heart. As you glance through the book it seems to be all about Jonah and the men of Nineveh, and the sailors who cast him into the sea. But Jonah is not Jonah; 'tis you or me. And the frivolous, repentant Ninevites and the awe-struck sailors dwell in Berlin to-day, or sail upon the German Ocean. Perhaps they are not ideal lectures; for surely there is too much of you and me, and not enough of the whale and of Jonah.

But Professor Redford will remedy that. He describes his book as "a Defence and an Exposition." For his purpose is apologetic; and he meets the adversary at every point. But the *name* of the whale he does not defend. He shows very plainly that the name is a mistranslation, and thereby takes away the teeth of many a biting jibe.

Passing Mr. Barclay's *Habakkuk*, which has already had its word of welcome, let us ask attention to the only example we have of a student's commentary, pure and simple. Mr. Lowe has written his *Zechariah* primarily with the Cambridge Tripos in his view; but the book will serve the student's ends wherever he is. It is not an advanced book, and that is better, since Zechariah is an excellent portion of the Old Testament for even the first steps in the Hebrew tongue.

The last book to be mentioned is by the late Dr. Lindsay Alexander. It is a preacher's book. Like Dr. Payne Smith's *Daniel* it was first contributed in a series of papers to the *Homiletic Magazine*. They might justly be described as expository discourses. They may have been preached, they certainly could be preached, as they stand. But they are beyond the reach of most even of the printed volumes of such "Lectures"; for Dr. Alexander was at once an accomplished scholar and a clear and persuasive speaker.