

Entre Nous.

PROSPECTS AND PROMISES.

"No programme is ever quite satisfactory. Some of the promises made may never see their accomplishment. On the other hand, it is true of every magazine—but the very name and purpose of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES make it true in an especial degree of this magazine—that many of the contributions are born of some occasion which arises, and cannot be promised before the occasion comes. For the most part, therefore, we shall endeavour to do our work without preliminary announcement. But it is reasonable that, before entering upon a new and greatly enlarged series, something should be said of the prospect which lies before us."

These words introduced the third volume of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES. It may seem too soon to depart from the excellent rule there laid down, of doing our work without preliminary announcement. But even so early a departure is called for by two important circumstances which were then hidden in the future, and have now been realised. The one circumstance is that not one-half of our readers can have seen the announcement then set forth; and the other, that we are able at this moment to promise some articles of exceptional interest, and some modifications in our permanent and characteristic features.

These permanent features—to take the last first—are the following:—

1. Notes of Recent Exposition.
2. Requests and Replies. Inquiries which reach us are sent to scholars of recognised eminence in the department to which the inquiry belongs, and their answers are published as speedily as possible. Such requests have been answered in former issues by the Bishops of Durham, of Bath and Wells, and of Worcester; by the Deans of Canterbury and of Gloucester; by Sir William Geddes; by Canons Cheyne, Driver, and Girdlestone; by Professors Banks, Beet, Brown, Bruce, Cameron, Cave, Chapman, Davidson, Dickson, Kennedy, Kirkpatrick, Laidlaw, Menzies, Moss, Moule, Randles,

Robertson, Rooke, Ryle, Salmond, Sanday, Simon, Skinner, Stewart, Swete, Whitehouse, and Young; by Drs. Bannerman, Gloag, and Robertson; and by the Rev. Prebendary Bassett, the Rev. Vernon Bartlet, the Rev. J. J. Halcombe, the Rev. J. P. Lilley, the Rev. Walter Lock, the Rev. John Macpherson, the Rev. F. Relton, and the Rev. Arthur Wright.

3. The Great Text Commentary. At present the "great texts" of St. Matthew are chosen. After a full exposition of the text, methods of treatment by able preachers are briefly stated, and many illustrations are added. If rapid preparation for the pulpit is found to be unavoidable at any time, then these great texts should enable one to make the best possible preparation. But they will be found of most service where time and strength are given to the preparation. In future issues it is intended that there shall be *two* great texts, the one from the Old Testament and the other from the New.

4. Special Discussions of many-sided or exceptionally difficult questions. Already the Unpardonable Sin, the "Daily Bread" of the Lord's Prayer, and Habakkuk's "That he may run that readeth it," have been considered. But the fullest discussion in the third volume has been over the alleged failure of the Revised Version. Of the Revisers themselves, the Bishop of Durham and Principal Douglas have already contributed to that discussion, and others will follow.

5. The Exposition of the International Lessons, with Notes and Illustrations.

6. Contributed Notes. This feature, recently introduced, has been so heartily welcomed that it shall be continued regularly. Notes, whether exegetical, critical, historical, or biographical,—no matter what, provided they have a point and a purpose, and are clearly and reverently expressed,—will not feel uncomfortable in this department.

7. The Guild of Bible Study. But this is important enough to demand a separate article, and will be found on another page.

8. Notes of Children's Sermons, with an occasional sermon complete. This is new. We shall see how it can be got to work.

9. Lastly, the Literary Table:—(a) Surveys of Special Departments; (b) Fresh Notes of Forthcoming Books; (c) Brief Notices of the Books of the Month; and (d) A Fuller Review of some of the more important Volumes,—those are its features.

Of all the articles which have appeared in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, those by Professor Sayce on "Biblical Archæology and the Higher Criticism" have been most frequently quoted. This is due in part, no doubt, to the eminence of the writer. But it is also due to the intense interest of their subject. Our next issue will contain another of these articles by Professor Sayce.

In the Notes of Recent Exposition with which each issue opens, it is possible to give a fairly complete survey of the theological work that is being done at home. It is possible, also, to touch upon that which is done abroad. But our readers have a right to expect more than a mere glance at foreign study. Arrangements have accordingly been made with some of the greatest theologians on the Continent, in America, and in the Colonies, for a series of articles which will at once command our confidence, and keep us fairly abreast of the progress of theology in other countries. The first of these articles will appear in the issue for October.

Another important series of articles for which some arrangements have already been made, may be described as "Religious and Ethical Men of Letters." They will not be mere popular sketches of popular preachers. They will be earnest and thorough studies of the life and life-work of men who have made a distinct place for themselves in the world of theological thought. Professor Iverach will contribute the first of these articles, and its subject will be the original of Robert

Elsmere's famous "Mr. Grey"—the late Professor T. H. Green of Oxford.

There is no department of theological study that has come more rapidly forward in recent years than that which is known by the name of "Biblical Theology." Its claim to be recognised as a distinct and surprisingly fruitful branch of theology can no longer be ignored. We shall publish a number of special papers dealing intelligibly and decisively with some leading points of Biblical Theology. The first, by Professor Candlish, will be found in an early issue.

At such a time as this, it is needless to say that matters of Old and New Testament Introduction and Criticism will not be forgotten. But there is one problem in Introduction which has already been touched upon several times, and has created so much interest, that we have resolved to give a complete exposition of it. It is Mr. Halcombe's remarkable theory of the Origin and Relation of the Four Gospels.

Throughout the year a series of articles have appeared on English literature in its religious and ethical aspects. Of these articles the most important have been a series of studies by Miss Mary A. Woods in Milton's *Paradise Lost*. The originality and interest of Miss Woods' studies have been freely recognised. Two yet remain, on Adam and Eve, and on Satan. Then Miss Woods will contribute a series of papers on Browning.

Those are but a few of the leading promises and prospects with which we go forward to our new volume. Many separate articles of interest and profit have been arranged for, but need not be individually named. They will appear in their place. Meantime, the Editor expresses his thankful obligation to his readers and to his contributors for progress made and for friendships acquired beyond expectation, and almost beyond hope.