

nothing more, that is its title. (Charles H. Kelly. Fcap 8vo, pp. 83. 2s. 6d.) Wesleyans expect every professor to do his duty, and a little over, so Mr. Geden has to teach both the Hebrew and Greek, and has made himself master enough of both to write with authority. This little book is as workmanlike and accurate as one could wish; and though it is intended to accompany *Gesenius-Kautzsch*, it will go profitably with any Grammar, and serve as an excellent progressive drill.

Another Wesleyan book which appeared last year is Mr. J. T. L. Maggs' *Introduction to the Study of Hebrew*. (Charles H. Kelly. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 190, with Paradigms A to S. 5s.) It contains much independent and accurate work, but it is not altogether a success. The exercises are too few for a beginner's work; and, more serious fault than that, the rules are both clumsily expressed and badly arranged. It is an attractive book to take in the hand, and many a one will buy it and be disappointed.

Nearer the mark, for it has all Mr. Maggs' merits, and scarce any of his defects, is Professor Kennedy's translation of *Strack's Hebrew Grammar*. (Williams & Norgate. Fcap. 8vo, pp. xvi, 115. 4s. 6d.) It belongs to the well-known and much-esteemed 'Porta Linguarum Orientalium' series. It is perhaps too short for a complete Hebrew Grammar, and too systematic for a mere introduction. Indeed the criticism that one would make upon it is that it prefers system to success. Some things need more emphasis than others, not because they are more important, but because they are more difficult. But that is the student's affair. Professor Strack's business is to produce a scientific Hebrew Grammar.

Dr. Stanley Leathes' Grammar ought to have been called 'The Student's Hebrew Grammar,' for it is issued by Mr. Murray as one of his famous 'Students' Manuals.' And no doubt it would have been so called, if that title had not been appropriated. The title that it has, however,—*A Short Practical Hebrew Grammar*. (Murray. Fcap. 8vo, pp. viii, 250. 7s. 6d.),—admirably expresses its character. Only, being *practical*, it ought to have had exercises for practice. It does give us the first six chapters of Genesis and the first six Psalms for reading and translation, and adds many

very elementary notes upon them. But Professor Geden is right in saying that to learn Hebrew we must practise translation *into* Hebrew, and Dr. Leathes gives no opportunity for that. Perhaps that will be remedied in a new edition. Then the book should serve the beginner's purpose very well indeed.

Another *Practical Hebrew Grammar* is that by the late Professor Bissell, which was issued from the Press of the Hartford Theological Seminary in 1891 (8vo, pp. ix, 134. \$1.75). Bissell is strong just where Stanley Leathes is weak, for his best feature is a very full and carefully graduated series of exercises for translation into Hebrew. But the method of stating the rules is most peculiar. Suppose that he wishes to explain the use of the four weak consonants, as he calls them. First he gives four Hebrew words, each having a small numeral clinging to its upper left-hand corner. Then follow the rules in a somewhat miscellaneous order, and each ends with a small numeral, which refers us to one of the Hebrew words already given. Now, there is no reason why the thing to be explained should not precede the explanation, and it is possible that in his class Professor Bissell obtained good results from this method. In a book, however, it is most bewildering. And the confusion is worse confounded by the lavish use of the same small numerals throughout the vocabularies, the exercises, and the notes.

Mr. Prendergast's little work has been mentioned as one of the Hebrew Grammars to be noticed. But that was a mistake. Unless the alphabet is grammar, there is not a word of grammar in it. Mr. Prendergast is, indeed, the sworn enemy of all grammars and grammarians. He believes that the best way to learn a dead language is the way you learn your own living one. Speak it, hear others speak it, if you can, and speak it to them. If you cannot hear others, then hear yourself. Speak it aloud in phrases and sentences which Mr. Prendergast provides for you; repeat these sentences, phrase by phrase, till they are familiar in your mouth as household words; and when you have done that long enough, you know the language. Mr. Prendergast does not forbid you to go to a grammar after you know the language. There are many interesting things to be found in grammars. But you must know the language first.

And there is no question that Mr. Prendergast's method is sound, for it has proved itself successful. The little book belongs to 'The Mastery Series.' (Longmans. Fcap. 8vo, pp. xxii, 104. 3s. 6d.) Now the 'Mastery' books have won their way in public estimation solely by the results they have achieved, and there is no reason why Hebrew should not be learned by repetition as other languages have been.

The one outstanding weakness of nearly all the Grammars that have been noticed is the want of fulness and gradation in the exercises for translation. This weakness is entirely removed from the three books that remain.

The exercises are the very strength of Mr. Ball's *Elementary Hebrew Grammar*. (Bagster. 8vo, pp. x, 163-260.) Originally the book was published in two parts, the one being called *The Merchant Taylors' Hebrew Grammar* and the other *A Hebrew Primer*. Now the two parts are bound in one, and issued with a recommendation by Professor Weidner of Chicago. Well, it is in the Primer as it was, or the second part of the book as it now is, that the strength lies. The Grammar is scarcely full enough, though it is clearly expressed, and most attractively printed. But the exercises are very carefully chosen. It may be that their gradation is somewhat rapid, but if a student takes pains truly to master each exercise before leaving it, he ought to be able to move as rapidly as this. After the elementary exercises are over, readings from the Old Testament are given,—again well selected, and worth mastering. The last part is the most original. It consists of certain pieces of English literature for translation into Hebrew. They have mostly an Oriental tinge, and they are graduated as before; but the student who masters them may claim to know a little Hebrew.

In Mr. James Kennedy's *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew* (Williams & Norgate. 8vo, pp. x, 234, xxx, 5s. 12s.) the grammar is full and satisfactory. A difference of type being skilfully employed, the leading rules are easily learned, and easily separated from their exceptions. The exercises immediately follow the rules, and are directly illustrative of them, and they are both very full and very memorable. It is a surprising thing that Mr. Kennedy's *Introduction* has not yet reached a wider circulation. Perhaps its price is

prohibitive. Certainly it is unsurpassed as a direct drill in the Hebrew tongue. And the man who goes through it conscientiously will find when he is done that he can read the Hebrew Bible with comparative ease. So rich and pertinent are its exercises, that the Hebrew teacher will find it the most convenient of all existing Grammars to have at hand.

Professor A. B. Davidson's *Introductory Hebrew Grammar* (T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. 200. 7s. 6d.) has passed all its English rivals in public acceptance, and that is the final verdict to which every book must bow. Nor is it difficult to account for its success. Dr. Davidson is at once a teacher of unsurpassed accomplishment and a writer of unapproachable lucidity and charm. And then he has the gift of most uncommon common sense. He is not a slave to science. He knows from experience where science must wait on human infirmity; and it is interesting to see that in the latest revision of his work (for the tenth edition) this is the necessity he has had most in mind. 'Parts that appeared too brief and obscure have been made fuller and simplified.' He is not even afraid to shock science by introducing subjects earlier than the science of grammar permits them, simply because he has found that the necessities of the learner demanded them. Many men, and among them some of our finest Hebrew scholars, have begun their studies with this book.

#### THE HEBREW ACCENTS.

Two volumes have lately been published on the Hebrew accents, and they may be taken next.

It is customary to touch upon the accents in even the most elementary Grammars; it is not possible to exhaust the subject in the most advanced. There are two systems,—one for the three so-called poetical books (Psalms, Proverbs, and Job), the other for the remaining twenty-one prose books (again *so-called*, and less reasonably). But why there should be two systems no man can tell. Psalms, Proverbs, and Job are not the only poetical books, so that it cannot be because they are poetry. Besides, when the psalms occur elsewhere than in the Book of Psalms they have not the peculiar system of the Psalter. Compare Ps. xviii. with 2 Sam. xxii, and Ps. cv. with 1 Chron. xvi. 8-22. It may be, as Dr. Wickes, our greatest

English authority, thinks, that it is a Palestinian refinement of a purely *musical* character, and that it was confined to these books in order to make up for the shortness of their verses by a fuller and more impressive melody.

Well, Dr. Wickes has examined the accentuation of the three so-called poetical books, and has published *A Treatise on their Accentuation*. (Clarendon Press. 8vo, pp. xii, 120. 5s.) It is a very able and attractive volume. Not only is there an original investigation into the subject of their special accentuation as it stands in our Hebrew Bibles, but Dr. Wickes has collated the best Hebrew MSS. in various European libraries, for the purpose of securing first of all a correct text. And now the volume is not merely an acceptable scholar's gift, it is an unexpected but very helpful aid in the interpretation of the Word of God. Take the index of texts which Dr. Wickes has so carefully provided, and refer to any passage at random. It will be strange if new light is not thrown upon it, to your own great satisfaction.

Mr. Arthur Davis has given an account of the accentuation of the twenty-one (prose) books. It is a lighter task; it is also of more general interest and utility. We may know something of the poetical accents; we must know something of the prose. Mr. Davis, who calls his book simply *The Hebrew Accents* (D. Nutt. Crown 8vo, pp. 70. 3s. 6d.), has the gift of clear exposition, and he has carefully avoided matters of trifling account. Moreover, he has prefixed to his book an accurate statement of the rules for simple sheva, not elsewhere, perhaps, to be found so conveniently.

#### HEBREW SYNTAX.

Four volumes on Hebrew Syntax have to be mentioned.

Dr. Driver's *Treatise on the Use of the Tenses in Hebrew* stands by itself, for it is confined almost entirely to that single subject. But what a subject it is! This volume is about as large as any of the three which handle the whole of Hebrew Syntax. But it is because it is so full and so satisfactory that other men can afford to pass this special subject lightly by. They know that every student who would understand the syntax of the Hebrew verb must finally go to Driver for it. So satisfactory is the book in all respects, and so pleasant to work

upon, that it is quite needless to do more than mention its new and much enlarged edition.

Ewald's *Syntax of the Hebrew Language of the Old Testament* is certainly not yet out of date. And the translation which was made by Mr. Kennedy in 1879 is so satisfactory that it deserves a place in this survey. (T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. viii, 323.) But it is not a beginner's book. Perhaps it is even needlessly difficult. Yet the student who will work his way through it will be well rewarded, not in the acquisition of patience only, but of knowledge also. Indeed one *must* go to it at last. There is nothing else to go to.

There was a time when Müller's *Outlines of Hebrew Syntax*, so admirably edited by Professor Robertson (Maclehose. 8vo, pp. xiv, 143. 6s.), was the only separate introduction to Hebrew Syntax worth looking at. Then Dr. Driver said of it that 'Professor Müller's Syntax will form the natural sequel to Professor A. B. Davidson's *Introductory Hebrew Grammar*, and the two works together cannot be too highly recommended as a sound and practical introduction to the language with which they deal.' But now Professor Davidson has published his own Syntax (T. & T. Clark. 8vo, pp. x, 233. 7s. 6d.), and henceforth it and not Müller will go with his Hebrew Grammar. Nevertheless, Professor Müller's Syntax can never be superseded. It certainly lacks that abundance of examples which a teacher who has taught long and successfully knows the need of. But the poverty of the examples is made up in the richness of other elements; especially what Professor Davidson calls the fine sensibility of the author for Shemitic idiom and expression.

Now, not to be too wearisomely consistent, let this short survey of Hebrew Grammars and Syntaxes end with the mention of two books that are neither the one nor the other. Besides a good Grammar and a good Syntax, the student of Hebrew needs a good Lexicon and a good Concordance.

The best Lexicon is at present under issue from the Clarendon Press, and there is no occasion to speak of it here. Till it is ready, we may continue to use Tregelles' *Gesenius* in the quarto edition which Messrs. Bagster publish, or we may have at our hand the extremely convenient *Student's Hebrew*

*Lexicon*, published by Messrs. Asher at 12s. It has gone through many editors' hands like the *Student's Hebrew Grammar*, and its last editor is again Dr. Edward Mitchell. To be an abridgment at all it is most satisfactory. Indeed, as you look at its bold type and read its easy explanations, you wonder what more the large Lexicons can get to say.

Messrs. Bagster are the publishers of the *Handy Hebrew Concordance*. It costs 15s., but that is little money for so much matter and worth. We must have two Concordances if possible, one to touch our elbow, the other to seek and search for special words in. This is the book for constant reference.

And it is so arranged that one can use it and scarce know a word of Hebrew. For all the parts of the verbs are arranged in a definite order, and there is no demand made on the reader that he should be able to parse. Many men will use this book to honest advantage who never will attain to a knowledge of the Bible in Hebrew. It used to be called *The Hebraist's Vade Mecum*, and by that title many a Hebrew scholar knows it well. But the new title is better. If the value of a good concordance is recognised at all,—and you may ask Canon Driver or the Bishop of Durham what they think of that,—then it will be recognised that for the more advanced study of Hebrew there is nothing so valuable in our language as this book.

## Sermonettes on the Golden Texts.

BY THE REV. R. C. FORD, M.A., GRIMSBY.

### Heroism contrasted with Cowardice.

'The Lord is with us : fear them not.'—NUM. xiv. 9.

It is impossible to avoid contrasting the speaker of these words with the hearers of them. Twelve leaders have been picked, one from each tribe, to inspect the land to be conquered. Naturally there was much variety in the reports with which they returned. Six men in a railway carriage will see six different aspects of the country through which they travel. The reports may be classified. One party inconsistently affirmed that the land was so barren as to eat up its inhabitants, while, nevertheless, it produced a race of giants. Another, that it was a fruitful land, but too strong for them to conquer. Two only said, both that it was fruitful, and that they could well conquer it. The two, Caleb and Joshua, stood opposed to the ten, and to the whole of the Israelites.

I. COWARDICE SEES OBSTACLES WHERE HEROISM SEES OPPORTUNITIES.—Usually carpet knights and dry-land sailors are the bravest. Here the stay-at-homes were more terrified than those who had faced the dangers. True, the spies brought back three glorious specimens of the fruit of the land, but they were most impressed by the enemies and obstacles they had encountered. Everywhere there was a lion in the way. Enemies were in the

south, by the sea coast, by the Jordan, and in the mountains. Joshua and Caleb had much to say of the exceeding good land, but not a word of the giants, or of the cities walled up to heaven. Each saw what he was prepared to see, and each heard as he had expected to hear.

II. THE COWARD'S OBSTACLES BECOME THE HERO'S OPPORTUNITIES.—Joshua's and Caleb's words about the people are brief and significant. 'They are bread for us.' Their resources will be our prey, their terror our stimulus. At the battle of Newport the Prince of Orange told his soldiers, who were between the Spaniards and the sea, 'Unless you eat the Spaniards, you will have to drink the sea.' Cortes will burn his ships, thus apparently increasing his difficulties, that his men may be strengthened in their determination to win the victory. Met with a brave heart, difficulties may be scorned. Joshua's only thought is, 'Let us go up and possess the land.' To go and to see is to conquer. If we think an achievement impossible, we are right; it is impossible while we so think. What we believe impossible we do not seriously attempt. Such difficulties are opportunities for which the hero eagerly waits. While others in their cowardice would have stoned these two, the event revealed that one of them was fit to become the successor of Moses.

III. COWARDICE IS BLIND, WHILE HEROISM IS