

# At the Literary Table.

## THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

### • II.

THE PROPHETS OF ISRAEL. By THE LATE W. ROBERTSON SMITH, LL.D. (*Blackie*. Post 8vo, pp. lviii + 446. 10s. 6d.) For years Professor Robertson Smith's *Prophets* has been unprocurable. He knew that it was sold out, and that old copies were passing from hand to hand at a ransom. But he would not allow it to be reprinted as it stood, and he could find no health to revise it. So he died. And then the publishers gave it into Canon Cheyne's hands. Canon Cheyne knew that it was only a revised edition Dr. Robertson Smith would allow to be issued. His revision consists of an Introduction, some minor alterations on ten separate pages, and some additions to the Notes at the end. Professor Robertson Smith would probably have been far more thoroughgoing, as he certainly was in the revision of his *Old Testament in the Jewish Church*. That Canon Cheyne could have made more and more thorough changes than he has done, we know; that he held his hand with difficulty we easily believe. Still it seems better that he did hold his hand. For, however near he might have been able to come to what Dr. Robertson Smith himself would have done, we in this country will scarcely allow one author to tamper with another, and his labour would have been out of all proportion to our thankfulness.

So practically it is Robertson Smith's own book. The Introduction, highly characteristic of the editor, neither gives nor takes to any serious extent. The Notes are rarely out of touch, and often add just that reference to recent literature or that sketch of recent discussion which it was possible for Canon Cheyne and for very few besides to give us. It is Robertson Smith's own book, but the new edition supersedes the old.

THE SCHOOL AND HOME LIBRARY. (*Blackie*. Crown 8vo, pp. 192, 192. 1s. 4d. each.) The volumes for the month are *What Katy Did* and *The Wreck of the Wager*, the one a fine toned American tale for girls by Susan Coolidge; the other a stirring tale of adventure for boys by John Byron.

THE REIGN OF ANTONINUS PIUS. By E. E. BRYANT, B.A. (Cambridge: *At the University Press*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv + 216. 3s. 6d.) This is the latest issue of the 'Cambridge Historical Essays.' It is the Thirlwall Dissertation of 1894. But for once the Thirlwall Dissertation is a work of widest interest and deepest worth. Mr. Bryant has manifestly made as good use of his choice as the choice was itself so excellent. And of the student of Christianity, whom it touches closely, Mr. Bryant has been especially mindful. One long chapter is called 'Religion.' It is, and Mr. Bryant knows it is, out of proportion. But so fresh is his treatment, and so special his knowledge, that no one will grudge the extended space it occupies. To the early history of Christianity, Mr. Bryant has made an actual contribution.

THE CAMBRIDGE BIBLE FOR STUDENTS. (London: *C. J. Clay & Sons*. Crown 8vo. 4s. 6d.) The teacher's difficulty solved at last! The text is the Authorized, and the type is the ordinary ruby. But it is printed in a single column down the side of the page, the rest being left clear for Notes. So the Notes are by the side of the very verse to be annotated, the Bible is an ordinary one, its price is ordinary too, and altogether it is one of the happiest discoveries in the history of Bible production.

THE CHRIST OF TO-DAY. By GEORGE A. GORDON. (*James Clarke & Co.* Crown 8vo, pp. x + 322. 5s.) The title of Dr. Gordon's book will recall Dr. Fairbairn's *The Place of Christ in Modern Theology*. That was either intentional or felt to be inevitable. For Dr. Gordon owes his book in a sense to Dr. Fairbairn's, acknowledging the debt; and his desire is to do for America that which he thinks Dr. Fairbairn has done for Britain. For he believes that if America is to succeed in theology or in anything else, she must not copy Britain. And if he is right, as surely he is, shall we not rejoice that with courage and culture he has in this volume laid the great problems of theology before his own nation, showing it not only what

they are, but also where their solution lies? It demands but little charity on our part, the book is so fresh and stimulating to ourselves.

LONDON CITY CHURCHES. By A. E. DANIELL. (*Constable*. Crown 8vo, pp. x + 394. 6s.) To describe the London City Churches competently, to illustrate the description adequately, and to publish the volume at a moderate price, was a right worthy ambition on the part of any publisher; and right worthily have Messrs. Constable carried it through. Mr. Daniell started with the requisite architectural and historical knowledge, and then spared neither the churchwardens nor himself. The illustrations, for which Mr. Leonard Martin is responsible, are chiefly from photographs, and neither the photographer nor the engraver has scamped the work he had to do. In a few instances it is thoroughly and memorably artistic work. Finally, the publishers have lent their resources to the production of a volume externally in keeping with all this internal wealth of worth.

SERMONS AND HOMILETICAL EXPOSITIONS. By THOMAS DAVIES, M.A., Ph.D. (*Dickinson*. Crown 8vo, pp. x + 479.) There are preachers who would rejoice if they knew that they preached acceptably to a single congregation; Dr. Davies is able to preach acceptably to a thousand congregations. For he preaches to the preachers, and through them to all the congregations. This is Dr. Davies' peculiar gift; he is a preacher to preachers. He hunts for no hidden texts, and he hankers after no eccentric treatment. Great is the commonplace and inexhaustible its resources here. So there is no preacher but may use this volume to profit, and if he is an honest preacher, honestly.

EXPOSITIONS ON THE EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS. By THOMAS DAVIES, M.A., Ph.D. (*Dickinson*. Crown 8vo, pp. xx + 540.) Besides a complete exposition of the Epistle to the Philippians in forty-five 'lectures,' this moderately-sized volume contains twenty-four full sermons and twelve 'sermonettes.' And all this matter is as accessible, being clearly printed and sufficiently spaced, as it is worth having. Dr. Davies is an old expository hand. He knows what less gifted men want, and he does not rise

above it. He knows also what will be good for their people, and he does not sink below it. Good, sound expository work, well-divided discourses, straightforward application—that is the volume from beginning to end.

THE PREACHER AND HIS PLACE. By THE REV. DAVID H. GREER, D.D. (*Dickinson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 263.) It has always seemed a singular circumstance that when able men were called to deliver the Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching, they spent so much of their time on the mere fashion of preaching that passes away, making themselves as it were homiletical tailors for the time. Even Dr. Greer, who delivered these lectures in February last, and has now got them issued very pleasantly in this country, spends some pages on the burning problem of 'Notes or no Notes,' although he knows quite well that there are just two things needed to the successful preaching of the gospel—a message, and a man to deliver it. He knows and emphasizes that, and so his book, except these few pages of it, is profitable and stimulating beyond most. But Dr. Phillips Brooks was the only man who rose clean above the fashion-book, and so his lectures, with all their limits, will live when the rest have passed away.

THE HIGHER CRITICISM OF THE PENTATEUCH. By W. H. GREEN, D.D., LL.D. (*Dickinson*. Post 8vo, pp. 184.) 'There is now but one Old Testament scholar who rejects the results of criticism.' So said a Higher Critic recently; and he named the scholar—Professor Green of Princeton. The statement was too severe on some other men, but not too complimentary to Professor Green. For he is a scholar; they who resent his attitude most hotly, admit it most readily. He is therefore in every way competent to present the other side; and in this volume he does present it competently. He weakens his argument by no compromise or admission. The Pentateuch, the whole Pentateuch, and nothing but the Pentateuch—that is Dr. Green's battle-flag.

OUR BIBLE AND THE ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS. By F. G. KENYON, M.A., D.Litt. (*Eyre & Spottiswoode*. Post 8vo, pp. xii + 255. 5s.) There must be many persons who love to read about the Bible, its text and its translations, for many books are published on the subject, and

they all do well. It would be wise, however, if those who are so interested would consider before they buy, that they may not be misled. For there have been books about the English Bible of late that were quite unworthy. Of the smaller books, the best is, no doubt, Mr. Milligan's in the Guild Text-Books of Messrs. Black. This is as surely the best of the larger. Beautifully printed and illustrated, it is also written with scholarship and grace.

THE BOOK OF THE SECRETS OF ENOCH. Translated from the Slavonic by W. R. MORFILL, M.A., and edited by R. H. CHARLES, M.A. (Oxford: *At the Clarendon Press*. 8vo, pp. xlviii, 100. 7s. 6d.) For more than twelve hundred years 'The Book of the Secrets of Enoch' has been known in Russia and unknown elsewhere. When it did become known in Germany in 1892 it was described as a Slavonic version of the Ethiopic Book of Enoch. But Mr. Morfill speedily proved that it was not so, but a distinct and valuable pseudepigraph. So Mr. Charles tells us; and then introduces this valuable pseudopigraph in the thorough and loving way he is wont to handle pseudepigrapha. It is an Introduction, indeed, whose interest is only less surprising than the interest of the Notes. As for the Book itself, we shall certainly hear of it again when the Assyriologists have had time to look at it. The Delegates of the University Press may never reap their reward in pence, but of patient well-doing they have reaped the reward already.

THE UTOPIA OF SIR THOMAS MORE. By J. H. LUPTON, B.D. (Oxford: *At the Clarendon Press*. 8vo, pp. c + 347. 10s. 6d. net.) At last a magnificent edition of the *Utopia*, fit in every respect to stand beside the best editions of the Greek and Latin classics which English scholarship has overwhelmed us with. Why so many men should spend themselves on Latin Horace, and so few on the English and incomparably greater More, it is hard to understand. Nevertheless, the deluge of Latin and Greek classics has done good. It has set an ideal of what an edition of a classical work should be. And Mr. Lupton has taken full advantage. All the apparatus are here—Introduction, Notes, Appendix, Glossary, Index,—and all bear the finger-marks of the severely-trained and highly-accomplished scholar. An ideal edition of

an English classic, from which and to which all other editors may now work. And is it not well that it should be More's *Utopia*? No doubt More was mountains above his own *Utopia*; but this book gives us More as well as the *Utopia*, and the *Utopia* is worth a thousand *Odes of Horace*.

THE RIVER AND THE CITY. By GEORGE MITCHELL PHILPS, B.D. (Paisley: *Gardner*. Crown 8vo, pp. 31.) 'Bring me the Book,' said Sir Walter Scott; he did not need to define it. 'The River and the City,' says Mr. Philps; he does not need to define them. And it is true that Bunyan more even than St. John has made the phrase familiar. Once more Mr. Philps has found Bunyan entrancing, and made him entrancing to us. For this scene, the last and best, touches us all so closely, and it does us good when a comforter comes to us and speaks so hopefully, yet so faithfully, as Mr. Philps speaks here of the River and the City.

ST. PAUL THE TRAVELLER. By W. M. RAMSAY, D.C.L., LL.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. 8vo, pp. xvi + 394. 10s. 6d.) In his latest work Professor Ramsay has thrown together two courses of lectures, one of which was delivered in America, the other in Oxford. He has *thrown* these lectures together? No, the word is conventional, but not always applicable. It is not applicable here. Professor Ramsay has worked these lectures through his own mind again; he has let others work them through their minds; he has spared neither himself nor his friends nor the lectures; he has given us what is no longer a course of lectures but a book, a book done decently and in order.

Nevertheless, it is not because he has given us a new book on St. Paul's travels that Professor Ramsay is so supremely welcome. Many of us could write a new book on St. Paul that would be readable and right. Nor is it because he knows his subject supremely well. Many of you know the subject as well as he, and some of you know it better. But there are *some things about the subject* which no one knows so well as he does. And though it were only a jot here and a tittle there, when a man comes and proves to us that he has gathered the jot and the tittle himself and that they are new to the subject, then it is that his book is supremely welcome.

When Dr. Fairbairn invited Professor Ramsay to deliver a course of lectures in Mansfield College on St. Paul as a Traveller, this imaginary conversation took place: Dr. Fairbairn, 'You have traced the apostle's footsteps through Asia Minor and Greece?' Professor Ramsay, 'No man more.' Dr. Fairbairn, 'But you have read little of all that theologians have written upon the travels of the Apostle Paul?' Professor Ramsay, 'No man less.' Dr. Fairbairn, 'Then you will come and lecture at Mansfield on St. Paul the Traveller.' It is an imaginary conversation; nevertheless, that is the intention and that is the equipment with which Professor Ramsay appeared before his delighted audience. And that is the explanation of the supremely hearty welcome we give to his new book.

LITTLE BOOKS ON RELIGION. EDITED BY W. ROBERTSON NICOLL, LL.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Small 8vo. 1s. 6d. each.) Of this new enterprise, four volumes are already issued: 1. *Christ and the Future Life*, by the late R. W. Dale, LL.D.; 2. *The Visions of a Prophet*, by Marcus Dods, D.D.; 3. *The Seven Words from the Cross*, by W. Robertson Nicoll, LL.D.; and 4. *The Four Temperaments*, by Alexander Whyte, D.D. Now we know these men, and the work they can do. And they know that we know it. They dare not lower their flag or risk their reputation. Little books, certainly, but filled with the finest of the wheat, and in this form as accessible and enticing as books can be.

THE PERMANENT MESSAGE OF THE EXODUS. BY THE REV. JOHN SMITH, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. ix + 306. 3s. 6d.) Great as is the man Moses, and stirring the incidents of the Exodus, there are few commentaries worth reading upon them. Genesis is rich in expository and homiletical literature, Exodus is surprisingly poor. So it is with very unusual pleasure we receive such a volume as this. For Dr. John Smith of Edinburgh has the expositor's and the preacher's gifts in unwonted combination. He knows what to say, and he can say it with effect. These 'lectures' have cost their author trouble. The gifts of mind and heart were there already, but the knowledge and the beauty of expression are the fruit of loving and conscientious labour.

THE PROBLEM OF THE AGES. BY THE REV. J. B. HASTINGS, M.A. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv + 250. 3s. 6d.) There are ten chapters, and here are their titles: God in Nature; God in Conscience; God in Providence; God in History; God in Scripture; God in Christ; and God in Consciousness. Then when it is added that the treatment is thoroughly modern and thoroughly believing, that the book is meant for young men and heartily reaches them, what more need be said? This, that the publishers have determined it should stand as a book of Apologetic beside Dr. Denney's book of Theology, and it will stand.

TALKS TO YOUNG FOLKS. BY G. HOWARD JAMES. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 160. 2s. 6d.) This volume belongs to the 'Golden Nails' series, not in fact, but in spirit and execution. Here are the same comradeship with the little ones, the same unabashed profusion of good story, the same unforgettable lesson. The very printing is alike, and the publishing is scarcely less attractive.

THE WARFARE OF GIRLHOOD. BY CLARA M. HOLDEN. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 96. 1s. 6d.) 'The battle of life'—it was Dickens, they say, who made the phrase familiar—is fought by women as well as by men. If, as Kingsley had it, 'men must work while women must weep,' then women's battle is even the hardest battle to fight. Miss Holden would brace them for it. She draws no appalling picture of the struggle, as if only the occasional woman could pass through unscarred by shot, or at least unscathed by fire. God has not let men make this world so, nor women either. But each woman may meet God's intention and fulfil it, or she may not. That she may, this book is written. And what is God's intention?—

This world God's Organ is, and every Life  
A several Pipe from which He seeketh Music.

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH. BY JOSEPH HALSEY. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 320. 5s.) Though it is falsely said, it might be true, that books are reviewed out of their prefaces. A book might even be reviewed from its title. For a man who has the skill to devise a good title, has the skill, we may believe, to write a good book. Have

not the most popular authors had this gift in excellence? Mr. Halsey has it also. He published recently a volume of sermons for which he chose the name of *The Beauty of the Lord*. Not less felicitous is the title of the new book, and not less commendable are the sermons it contains.

**THE TOOL BASKET.** (*Allenson*. Small 8vo, pp. 89. 1s.) These are the Contents: Sermon Notes; Sunday-School Addresses; Temperance Notes; Helpful Hints; Open-Air Addresses and Hints; Index of Texts. The quality is very good, and the number is very great.

**PIONEERING IN MOROCCO.** BY DR. ROBERT KERR. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 251. 2s.) This volume was well spoken of when it came. All that need be said of it now is, that its price is reduced from 3s. 6d. to 2s.

**CHRISTIANITY AND CHURCHMANSHIP.** BY M. O. EVANS. (*Allenson*. Crown 8vo, pp. 32. 1s.) The cry is 'Back to Christ,' and this is the great theological discovery of the end of the nineteenth century, the discovery of the Christ of the Gospels. Nevertheless, it is an uneasy fact that the hottest controversies of our day have not been over the Christ, but over the Church. And even now the question of deepest

interest to the mass of Christian people among whom we dwell is not, What think ye of the Christ? but, What think ye of the Church? Surely they who have raised the cry of Back to Christ have caught the first morning rays of the sun that will shine in the *next* century. But we must settle the question of the Church first. And if we could write and act in the spirit of this small treatise, we should settle it ere the century was out yet.

#### PAMPHLETS:—

1. *Rome and the Provinces.* By W. C. Morey, Ph.D. (Chicago: University Press. 20 cents.)
2. *On Memory and the Specific Energies of the Nervous System.* (Chicago: Open Court Publishing Company. 15 cents.)
3. *Heroic Endeavour.* By the Rev. W. Elsworth Lawson. (*Allenson*. 1s.)
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7. *The Life and Death of Mr. Goodman.* By the Rev. D. Jamison, B.A. (Belfast. 5s. per 100.)
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## Sermonettes on the Golden Texts.

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

### Christ's Highest Claim.

'The Son of Man hath power on earth to forgive sins.'—  
LUKE v. 24.

ALL Christ's miracles are exhibitions of wonderful power, or of equally wonderful knowledge. This particular one is asserted to be in vindication of a power which He professed to possess. A great crowd is pressing upon Him, bringing their sick to the house where He is abiding, that He may heal them. Four men bring a paralysed comrade, and, finding the entrance to the house blocked, they open the roof, and let down the man before Christ. To such bold faith He always grants a quick answer. If faith be feeble, it needs to be

stimulated before Christ can accomplish the mighty work. Here He is able to say at once, 'Thy sins be forgiven thee.' By such an utterance He arouses the suspicions and antagonism of the Pharisees, perceiving which, He delays the completion of His purpose until He has answered the thoughts of their hearts.

I. CHRIST'S CLAIM.—Without the consciousness that there was anything unusual in His speech, Christ at once answered a prayer that had not yet been uttered. The actions of the four bearers were their prayer. The look in the paralytic's face was his. Christ needed not the clumsy interposition of words to reveal to Him where the deepest need lay. It may have been, indeed, that