

name, but the form of the words here suggests a contrast which will repay our making clear to ourselves. They set over against one another

1. The World's Saviours.
2. God's Saviour.

I. THE WORLD'S SAVIOURS.—There are a great many 'names given among men,' which they assert to be saving names. I do not mean the gods of the heathen nations, though it is interesting to remember that the Greeks used this very name 'Saviour' as a title of one of their deities. But these 'names' do not have much practical influence over us, and even in the lands wherein they once held universal sway, their empire is tottering to its fall. But I am thinking about the 'names' that are given as saviours in our own country. One says, If we can only get a certain amount of *money* every year, we shall be all right. There will be no undue anxiety for us then, and everything we really want we can obtain. Another bids us seek for *social position*. The ranks of the poor and those who toil hard with little wage and less regard from their fellows must be miserable, but if we once reach a certain social level we shall win happiness. Another bids us seek our safety in *intellectual attainment or culture*. Money, he says, is sordid and low; he will speak of it, as an end in itself, in as strong terms as a Christian will, but he is just as positive that his plan of success is the right one. Once we have mastered one of the great fields of knowledge, we shall hold the secret of the world, and our souls will be satisfied. And so on I might go through the long list of fame, philanthropy, 'bubble reputations at the cannon's mouth,' and all the various forms in which men have striven to win happiness for themselves. But it is dreary work: they have always to confess failure; none of these, however good in themselves, can be 'saving names.' They are too numerous. One pins his faith

to one of them, while another declares for one of quite a different character. None of us would have time to try them all, and life is so short that we have not opportunity to make such long and risky experiments. They are not only too numerous, but too uncertain. None of their advocates will guarantee any one of them as suitable for everybody, so we might choose just the wrong one for us, and end worse than we began, without having any chance of retrieving our error. In this particular 'multitude of counsellors' there is *no* wisdom.

II. GOD'S SAVIOUR.—'In none other is there salvation.' Here is a note of certainty struck that challenges all contradiction. And here also is but one way, one name standing out in solitary splendour. This method is not to follow any one line of action, not to set before ourselves a certain more or less definite aim, which somehow we may accomplish. It is to be obedient to one Person—to put our faith in one great Leader. It is to love and serve Jesus Christ. There is no uncertainty to be encountered, as to whether this method may suit us—it suits every one. There is no question of its ultimate success: by this name, and by Him alone, 'we must be saved.' Don't let us imagine it is something that concerns only older people, or ourselves at some future time of our life: it concerns us all at every moment. Don't let us be persuaded it is something too difficult for us to understand, about which even learned men differ. Jesus has said that He belongs to the children. Let the children claim Him! We never find it difficult to say of people whether we love them or no, and whether it is a joy to us to please them, and to have messages from them. This is what Jesus wants—to have our love, our trust, our service, our attention, to have us eager to read, learn, and practise all He tells in His messages and teaches in His life.

## The Expository Times Guild of Bible Study.

WITH the month of November the Guild of Bible Study entered upon its seventh session. The purpose of the Guild is to encourage the systematic study as distinguished from the mere reading of Scripture. Two portions are chosen, one from the Old Testament and one from the New; and those who undertake to study, with the aid of some

commentary, one or both of these portions of Scripture between November 1896 and September 1897 are enrolled as Members of the Guild. Names of those who are willing to make this effort are sent to the Editor at Kinneff, Bervie, N.B. There is no fee or other obligation.

As the study proceeds, Members may send short

papers (if they so find it convenient) on some passage in the books chosen. If possible, the best of these papers will be published in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES. But whether they are published or not, the best ten papers will be chosen at the end of the session, and books will be presented to their writers, selected by themselves out of a list which the publishers will send them.

There is considerable difficulty always in the choice of the portions of Scripture for a new session. Many things have to be taken into account; but perhaps the most important thing is this, that at least one reliable modern commentary should be available for study. Now it is generally recognised that the ablest commentary that has yet been published in English on the *Book of Deuteronomy* is Professor Driver's in 'The International Critical Commentary' series (T. & T. Clark, 12s.). We have used the book daily since its issue, and with ever fresh surprise at its completeness, accuracy, and devotional suggestiveness. It is no doubt somewhat expensive to the working student; but it is worth a library of lesser books. We have accordingly chosen *Deuteronomy* as the Old Testament portion of study for the coming session.

The same consideration has fixed *St. Mark's Gospel* for the New Testament. Professor Gould's commentary in the same series (10s. 6d.) is not the masterpiece Dr. Driver's is. But there is little doubt it is the best in existence in English. To those, however, who wish a less expensive and less exhaustive work, Professor Lindsay's volume in the 'Handbook' series may be recommended. It is published by Messrs. T. & T.

Clark at 2s. 6d., a very small price for an excellent book.

These books are specially recommended. But it must always be understood that any commentary may be used, or even the Concordance alone, provided the portion of Scripture is not merely read, but studied.

#### NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED.

Rev. W. Dawson Watson, Audley Range, Blackburn.

Rev. Henry Todd de Wolfe, B.A., Fomboro, Mass., U.S.A.

Rev. H. Barraclough, 70 Heneage Street, Grimsby.

Mr. Robert Bruce Boswell, M.A. (Oxon.), 2 Hawkwood Villas, Chingford, Essex.

Rev. H. E. Bayley, B.A., B.D., Millville, New York.

Rev. J. E. Jones, Perranporth, R.S.O., Cornwall.

Mr. Joseph Wood, The Uplands, Wilmslow, Cheshire.

Rev. T. W. Ketchlee, Wymynswold, Canterbury.

Rev. W. Hawes Dyer, Gwaelodygarth, Merthyr Tydvil.

Mr. R. C. Forsyth, English Baptist Mission, Shantung, China.

Rev. W. H. Gillespie, M.A., Kwanchengtzu, Manchuria.

Rev. Frank Corany, Beaminster, Dorset.

Mrs. B. Hoare, 54 Willesden Lane, Brondesbury, London, N.W.

Rev. F. W. Reade, M.A. (Oxon.), Salthill, Slough, Bucks.

## New Books for the Children.

NEW books for the children are needed all the year round. But the publishers of children's books have a habit of publishing them all at once. Every book has its season; but the season for the children's book is a very few weeks in winter, and one wonders what their publishers do throughout the rest of the year. This is the last of the children's books for this season.

### Published by the Religious Tract Society.

Most editors and some publishers have to mourn the loss of faithful friends and contribu-

tors. But we should think that few have been missed so utterly as Talbot Baines Reed. His work seemed only begun. It was so fine already and so full of promise, we do not wonder that every story he left has been gathered and given to us. This is now the last, we fear. It is a volume of *Short Stories*, some of which are humorously illustrated, and all are delightfully written.

The Rev. R. G. Soans, who writes *The First False Step*, is not so very well known and scarcely so very welcome yet. But this is a stirring school-boy's story, with a very good lesson throughout it.