

## At the Literary Table.

### LITERARY NOTES.

ONE of the best short histories of the Scottish Church (from the Free Church standpoint) is Mackinnon's *Chapters in Scottish Church History*. For lecturing or class teaching it is perhaps more immediately serviceable than any volume of recent publication. Its 'chapters' are thirteen in number. Each is the story of a distinctly marked period, and can easily be made the subject of a separate lecture or class lesson. Its facts are reliable, and its attitude is thoroughly, wholesomely evangelical.

The announcement of a new and cheaper issue gives the opportunity of thus directing attention to the book. The publisher, Mr. R. W. Hunter, of Edinburgh, is prepared to communicate with preachers or Bible-class leaders, and will supply

single copies direct at half the original price (the new edition is issued at half a crown through the booksellers), and to arrange for the supply of a small number of copies for class distribution at a still cheaper rate.

Under the editorship of the Rev. J. H. Burn, B.D., Messrs. Ellis and Keene announce a new series, to be entitled *The Churchman's Library*. The first volume, which we believe is almost ready, is an account of the coming of St. Augustine, by Professor W. E. Collins, of King's College. It will be followed by others of more pronounced theological colouring, some of them highly promising and all attractive.

### THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

THE MOHAMMEDAN CONTROVERSY. BY SIR WILLIAM MUIR, K.C.S.I. (*T. & T. Clark*. 8vo, pp. 220. 7s. 6d.)

'Mohammedanism is perhaps the only undisguised and formidable antagonist of Christianity. From all the varieties of heathen religions, Christianity has nothing to fear, for they are but the passive exhibitions of gross darkness which must vanish before the light of the Gospel. But in Islam we have an active and powerful enemy; a subtle usurper, who has climbed into the throne under pretence of legitimate succession, and seized upon the forces of the crown to supplant its authority. It is just because Mohammedanism acknowledges the divine original, and has borrowed so many of the weapons of Christianity, that it is so dangerous an adversary. The length, too, of its reign, the rapidity of its early conquests, and the iron grasp with which it has retained and extended them, the wonderful tenacity and permanent character of its creed,—all combine to add strength to its claims, and authority to its arguments.'

With those words, Sir William Muir opens the first of the five essays which fill this volume. That first essay gives its title to the whole. It is a survey, masterly and lucid, of the age-long

controversy between Mohammedanism and Christianity. The other articles are these: 'Biographies of Mohammed;' 'Sprengr on Original Sources of Tradition;' 'The Indian Liturgy;' and 'The Psalter.' Thus, except the last, they are all in the line of the first, all in the line upon which Sir William Muir is an authority. The last essay is an appeal for 'the freer and more varied use of the Psalms in our churches.' If it were permissible to select the psalms for the day, then it were possible to omit the Imprecatory Psalms, and that were a consummation devoutly to be wished.

With the exception of the last, the essays have all appeared in the *Calcutta Review*. They are Indian, and were written for Indians, now they appeal to a wider audience. And assuredly they contain matter of wide and present-day interest, while they are expressed in a dignified and powerful English style.

THE LORD'S PRAYER: A PRACTICAL MEDITATION. BY NEWMAN HALL, LL.B., D.D. (*T. & T. Clark*. Crown 8vo, Third Edition, pp. xii, 336. 4s. 6d.)

It is not easy for a volume on the Lord's Prayer to lift its head above the crowd. For the crowd

of volumes on the Lord's Prayer is great, and some of the volumes are notable. Dr. Newman Hall's volume has reached a third edition, and that is distinction enough to make it move through many editions more. It is the work which preachers ought to use. There is the temptation to use it too freely; but that overcome, how impossible would it be for an ordinary preacher to fail in a course of sermons on the Lord's Prayer if he had this volume in his hands.

I NOSTRIPROT ESTANTI. PARTE PRIMA. *Avanti la Riforma*, 1896. Prezzo L. 3. 50. PARTE SECONDA. *Durante la Riforma*, 1897. Pp. 700. Prezzo L. 5. Firenze, Libreria Claudiana.

Most of our readers are probably much more familiar with German or French than with Italian. And those who can make their way through a book written in the mellifluous *Lingua Romana* look to such a source for works on themes very different from theology or religion. Others may be disposed to ask, Can any good thing in such a line come out of the Italian Nazareth? and we would reply, come and see. In Dr. Comba, who is Professor of Church History in the Waldensian College of Florence, they will find a writer who combines no little vivacity and graphic force with massive and first-hand learning. In compiling the second of the above volumes he has searched the archives of the Inquisition in Venice, and he gives gruesome extracts from the minutes of the human fiends who conducted the examination of the 'heretics' who fell into their clutches. In producing such works for the enlightenment of his countrymen Dr. Comba well deserves the encouragement of his fellow 'Protestanti' in this country; and on their own merits the above, as well as other productions of his pen, are worthy of the highest commendation.

BURNET'S HISTORY OF MY OWN TIME. PART I. THE REIGN OF CHARLES THE SECOND. EDITED BY OSMUND AIRY, M.A. (Oxford: *At the Clarendon Press*. 8vo, Vol. i, pp. xxxv, 608. 12s. 6d.)

If the Delegates of the Clarendon Press would undertake a new edition of all the great English classics, one after another, would find scholars to edit them as competently as this, and would issue them as cheaply and as handsomely, what a service they would render to English literature. And large as the order is, it is not too large for the

Clarendon Press. This volume is so temptingly perfect that it encourages us to hope for the very greatest things.

The new edition of Burnet is based on that of Dr. M. J. Routh. Mr. Osmund Airy has undertaken the reign of Charles II. He has retained such notes of Dr. Routh's edition as still seem worth retaining; he has let the rest go. In particular, he has retained the most of the notes by Onslow, Dartmouth, and Dr. Routh himself; and, in particular, he has let go the most impertinent of the contemptuous snarls of Swift. And he has added notes of his own, which seem as impartial, and certainly as sympathetic, as any that went before, as truly scientific and informing.

It is interesting to find that after impartial and most capable verification, Mr. Airy believes heartily in Burnet. It is remarkable, he says, how free from wilful misrepresentation and even from serious mistakes Burnet is—most remarkable in a man writing of his own day and such a day. Yet 'I am satisfied that as regards the age of Charles II., with which alone I am concerned, he is, with but few exceptions, both as to events and persons, conspicuously and honourably fair in tone, even though frequently inaccurate in detail; especially—and here I speak with still more confidence—is this the case when Scotland and Scotsmen are his theme.' And as to the inaccuracies in detail, Mr. Airy's marvel is that, depending so largely upon hearsay, as of course he had to do, Burnet escaped as he did. The controversy over Burnet's historical accuracy is an old and bitter one. This emphatic and capable judgment ought to settle it now.

THE LIFE AND WORK OF ST. PAUL. BY F. W. FARRAR, D.D., F.R.S. (*Cassell*. Crown 8vo, pp. 781. 3s. 6d.)

This is a cheap edition of Farrar's great work on St. Paul. It is one of the cheapest books ever published. A well-printed volume of 781 pages, with sixteen full-page illustrations, is published at three shillings and sixpence—surely it is the low-water mark at last.

THE EMPHASISED BIBLE. BY J. B. ROTHERHAM. (*Allenson*. 4to, Part i, pp. 64. 2s.)

It is impossible to describe this work. The author's own description, which must have cost him something, is: 'A new translation, designed to set forth the exact meaning, the proper terminol-

ogy, and the graphic style of the sacred originals ; arranged to show at a glance narrative, speech, parallelism, and logical analysis,—also to enable the student readily to distinguish the several Divine names ; and emphasised throughout, after the idioms of the Hebrew and Greek tongues.' Let us add that it is beautifully printed and marvellously accurate, and let us encourage every Bible lover to buy this part and see.

**SYRIAN STONE-LORE.** BY LIEUT.-COL. C. R. CONDER, LL.D., M.R.A.S., R.E. (*Palestine Exploration Fund.* Crown 8vo, pp. xvi, 484. With Maps and Illustrations. 7s. 6d.)

The important feature of the new edition is a series of notes at the end of the book. The text is unaltered beyond the correction of misprints or the like. But in these notes there is reference made to the 'finds' that the last ten years have produced, and to the voluminous literature upon them. Thus, as Colonel Conder says, it is in our power by comparing the book with the notes and references to trace the growth of knowledge due to exploration in the East.

**WORDS OF COUNSEL.** BY J. B. PEARSON, LL.D., D.D. (*Elliot Stock.* Crown 8vo, pp. xx, 101.)

Dr. J. B. Pearson, sometime Bishop of Newcastle, N.S.W., and lately Vicar of Leck, in Lancashire, kept a commonplace book. When he died his widow published the book, swelling its volume and adding to its worth by a selection of the happiest things which Dr. Pearson himself had said in his sermons. This is the book. The extracts are brief, every extract has a title, and there are useful indexes of authors and subjects.

The Bishop of Manchester writes an introduction to the volume. He says he cannot do so with any enthusiasm, for 'short extracts even from the best books bring me little either of profit or interest.' But if people will read books of the kind, the Bishop of Manchester thinks they had better read this than many another. And after a careful search—and we have no more love for the 'snippet' than Dr. Moorhouse has—we agree with him wholly.

**THE TENDENCIES OF MODERN THEOLOGY.**  
BY THE REV. JOHN S. BANKS. (*Kelly.* Crown 8vo, pp. vi, 269. 3s. 6d.)

If we cannot have both a religion and a theology, we may let the theology go. But the

man who is thoroughly furnished to every good work has both. And Professor Banks, as a typical Wesleyan, not only has the faith, but is always ready to give an account of it.

Here are twelve essays. They are all theological. And the theology is living and modern. For Professor Banks, again the typical Wesleyan, is no speculative mediæval theologian, but thinks because he believes. It is what one might call an apologetic theology. It is set for the defence of the gospel. If there were not a glorious gospel to defend, Professor Banks would have no interest in theology.

According to these essays the 'tendencies of modern theology' are mostly the wrong way. They are in two directions, to be marked by the two names Ritschl and Pfeiderer. Apart as these names and their 'tendencies' may be (they are not so far apart as they seem), they are equally offensive to Professor Banks. For they carry away the gospel. Pfeiderer frankly and unreservedly, Ritschl subtly and perhaps unconsciously, yet both carry away the gospel. And every modification of Ritschlianism, as every movement of Pfeiderer, has still that characteristic—it carries away the gospel.

The essays are mainly reviews, and have all appeared elsewhere. Yet they are a system. And it would be hard to find a volume which gave so clear or so convincing an account of the way these modern theologies would lead us astray if we were foolish enough to follow them.

**A COMMENTARY ON THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS.** BY T. C. EDWARDS, M.A., D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton.* 8vo, pp. xxxix, 491. 10s. 6d.)

Next to the Epistle to the Hebrews, it is First Corinthians that has chiefly received the attention of our modern English scholars. Some men have done their best work upon it. Dr. Edwards has scarcely done any other work. This has been enough to give him a lasting reputation. The new issue, which is described as the third edition, is a reprint of the second. The only difference we can discover is the omission of the preface to the second edition, so that now the preface to the first edition stands alone. In that second preface Dr. Edwards regretted the omission from his introduction of the names of Dr. Hodge and Dean Stanley. Has he now regretted his regret? Other-

wise all stands as before. Mr. Beet is still Mr. Beet, Canon Farrar is still Canon Farrar. But the price is less. And that to some of us is a leading consideration.

ARNOLD OF RUGBY: HIS SCHOOL LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION. EDITED BY J. J. FINDLAY, M.A. (Cambridge: *At the University Press*. Crown, 8vo, pp. xxiv, 263. 5s.)

Here is Arnold the Great. For after all he is going to outlive his famous son. Here is Arnold the schoolmaster, not the school inspector, and it is as the schoolmaster he is here. There are sermons, it is true, but they are the sermons of a schoolmaster, and they deal with education. For Mr. Findlay's interests are educational. In short, this is an educational manual, with Arnold as hero and interest. The story is well told. Stanley's *Life*, the letters, the sermons, the essays—all are skilfully made use of. And always there is the modern and more scientific spirit manifest. How would these Rugby ways be reckoned now? is the perpetual query you feel if you do not hear. Then the volume ends with an analytical index and most useful bibliographies: Arnold's own works and works on Arnold; works on the Great Schools, works by the great schoolmasters, and works on education generally.

A SONG OF ISSACHAR. By GEORGE EAYRS. (*Burroughs*. Crown 8vo, pp. 236.)

It is 'a story of the times of Wesley and Kilham.' It is the great heartburning which issued in the Methodist New Connexion seen at work in private. It is touching enough, even tragic here and there. But it made men and women.

THE PLACE OF DEATH IN EVOLUTION. By NEWMAN SMYTH. (*Fisher Unwin*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiii, 227. 5s.)

Newman Smyth is a most accomplished theologian. In the *International Theological Library* he has been accepted as fit to stand beside Bruce and Driver. He is a modern theologian. He knows the old theology, and he knows that it will not do to-day. Not that it was wrong, or is wrong now. Newman Smyth never says that; but that it is inadequate now, unimpressive, unvitalising now.

Newman Smyth holds that we are on the eve of a reconstruction of theology. Darwin has made it necessary. And so the new theology will consider Darwin. Now Darwin means natural life. The new theology will take account of the things which physical science has gathered, especially it will reach out its hand to the modern science of biology.

Newman Smyth hopes to reconstruct and write the new theology himself. This is preliminary to it. This is but a little run before the race, to feel his fitness for it, perhaps also to feel your temper a little, since you are to be the judge. It is not final, therefore, this little work, but it is most charmingly fresh and thoughtful.

CREATION WITH DEVELOPMENT OR EVOLUTION. By J. DUDLEY R. HEWITT. (*Kegan Paul*. Crown, 8vo, pp. xiv, 197.)

Mr. Hewitt, who is a retired captain of the Royal Navy, believes in creation with development, and other things, especially in religious education. He proves the necessity of giving our children a religious education by describing the process of the creation of the world. For the creation of the world was on this wise: 'God's spirit working in the inner coil, stirring up the heart (the soft iron coil) or soul, and stimulating the body (the outer coil) into action.' And in the process there were some interesting situations. 'What rollicking fun wind and water must have had together, as they careered round and round the great ballroom of an unbroken earth's surface. . . . Was not this the wedding of wind and water—the bridegroom wind, and water the bride? But we have claimed for air that it assisted earth to bring forth. Has he two wives? Surely he is a Jacob, with the loved sea for his Rachel and earth for his Leah. Or have we maligned him? And is the sea his only wife—a Rebecca who brings forth twins: the one beloved of his father, air, a hairy man; the other smooth and slippery, beloved of his mother?' After finding gravity sticking to nearly everything, Mr. Hewitt says: 'The question will be raised, Who was the serpent?' and after several likely suggestions, he comes to the conclusion satisfactorily, that he was an African snake worshipper crawling into the presence of his chief, and will crawl as long as they hold that belief.

## SMALLER BOOKS.

1. THE CHRIST OF THE HIGHER CRITICS. BY THE REV. WILLIAM SPIERS, M.A., F.G.S. (*Kelly*. 1s.)
2. THE PRESENT STATE OF BIBLICAL CRITICISM AS REGARDS THE NEW TESTAMENT. BY A. H. CHARTERIS, D.D. (Edinburgh: *Thin*.)
3. THE ANCIENT BRITISH CHURCHES. BY THE REV. W. M. SINCLAIR, D.D. (*Elliot Stock*. 1s.)
4. THE CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF SACERDOTIUM. BY THE REV. N. DIMOCK, M.A. (*Elliot Stock*. 1s. 6d.)
5. THE RIVAL POLICIES. BY THE REV. W. MUIR, B.D., B.L. (Leith; *Nimmo*.)
6. ESCHATOLOGY. BY THE REV. R. F. GARBETT. (New Zealand: *Christchurch Press*.)
7. JUDAS, ANCIENT AND MODERN. BY R. M'LEAN. (Glasgow: *Westbank Place*. 2d.)
8. SEVENTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-SEVEN. BY THE REV. DAVID HEATH. (*Burroughs*. 2d.)

## Professor Hommel on the Evidential Value of Hebrew Proper Names.

BY G. BUCHANAN GRAY, M.A., MANSFIELD COLLEGE, OXFORD.

THE attention of readers of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES was directed a few months since<sup>1</sup> to a then forthcoming volume of Professor Hommel's, and to my own recently published work, *Studies in Hebrew Proper Names*. It was clear even then that Professor Hommel and myself were at variance with regard to the historical character of the names in the Priestly Code. In the interval Professor Hommel's work has appeared, and in the preface to the English edition he claims that, although it was written without knowledge of my work, the investigations contained in it, 'based as they are on material obtained from inscriptions, furnish a sufficient reply to Gray's contention.' External evidence 'must be the banner under which all students of Old Testament literature are to range themselves in the future.' Professor Hommel's book is likely to come into the hands of many readers of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, and I therefore gladly avail myself of the opportunity offered me to indicate the grounds on which I consider the claim of Professor Hommel's preface unjustified, and many of the conclusions drawn in the volume itself insecure. For a fuller vindication of my own position and more detailed criticism of some of Professor Hommel's suggestions, I may refer those who are interested in the subject to an article in a forthcoming number of the *Expositor*.

In the first place, I must explain that the

<sup>1</sup> In the April number, pp. 329 f.

implication in Professor Hommel's preface, as cited above, that my book has neglected the inscriptions, is unfounded. My investigations were carried out with constant reference to the inscriptions; and, with one or two exceptions to which I will refer, the whole of the names from the inscriptions mentioned by Professor Hommel were known and weighed by me when writing, and many of them are actually mentioned in the book. Then, again, Professor Hommel uses 'external evidence' in a curious way. To regard the Hebrew scriptures as a source of secondary importance in studying Hebrew names is extraordinary; nor, of course, does Professor Hommel actually do this; but that being so, his sentence, so far as it has reference to myself, becomes meaningless. I feel it necessary to draw attention to these facts to check the inference which is suggested by Professor Hommel's preface, that his book is based on new and superior material unknown to and unused by myself. This is not the case. Relevant Hebrew inscriptions do not exist. The inscriptions used by Professor Hommel are mainly Assyrian and South Arabian; these contain most valuable indirect evidence with regard to the history of Hebrew proper names; but they contain no direct evidence as to the names in use among the Hebrews of the Mosaic period. The cause of the difference between Professor Hommel and myself lies not in the use of different material,