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IT seems an easy thing for a student to say to himself, "I will study the Bible." But let him proceed to the doing of it and, if he is faithful and conscientious, he soon finds that he has undertaken a task which might almost be called stupendous. A primary and fundamental requisite of his 'equipment for that endeavor is courage. He will need it in the choice of a method—a method that shall be his own and call forth his best powers. He will need it in his determination to cut loose from all dependence on helps, to save him from the thoughtless acceptance of other men's conclusions, from the distrust of his own powers, and from the adoption of traditional opinions because they are traditional. He will need it, after he has stepped forth upon his independent path, to pursue that course resolutely through the thickets and tangled underbrush of the way, the drudgery and weariness of elementary studies which often bear but indirectly on the main effort. For all this and more of the same kind, a true, devoted student of the Bible preëminently must have courage.

If this rare trait of character has been thus developed in the beginnings of his work on the Scriptures, there need be no fear that the student will fail to possess and manifest it in the holding of his conclusions. It requires a far more vigorous exercise of courage in these days to form an independent judgment than it does to maintain it when formed. We, upon whom the ends of the ages have come, are the heirs also of the learning and traditions of the ages. It is this latter inheritance which must be resolutely worked through and worked over into the metal of one's own conviction. Strenuous is the endeavor; weary, the toil. There is the stress; there, the oft-failing struggle. But, once it is accomplished, the sense of relief, the consciousness of victory, the possession of clear vision, of independent decision—these are the satisfactions worthy the storm and strife. Too often is the emphasis misplaced when we remark upon the courage of some scholar in uttering his independent convictions. Let us rather admire the courage that is to be seen in that secret purpose, that earlier decision, that silent but heroic endeavor which carried him successfully through the self-opened path of investigation. No one can courageously maintain his convictions about God's truth until he has had the courage resolutely to break out his own path in their formation.

THE work of "the American Institute of Sacred Literature" has fairly begun. The four departments, viz., those of (1) the Correspondence School, (2) the Summer Schools, (3) Special Courses, and (4) Examinations, are already organized and in operation. The connection of the STUDENT with the Institute, while entirely unofficial, will be very close. The interests of the journal and those of the Institute lie in the same direction. It is confidently believed that the constituency of the STUDENT will feel drawn toward this new undertaking. Is it too much to ask each one who reads this paragraph to consider two or three questions? Whether, for example, (1) there is not some one of the correspondence courses in Hebrew, New Testament Greek, the ancient versions, the Cognate languages, the English Old Testament, or the English New Testament, in which he might work with pleasure and profit? Or, (2) whether there is not material enough and interest enough in the particular locality in which he lives to lead to the organization of a "Local Board" which should lead to a summer institute in the summer of 1890 for the study of the Bible in its original languages or in English? Or, (3) whether through him or his influence there might not be organized during the coming winter an "Institute Bible Club" for the thorough study of some subject or some book? Or, (4) whether he would not propose to the adult classes of the Sunday School to which he belongs (for, of course, he is a

member of a Sunday School) that, in December, 1890, at the close of the work in Luke (the entire year being given to the study of this book), they take the examination in Luke which will be offered to the whole Sunday School world by the Institute of Sacred Literature, an examination which will be of two or three grades, and for the passing of which there will be given a certificate, issued by men who, it may fairly be said, represent the biblical scholarship of America?

In one or another, or perhaps in all of these ways, will not the readers of the STUDENT aid and be aided by the new Institute?

In a recent issue of one of the weekly religious papers appeared a report of a lecture upon the book of Amos. The following note is prefixed:—"The 893d lecture in the consecutive study of the Bible by George Dana Boardman, D.D." The fact is worthy of thoughtful attention, that a clergyman has been willing faithfully and persistently to pursue such a course of study himself and to lead a body of thoughtful, religious people with him into such fields. Both are to be congratulated and the example is worthy to be followed. Worthy of commendation, also, is the practice, here exemplified, of taking an entire book of the Bible as the subject of a single religious discourse. This matter has been more than once alluded to in the columns of the STUDENT and a similar undertaking urged upon all preachers. Such biblical preaching is both fresh and stimulating in itself, while it also cultivates a habit of thought and expression in the preacher that will give him increasing power and pungency in all his pulpit and pastoral activity.

In this connection, as a sign of the times, it is worth while to call attention to a programme, lying before us, of the work of a Pastoral Union in one of our large cities. Out of eleven subjects for essays and discussions, seven are directly concerned with the Bible and biblical subjects. Such matters are considered as "The Hittite Empire," "How many Psalms are Davidic?" "The New Era in Bible Study," "Review of Ladd's 'What is the Bible?" "Fulfillment of Prophecy."

This may fairly be regarded as an example of the trend of study among the ministry, which is turning with more and more increasing attention and thought to biblical problems. There is hope in this fact;—hope for theological studies, hope for the personal life of the preacher, for his pulpit and pastoral activity, hope for the people and the world. For more earnest and scientific study of the Scriptures means all this and—how much more than this!

ONE cannot compare the present status of English-Bible study in college with that of three or four years ago without being struck with the wonderful advance which has been made in respect to both amount and character. It is too early, as yet, to know the exact facts, for in many colleges classes are just beginning to organize. We shall not go far wrong in saying that at least three men are engaged in the work this year where in 1886 one man had undertaken it. some institutions the increase in numbers is still greater. But this is not the more important aspect of the case. A kind of work is being done to-day which was hardly thought possible three years ago. The superficial handling of a few much abused texts has been found to be insufficient. College men will no longer endure such work. They have asked for a consecutive treatment of an important period, or of a fundamental question. They have, in other words, asked for a treatment of the Bible which will lift it, from the degraded position which it has hitherto been allowed to occupy, to a place as least as high as that which is accorded profane literature. That the Bible has not been studied in college, that the colleges have turned out so many skeptics, is due to the absurd, the weak, the childish character of the instruction sought to be furnished. College students are thinking men, not puling infants. Many of them want meat; some of them may be satisfied with milk; none of them will accept what a fair trial has shown to be "unsubstantial."

NOTES FROM THE EAST.*

By Professor JOHN P. PETERS, Ph.D.,

Niffer, Turkey.

I am so depressed by the dismal condition of Turkey and its population at the present day that it is difficult for me not to write a missionary paper instead of one of archæological or biblical interest. However, the utter desolation of the present sets forth all the more forcibly the glories of the past.

I landed in Alexandretta December 8th, and pressed forward rapidly to join the remainder of my companions and the caravan in Aleppo, and start for Baghdad, the natural headquarters for operations in Mesopotamia. The first signs of ancient civilization which we encountered were on the great plain of Antioch. From El-Hammam, on the eastern edge of the plain, famous hot springs of antiquity, but now a miserable mud village, we counted eighteen mounds, all sites of ancient mounds or temples. This plain extends from Antioch on the south to Marash on the north, in a direction from southwest to northeast. It is divided in the middle by a low watershed. The soil is of almost boundless fertility, and the Orontes and other streams afford abundant means of irrigation. In Bible times it must have supported a teeming population. It was the natural line of march for an Assyrian army crossing the Euphrates at Birejik, or Carchemish, and advancing on Palestine or Egypt. Zinjirli (Sandjilik of Kiepert's map), where the Germans have been conducting excavations, lies in the northern half of this plain, above the before-mentioned low watershed, which divides it into two unequal parts. As you doubtless already know, the Germans discovered here rude so-called Hittite sculptures, and Phænician and Assyrian inscriptions. So far as I know this is the only work of excavation undertaken in this great plain, and I could but groan with vexation to think of the immense wealth of unknown history hidden perhaps forever in the many mounds scattered everywhere about us.

^{*} Dated April 8, 1889.

From Hammam our road lay through an unspeakably barren region, mere heaps of rocks, sometimes rising into hills, and sometimes sown broadcast, with here and there an oasis of visible soil. How the horses kept their footing on some of the tracks over heaps of loose stones and boulders, polished by use, and rendered still more slippery by a rain, would be a mystery to any one who has not ridden Turkish horses over Turkish roads. The central point of this region is Jebel Sima'an, or Simon's Mountain, quite a high peak, visible far beyond Aleppo on the east. It is named after Simon Stylites, although not the actual mountain of his folly, and to him are due the ruins of monasteries, churches, cells and tombs which abound in those regions. According to the regular practice of the country, which has even turned the tomb of Polycarp at Smyrna into a Mohammedan shrine, there is now a ziaret on the summit of Jebel Sima'an. This is the region whither the hermits and self-torturers of the degenerating Christian ages resorted, and a region better adapted to that abnormal and forbidding development of religion could not have been found in any land that I have ever seen. Not a tree, not a blade of grass, only huge masses of loose rock hurled about in a monotonously weird confusion. The ruins of this part of the country are very numerous, and the region is largely unexplored.

Toward the east these immense, hopelessly sterile stone fields gradually change into a rocky, or perhaps better, stony plateau, on which lies the city of Aleppo. Excepting Smyrna I have seen no city in Asiatic Turkey where life beats with so strong a pulse, but from an archæological stand-point the only object of interest is the citadel. This is built on a great artificial stone mound or hill, dating from the most remote antiquity, but repaired at more recent periods, so that much of the work now visible may be comparatively modern. It is visible for very many miles in every direction.

It was the afternoon of Thursday, the 13th of December, when we left Aleppo in a rain storm, and started for Baghdad via the Euphrates valley. Our first Sunday was spent at Meskeneh, Turkish barracks on the Euphrates, the highest point to which the steamboats of the enterprising Midhat Pasha succeeded in navigating that stream. Our second Sunday was spent at Deir, a city of about 10,000 inhabitants, and

a military station of some importance. Our third Sunday was spent at the long extended village of Anah, the beginning of Babylonia, so far as climate and the like are concerned, where one first finds palm trees in abundance. Our fourth Sunday was spent at Kala'at Feluja, in Mesopotamia, where a bridge of boats was built across the Euphrates a few years since. Tuesday afternoon, January 8th, we entered what is called in our official permission "the glorious city of Bagdad."

The Euphrates valley is the natural route for an army marching from Babylon to the Mediterranean. Had the objective point of such a march been northern Syria, the route would have been throughout the same as ours, while if Palestine or Egypt had been aimed at, it would have followed the Euphrates valley upward to Deir, I suppose, and then crossed a small part of the desert toward Damascus. When David extended his conquests to the Euphrates, or when Nebuchadnezzar's great armies invaded Palestine and Egypt, the line of the river was, I presume, thickly settled, although the ruins which are visible between Aleppo and Kala'at Feluja are almost entirely of later origin. But if the number of the people has diminished, wealth disappeared, and forests and gardens become barren wastes, the life and customs of the common people have remained to a large extent unchanged, and the traveler by caravan to-day travels in much the same manner as travelers did in the days when the merchants of Babylon used to carry wonderful silk goods to the court at Jerusalem, or as when Jewish pilgrims journeyed to and fro between the Holy City and the land to which their fathers had been carried captive. The fertility and the possibilities of the Euphrates valley were a constant source of amazement to me no less than were the utter neglect of the land and the almost hopeless impoverishment and degradation of the people throughout the greater part of it. There are no trees north of Anah, but only tamarisk jungle. The villages are built sometimes of mud, more often of reeds and tamarisk boughs, or else they are camps of rough black tents, banked by brush on three sides, and open to heat and cold on the fourth. How the greater portion of the inhabitants endure the cold I cannot comprehend. There was often frost at night, and on several occasions the puddles and small ponds remained frozen until nine or ten o'clock in the morning. We suffered

severely from this cold, much more, owing to the condition of our life, than we had ever suffered at home. Caravans are in the habit of starting often long before daybreak, in order to come to rest as long before sunset as possible, otherwise they cannot procure food or fuel, or attend to the numerous small matters needful to man and beast after a hard day's journey. We used to start at any time from two o'clock to five or six, and the first few hours, until half-past seven or eight, were always hours of suffering. After this time the temperature was delightful, with the exception of two or three cloudy and rainy days, and at noon the sun was almost too hot. This is the winter climate which people now, and I suppose from time immemorial have endured without sufficient fire or clothing. Camel's dung, tamarisk brush or camelthorn, where they exist, and, in the neighborhood of Hit, bitumen, are the materials of which they make their scanty fires. But it is camel's dung which constitutes the main fuel of the people. You find it everywhere, stowed away for use in sacks, and called coal. In Bible times there was perhaps more wood throughout the whole Turkish empire than at present, but along the Euphrates valley I presume that wood was never abundant, and the scant and insufficient use of fuel which one finds to-day existed in the days when Ezra undertook the journey to Jerusalem. The same conditions also existed, I imagine, in the matter of housing and clothing. While we were suffering from the cold protected by the heaviest clothing we could wear, the natives were exposed to it half naked, and indeed we sometimes saw the children out of doors entirely naked.

But I find that I am spinning out my observations to an inordinate length, and telling, as I fear, nothing that is new or worth the hearing. Only two things I will add. One is that I have been constantly more and more impressed with the unchangeableness of the country, and the valuable commentary which the present affords upon the past. This has been forcibly illustrated during the progress of our excavations at Niffer, or as it is here pronounced Nufar, ancient Nipur, and said by the Talmud to be the Calneh of the book of Genesis. In a number of instances objects which were inexplicable to us have been explained by the workmen, who recognized in them things familiar in their every day use.

The other is the curious difference of type observable along the Euphrates, and also among the tribes of southern Mesopotamia. At Anah the faces seem to be Semitic, of a fine and rather delicate type, while the people of the region immediately to the south, and more particularly the people of Hit, seemed to belong to an entirely different race. Similarly the Affek Arabs, among whom we now are, and the Montefik, further to the south, among whom I have just made a little journey, seemed to me strikingly different. The former are Semitic, but among the latter the noses seem inclined to turn up rather than down, the faces to be broader, and the heads rounder. What explanation to give to these facts, if facts they really are, I hardly know.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH PSALM: AN EXPOSITORY SKETCH.

By GEORGE S. GOODSPEED,

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This Psalm divides naturally into two parts. No one could fail to notice the division. The first six verses sing themselves along like the stately flow of a broad river. The four following resound like the voice of a trumpet among the mountains. The first section declares the universal dominion of Jehovah in the world and proclaims the character requisite in those who shall gather to worship him. In the second, the gates of some ancient city or building are bidden to lift themselves high to admit one who is the King of Glory, Jehovah of Hosts, Israel's God. It is a natural conjecture, then, made by Ewald, that here have been united under one title the fragments of two Davidic Psalms. Stray snatches of sacred song come floating down the tide of tradition and by zealous, watchful fishers have been caught in the net of the Psalter; then; pieced together with more or less skill, and crowned with a single title, have been mounted in the song collection for

the edification of the church—and often to the wonder and despair of the critical student who searches vainly for the link which joins the two in one. Whether the twenty-fourth Psalm is thus composite will always be an open question with some, dependent on the weight of evidence in favor of one or another connecting idea proposed as the thought in the psalmist's mind which lifted him over the chasm between verses six and seven.

It is strange, however, we may remark in passing that the new critics forget that abrupt transitions are not so surprising in poetry, especially in that of the East. They plead all the peculiarities and irregularities of lyric song where these are needed to defend their conjectures and demand strict logical sequences when any poor psalm cries out against the rack or the dissecting table.

Tradition has connected our psalm with a notable event in the history of David. Its significance is greatly heightened when it is studied in its historical connection. The occasion and the song fit into one another like a jewel gleaming more brightly in its golden setting:

David, king of all Israel, has conquered the one hostile stronghold in all his land, the city of the Jebusites, Jerusalem. He makes it the capital of his kingdom. It must also become the religious center of the nation. The ark of God rests in the house of Abinidab and preparations are made to remove it to a sanctuary prepared for it in the capital city. The first attempt ends disastrously in the death of Uzzah. The ark is left in the house of Obed Edom for three months. preparations are made for its removal, at this time on a grand scale as well as more strictly in accordance with the divine law. A splendid company of singers, musicians, soldiers, priests and levites, together with multitudes of the people, and led by King David himself, descend to the place where the ark lies and bring it in triumph to Jerusalem. The levites bear it on their shoulders, preceded by the singers and followed by the musicians with the glad people gathering about them, in solemn, stately procession, with song and psalm and sacred dance, until the emblem of the divine presence is deposited in the tabernacle. Now, either on this occasion this psalm was sung or it was afterward composed by one who threw into it all his joyful recollections of that memorable scene.

Studied from this historical point of view, the psalm possesses a unity and an impressiveness characteristic of almost no other song in the Psalter. Let us in imagination follow the course of the procession as it starts from the home of the Gittite, and find in the historical setting and geographical circumstances.help toward the understanding of the poetical order of thought. As they slowly advanced over hill and valley of that then beautiful and fertile land, as each higher elevation disclosed broader reaches of waving forests and spreading harvests, as away off to the west the sparkle of the waters of the Great Sea gleamed in their eyes, and to the east the silvery Jordan bore its waters in swift descent from the Lake of Tiberias, how fitting that they who carried the ark of God, beholding all this scene should sing

"Jehovah's is the earth and its fullness, The world and its dwellers, For he hath founded it upon the seas And established it upon the rivers."

This bright assurance of Jehovah's possession of the whole earth bathes the entire psalm in its radiance. It is the inspiration of the true Israel all along the nation's history. Happy is any man in whose life that thing is a practical, living truth. If the earth is the Lord's, the world and its inhabitants—then, somehow or other, in spite of doubts and fears and falls, in spite of sin and sorrow, nay, even by means of them, there will come forth good, only good at last. He shall be satisfied and if to Him all shall be well, what earnest, faithful, struggling soul may not cherish immortal hope?

And now in their upward course there appeared before them the frowning heights of the city, and highest of all, the place of the Tabernacle—the Holy Hill. The very thought of the universal dominion of Jehovah, enhancing the consciousness of his personal glory and dignity, made them realize the need of purity and righteousness in his worshipers. Behind them lay the dark remembrance of Uzzah smitten of God for his impiety. Before them towered the hill of the Lord. We can almost see the awe-struck company halt before the overwhelming thought until, their hearts burning within them, they take up the song:—

"Who shall ascend into the hill of Jehovah?

And who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands and a pure heart,

Who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity,

And hath not sworn deceitfully;

He shall receive a blessing from Jehovah,

And righteousness from the God of his salvation."

Then follow two lines which are somewhat obscure. They seem to be in answer to the personal inquiry which was pressing on their hearts, which weighs down all true, aspiring souls—"Are we pure enough to stand before the Lord? Dare we ascend his holy hill?" They reply with a consciousness of integrity:—

This is the nation of them that seek after Him, That seek Thy face, even Jacob.

Though Jacob dare not assert itself to be in all respects the realization of the ideal which it has conceived suitable for a worshiper of Jehovah, yet it feels that unquenchable yearning above all other nations of the earth to enter into communion with Him—"to seek thy face, O God."

Again has the singer risen above all temporal and local bonds and spoken forth words of universal human import. The very wideness of Jehovah's dominion may enhance the awfulness of his holiness in the thought of a sinful soul. As face answers to face, so, in the light of the divine purity, shines the lofty ideal of human rectitude. Yes, and the more terribly clear is the vision of human weakness and folly. Our own favorite goodnesses which we so fondly cherish grow very small and very dark when the divine model of human character and life is set down beside them. Still, despair is not the key-note of life. It is not instantaneous resemblance, but instant search and constant endeavor after Him that Jehovah desires. It is not some hard, mechanical purity or cleanliness that God loves. So far as men, in spite of soiling and marring, have their faces toward the light,-though it be Jacob, even Jacob, yet Jacob after Bethel, the Jacob that seeks the Lord,—so far do they partake of that fine, high character, which God reveals and bestows.

Little by little as they slowly advance, have the towers and battlements of the city risen before them until they now stand before the ancient gates of the fortress. Its walls are lined with the joyful citizens and at the entrance stands a company of singers and priests to receive the emblem of a new religion, the symbol of the conquering Jehovah. Then in responsive choruses from without and within, the psalm rings out its salute and its challenge:—

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates, And be ye lifted up, ye ancient doors, That the King of Glory may come in."

As though the entrance was not lofty enough to equal the dignity of the royal personage who was about to enter.

"Who, then, is the King of Glory?"

The old city of Jebus must know who thus boldly demands entrance into the walls which have received Melchisedek.

"Jehovah the strong, the champion, Jehovah, the champion in battle."

"Lift up your heads, O ye gates,
Yea, lift them up, ye ancient doors,
That the King of Glory may come in."

Not yet is the warder satisfied:

"Who, then, is the King of Glory?"

And the response comes crashing overwhelmingly in upon him:

"Jehovah of Hosts; He is the King of Glory."

The challenger is silenced and He that sitteth upon the cherubim advances to occupy, as rightful King, His holy city.

In thus making the psalm a reminiscence of the upward journey on that remarkable day—"the greatest day in David's life," says Stanley—we gain a clearer conception of the unity of it while the scene itself lends a dignity to the lyric, making it the poetical transcript of an important passage in the history of Israel.

We are brought also to a point whence we may look forward with clearness to the typical significance of this poem.

Evidently it has a messianic character. The bringing of the ark of Jehovah to its rest in the Holy City is an event pointing onward, prefiguring the final coming of one, who is the antitype of the Ark, into the Heavenly Zion. But here an interpretation meets us which has to-day almost universal acceptance. It is that the Psalm, especially its latter half, is a prediction of the ascension of the Christ into heaven. This view was first maintained by the Fathers. It has been accepted by the English Church, which reads this psalm on Ascension Day. Even so critical a scholar as Prof. Briggs, in his Messianic Prophecy, seems to favor it. But, as Dr. Delitzsch suggests, such a reference as this violates all true exegesis as well as the analogy of Old and New Testament ideas. No one but those who were determined to find the Ascension in this Psalm would ever have forced it to give this interpretation.

As an Old Testament teaching, it is plainly an Advent Hymn corresponding to the prophecy of Isaiah, "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." He who is the Lord of the world cometh into his earthly sanctuary to dwell with men. The gates, not of Heaven, but of any earthly dwelling-place or city, are too lowly to be equal to the lofty dignity of the King of the Earth. Not angelic hosts but human beings question the right of this King of Glory until they are made aware that Jehovah of the Hosts of Heaven is standing at their gates.

After all, man's drawing near to God means God's drawing near to man. Talk as you will of the progress of the species, that only is real progress which is toward God and we move toward God only as we enter more and more into his revelation of himself. Here lies the only hope of purity for man. To the voice crying unceasingly for "clean hands and a pure heart," comes the loud and clear response, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, that the King of Glory may come in." In his entrance into the temple of the human life, he brings purification and peace into its inner sanctuary. The coming of the Christ is the glorification of humanity.

In the New Testament circle of ideas the second advent is prefigured by the first. The New Testament Zion, the

Heavenly Jerusalem, is the Church. When Jesus said, "the hour cometh, when neither in this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall ye worship the Father," he brought to nought the local worship of God, but only because he was come to earth to establish a spiritual, universal worship by dwelling in the midst of his church. So that the true fulfillment of this prophecy is found in the inspired words of the author of the Epistle to the Hebrews, "Ye are come to Mount Zion, unto the city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem," which is heaven brought to earth in the abiding presence of Iesus the Christ with his people, the Temple of the Lord. And it shall receive its full-rounded completeness when the Christ shall finally appear, and they who attend him shall cry at the portals of his earthly temple, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates" and saints within long expecting shall reply, "Who then is this, the King of Glory?" and without waiting for a reply fling wide the doors and together the whole company, the general assembly and church of the first-born in heaven and earth shall take up the strain, "Fesus Christ, he is the Lord of Hosts, he is the King of Glory."

THE STUDY OF THE COGNATES.

By Professor George H. Schodde, Ph.D.,

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It is almost a work of supererogation to point out the necessity and benefits for the student of Hebrew of an acquaintance with the dialects organically connected by family relation with the language of the Old Testament. The fact that the Old Testament men in America are in constantly increasing numbers engaging in this attractive work is evidence sufficient that this necessity and utility are clearly understood. The study stands in the closest possible connection with that method of investigation which in the records of modern science has been the most fruitful of far-reaching results, namely, the comparative. It is an application to Old Testament philology of that method which not only in the natural sciences,

but also in the mental and moral, has contributed most to their best advancement, although its one-sided abuse has also sometimes been the cause of immature and unwise hypotheses.

To this principle of sound method must in the case of Hebrew be added also the fact that the meagre and limited literature of the language refuses to supply the student with all the material and data which he needs for an intelligent understanding of the sacred tongue. To only a limited extent is a deeper understanding than the mechanical possible on the basis of the Hebrew alone. In both grammar and lexicon much must remain unsolved without the aid of the sister tongues. Even in those grammars which aim to explain the Hebrew on the basis of its own data merely, as is done by Ewald, the principles and philosophy given of the origin and character of the language are almost altogether based upon the study of the cognates. The current myth that practically Hebrew has no syntax can find credence only where an ignorance of the Arabic makes an insight into this syntax an impossibility.

Naturally a student will begin his work in the cognates with the mastery of that dialect which is represented in the Old Testament itself, namely, the Aramaic, formerly and incorrectly called Chaldee. This is all the more in place because it is that sister tongue which is most closely connected with the Hebrew itself, and shows some important facts of divergence and difference equally as well as do some of the other cognates. Thus considerations both of practical utility and of method favor this beginning. Fortunately the student is enabled to do this work thoroughly because he is supplied with as good tools as he has for the Hebrew itself. The publication in the Baer-Delitzsch series of a critical Massoretic text of Ezra and Daniel furnished the basis for the preparation of a reliable grammar of Biblical Aramaic, which work was performed a half dozen years ago by the scholarly editor and reviser of Gesenius' Hebrew Grammar, Professor Kautzsch, now in Halle occupying the chair of Gesenius. In completeness and thoroughness this grammar is fully up to those of any of the cognates. About all the Hebrew lexicons cover the Biblical Aramaic also, and the researches in the latter have kept pace with those in the former department.

Aramaic grammar in the *Porta Orientalium Linguarum* series has not yet appeared in a revised form under the present management of Professor Strack and in the shape in which it last appeared in 1872 as the second edition by the founder of the series, the late Professor Petermann, it is entirely antiquated and should not be used.

Historically the next in order would be the later forms of the Aramaic as found in the Targums, the Talmuds and the Midrashim. Formerly this field was much more thoroughly cultivated by Christian scholars than were the other cognates; but from the days of the Buxtorfs down to those of Delitzsch, not only no advance was made, but there had even been retrogression. Our own day and date is witnessing a promising revival of interest in post-Biblical Hebrew, although this interest springs rather from the practical problems of Iewish mission work than from the conviction of the philological importance of later Hebrew for that of the biblical period. In the Porta series, the editor, in conjunction with Professor Siegfried, of Jena, has published in German a grammar, literature, chrestomathy and glossary of the Neo-Hebraic tongue; and Merx, of Heidelberg, has in the same series issued a most valuable Chrestomathia Targumica. Dr. Levy has just completed the publication in four large volumes of a Talmudic dictionary, having issued one on the Targums some fifteen years ago, both of these being most valuable works. Wünsche has been translating a large number of Midrashim and is now engaged in publishing a version of the Jerusalem Talmud, while other aids exist in abundance, among them several grammars written in Hebrew, such as "The Language of the Mishna," by Weiss.

Notwithstanding these helps the work in this field would scarcely repay the student, unless he were already proficient in a number of other cognates. The non-biblical language most valuable for the Hebrew is without doubt the Arabic, it being, from a philological point of view, head and shoulders above all the rest. It is so, principally because on the whole it has retained more fully than any other dialect the features and characteristics which, according to sound linguistic inquiry, must have formed part of the original and primitive Semitic tongue, out of which they all grew, and hence furnishes materially the best basis for an intelligent

understanding not only of the Hebrew but of Semitic philology in general. It is from this point of view that what is probably the best of philosophical grammars of the Hebrew, that of Olshausen, has been prepared, an independent condensation of which can be found in Bickell's excellent manual, to be had also in an English translation. The Arabic is entitled to this primacy from the further consideration that it has developed the possibilities of the Semitic languages as such far more extensively than has any of the others. The only possible exception here is to be made in favor of certain kinds of constructions and sentences which the Ethiopic, under the educational impulse of Greek models and masters, developed with even greater affluence than did the Arabic. The vast wealth of Arabic literature can all the more truly establish its claim. The fact that as a literary language it came upon the stage of history more than two thousand years after the Hebrew does not invalidate the right to preëminence, for the retention of the original features of a language does not depend upon the number of centuries it has passed through, but but upon conservatism of the speakers. Only modern Arabic has on the whole reached that stage of phonetic decay which we have reasons to believe existed in the Hebrew, already at its earliest literary stage. Thus, for instance, the loss of the third vowel in the imperfect forms, found throughout the Old Testament, is characteristic of modern Arabic as over against the classical.

The aids for the study of Arabic are of course many. The beginner will do well to take either Lansing's Manual, or Socin's Grammar in the *Porta* series. Of the latter a second edition is about to appear, both in German and English. As handy a dictionary as can be secured is the Arabic-French one published by the Jesuit fathers at Beyroot. There are a number of splendid Arabic chrestomathies with the necessary glossaries, such as Arnold's. A complete lexicon, such as Freytag's or Lane's, is naturally a large affair, as the Arabic vocabulary is about ten times as large as the Hebrew. The Arabic-English grammar of the recently deceased Professor Wright is still the best of those written on a larger and philosophical plan, chiefly because it is largely based on the native Arabic grammarians, who must be studied if an entirely satisfactory knowledge of the genius and grammar of the language,

particularly its syntax, is to be gained. But this work, as well as the study of the native lexicographers, must be left to the specialist, the ordinary student of the tongue being of necessity forced to be satisfied in this regard with information from secondary sources.

The transition from Aramaic to Arabic is much more difficult and less natural, but a good deal more profitable, than that from Aramaic to Syriac. In reality the Aramaic and Syriac are but two branches of one language, a western and an eastern, the most striking difference at first glance consisting in the difference of alphabets, consonants, vowels and other reading signs. In grammatical points they present about the same phenomena, differing from each other in this respect in degree only, but not in kind. Still the material with which the Syriac scholar operates is quite different from that of the Aramaic, the latter being almost entirely a Jewish literature, the former a Christian. Both are of more value lexicographically than grammatically, and in the latter respect more in the line of change in sound and letters than in that of the origin and character of forms, or in regard to syntax. Nestle's Syriac grammar in the Porta series, just now in a new second edition, is the best introductory manual. A handy Syriac dictionary is still a desideratum. Good chrestomathies with glossaries are those of Rödiger and Kirsch. In general the Syriac has not been as thoroughly studied from the philological point of view as has the Arabic, the chief reason being probably that the great interests of its literature are theological and historical, or at any rate they have been utilized mainly in that direction. The best larger grammar is that of Nöldeke.

The African branch of the southern section of the Semitic family is the Abyssinian. It is related closely to the Arabic, yet has many individual features as well as many that connect it with the northern branch. The literature is entirely Christian and ecclesiastical. Dillmann's larger grammar in German and large lexicon in Latin are as scientific and thorough expositions of this tongue as could be asked. Praetorius has recently in the *Porta* series issued in German and Latin an excellent Ethiopic grammar, which is by no means an extract from Dillmann, but the fruit of independent research, and

should under all circumstances be the first work put into the hand of the beginner.

Over against the other dialects Assyrian has the preëminence of being also materially a valuable source of information for the Old Testament student, and not only from the side of language. The chronology, history, literature, etc., of the Old Testament have received wonderful help from this Grammatically Assyrian cannot be said to have made valuable additions to our knowledge of Hebrew or of the Semitic languages in general, but from the point of lexicography the contributions have been good, and promise, after carefully sifting what has been found, to be still better. The great difficulty in studying this language is the acquisition of the signs. Lyon's grammar, as also the new one of Delitzsch in the *Porta* series, furnish the texts in transliteration, and the new Assyrian library in four volumes edited by Schrader. gives the most important texts in both transliteration and translation. By these means the student's path into this attractive field has been greatly smoothed.

AN OUTLINE PLAN FOR THE STUDY OF THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.

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[Remark.—The following plan is intended merely as an introduction to the questions and topics to be studied in connection with the Epistle with references to some of the most important aids to the study. It is adapted to one beginning the critical study of the book and contemplates an examination of the most important points. It does not aim to impart any instruction beyond indicating topics for study and directing the student to sources of information concerning them. In a word, it aims to show what needs to be done by one who would understand Paul's greatest doctrinal epistle.]

I. PRELIMINARY STUDIES.

(1) Read the whole epistle through carefully at a single sitting with a view to deciding (a) for what class of readers—Jewish or Gentile—it was written, (b) what was Paul's purpose in writing it. (2) How does the view taken of (a) affect that to be taken of (b)? (3) Seek any hints in the epistle or elsewhere in the New Testament that may throw light upon the founding of the Roman church. (4) What was its relation to the apostle? (5) Is the epistle properly called a "system of theology" or a "treatise"? (6) Does any reason appear in the study of the foregoing questions why the apostle should have written so elaborate and doctrinal a letter to the Roman church?

After answers, as definite as possible, have been reached by the student's own inquiry, he should consult one or more Introductions to the epistle, such as Gloag's (Int. to Paul. Eps.), Weiss' (Int. to New Test.), or those prefixed to the commentaries of Meyer or Godet.

II. ANALYSIS OF THE EPISTLE.

(I) Determine the central thought of the epistle and divide it into its (a) doctrinal and (b) practical sections. (2) Analyze carefully the treatment of this leading thought, defining how Paul treats it (a) negatively and (b) positively. (3) Taking the

portion of the epistle that establishes its central thought negatively, note how he does this in application (a) to the Gentiles and (b) to the Fews. (4) Taking the positive proof of his main thesis, distinguish (a) the general introduction of the truth to be proved, (b) the Old Testament proof of it, (c) statements of consequences, and (d) the bearing upon the theme of any further expositions of doctrine or discussion of objections. (5) Determine the purpose of chs. 9-11, and their relation to the epistle as a whole, and analyze and paraphrase their contents. (6) Note the scope of the practical and hortatory portion of the epistle.

III. EXEGESIS.

(1) Observing the analysis of the course of thought that has been made, study and make a minute analysis of the course of thought in each division as a whole. (2) Note points that are obscure and reserve them for special examination. (3) Carefully define all important words, such as faith, righteousness, justify, redemption, propitiation, consulting for the purpose, if using the Greek text, Thayer's or Cremer's Lexicon; if the study is on the basis of the English, such treatises as Godet's and Beet's commentaries may be consulted with profit. (4) Examine with special care the connections of thought as established by such words as but, for, therefore, etc. (5). Study the bearing of all Old Testament passages quoted or referred to, comparing Paul's employment of them with the force which they have in the Old Testament setting, and seeking the point of connection between the original force and the New Testament use.

IV. BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF THE EPISTLE.

[Remark.—Two examples only of this method of study are given in connection with important topics in the epistle.]

I. Teaching of the epistle respecting Sin. (a) Its forms and development in the Gentile world (1:18-32), (b) in the Jewish world (2:1-3:20). (c) Sin's origin (esp. 5:12 sq.) and consequences (1) in this life, (2) in life to come. (d) The relation of the law to sin (esp. ch. 7) and its development into conscious transgression. (e) Incompatibility of sin with the Christian life (esp. ch. 6).

II. Teaching respecting Redemption. (a) Its origin, how related to the nature of God? (b) How related to the divine righteousness (3:25, 26)? (c) By what acts of Christ accomplished? (d) How appropriated by man? (e) Its consequences in the individual life (esp. ch. 8) and in the moral life as related to others (see esp. the practical portion and collate its principal maxims for religious life).

V. SPECIAL TOPICS.

[REMARK.—These and kindred topics are suitable for essays or for such definitions and outlines as could be expanded into essays.]

- 1. Paul's theistic argument.
- 2. The description of the state of the Gentile world (ch. 1) compared with the testimony of secular history.
 - 3. Paul's use of the Old Testament.
 - 4. The doctrine of civil government in ch. 13.
 - 5. Paul's treatment of "weak brethren" (ch. 14).
- 6. The bearing of ch. 7 upon the manner of the apostle's conversion.
- 7. The forms of argument and modes of thought which the epistle illustrates.

[I append a very brief list of commentaries with a few words of characterization: I. Boise (J. R.); brief philological annotations (Am. Bap. Pub. Soc., Chicago). 2. Abbott (Lyman); stimulating and helpful, with supplementary essays (A. S. Barnes & Co., N. Y.). 3. Beet (J. A.); practical and readable (Hodder & Stoughton, London). 4. Stuart (Moses); an interesting critical exposition (W. F. Draper, Andover, Mass.). 5. Godet; thorough, scholarly, and, in the main, intelligible to those who do not read Greek (Funk & Wagnalls, N. Y.). 6. Meyer; minute, critical, technical, and exhaustive, with very full and valuable supplementary notes by President Timothy Dwight (Funk & Wagnalls, N. Y.).]

THE POSTEXILIC HISTORY OF ISRAEL. VI.

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THE LAW IN THE TIMES OF EZRA AND NEHEMIAH.

No one disputes that Ezra and men associated with him had something very important to do with the existence of the Hexateuch, in its present form. Postbiblical tradition testifies very abundantly to this, making Ezra the second giver of the law, and counting his work on the law inferior only to that of Moses. The New Testament and Ecclesiasticus are indeed silent concerning this tradition, but the books of Ezra and Nehemiah confirm it. See Ezra 7:6, 10, 11, 12, 21, 14, 23, 25, 26; 10:3; Neh. 8:1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 18: 9:3, 13, 14, 26, 29, 34; 10:29, 30, 35, 37 (28, 29, 34, 36); 12:26, 36, 44; 13:

But what was the actual work done on the Hexateuch by Ezra and his associates? Did they simply preserve authenticated copies, and call attention to the laws, and procure the enforcement of them? Or did they themselves originally write most of the Priestcode, and compile the Hexateuch as a whole? Or is the truth somewhere between these extremes? To answer these questions is to solve the whole problem of Hexateuchal criticism. At present we have only to do with that part of the answer which is found in the direct statements made in the accounts of the work of Ezra and Nehemiah.

No one disputes that, according to the accounts, these two men possessed in written form the legislation which they promulgated and enforced. This might be proved, if necessary, by the passages just cited, and by Neh. 8:3, 5, 15.

No one disputes that the men of Nehemiah's great convocation were in possession of the historical statements contained in the Hexateuch and in the books of Judges, Samuel, and Kings, in the order in which these books now contain them *

^{*} Neh. 9:6-8 summarizes from Genesis, 9-20 from Exodus and Numbers, 20-22 from Numbers and Deuteronomy, 23-25 from Joshua, 26-31 from Judges, Samuel, and 1 Kings, and 32-35 from 2 Kings.

No one disputes that the narrative of the times of Ezra and Nehemiah represents that the Hexateuchal legislation as a whole was then in existence. If proof is demanded for this fact, it will be abundantly found in the earlier and later parts of this article.

No one disputes that this narrative refers the legislation of which it speaks very prominently to Moses, and thus claims that it was, in the main, in existence from the times of Moses.* This is limited, however, by the fact that these men sometimes also ascribe to "the prophets" the authoritative precepts to which they appeal.† Apparently, they regard Moses as the first and greatest of the law-bringing prophets, having authority because he is "the man of God," Ezra 3:2. This point will presently receive further attention.

This testimony is very explicit. If it is simply true and historical it settles the question. How are we to regard it? Is it trustworthy history? or incompetent history? or fiction? Is there any theory of the matter that can be reconciled with the idea that the Priestcode was mainly written in the times of Ezra and Nehemiah?

1. The hypothesis that these men greatly changed and supplemented the ancient writings which they edited does not seem to me, at the outset, violently improbable. Even the hypothesis of changes and additions so great that the attributing of the laws to Moses is rather by figure of speech than in actual fact, does not seem to me so absurd as to be utterly

*"We have not kept the commandments, etc., which thou didst command Moses thy servant. Remember, I pray, the word which thou didst command Moses thy servant, saying," Neh. 1:7, 8.

"And upon Mount Sinai thou camest down, and spakest with them from heaven,
. . . and didst command to them commandments and statutes and law, by the
hand of thy servant Moses," Neh. 9:13, 14.

"And they found written in the law which Jehovah commanded by the hand of Moses that the sons of Israel should dwell in the booths... and they dwelt in the booths; for thus the sons of Israel had not done, from the days of Joshua the son of Nun unto that day," Neh. 8:14, 17.

See also Ezra 7:6; Neh. 8:1; 10:29; 13:1, and cf. Ezra 3:2; 6:18, and the fact that these accounts speak of the history continuously from the times of Moses.

† "For we have forsaken thy commandments which thou didst command by the hand of thy servants the prophets, saying: The land . . . is an impure land," etc., Ezra 9:11.

"They cast thy law behind their back, and slew thy prophets," Neh. 9:26.

"And thou didst testify with them by thy Spirit, by the hand of thy prophets," 9:30.

unworthy of investigation. Neither of these hypotheses necessarily amounts to a charge of untruthfulness or of pious fraud as against the record we have. But the presumption is against both the hypotheses, and both must be rejected unless sustained by sufficient proof; and the second is exceedingly improbable, because contrary to the usual phenomena of human history.

2. On examining the accounts of Ezra and Nehemiah, we should expect to find one class of phenomena in case the Hexateuchal legislation was then really ancient, and a different class of phenomena in case they themselves had just originated much of this legislation, baptizing it by an ancient name. It may be, therefore, that such an examination will indicate in

which way we ought to interpret the testimony.

If the Hexateuch was then not less ancient than the other pre-exilic sacred writings they possessed, we should expect that these men, in the use they make of it, would not very sharply distinguish it from the other writings. On the other hand, if they themselves had just compiled the Hexateuch into a code, for the purpose of giving character to the Judaism of their times, the new law-book would be, in their minds, sharply distinct from all other writings. As a matter of fact, they betray no consciousness of any such distinction; in the use they make of the sacred writings, the Hexateuch and the other books simply run together, with no drawing of any border line. We find here no such distinction between the law and the prophets, or between Moses and the prophets, as appears in the Jewish and Christian fathers of the later times, or even in the New Testament, or Josephus, or Ecclesiasticus.

If the Hexateuch was really ancient, in their times, we might expect to find them appealing to it in common with the other ancient sacred writings, for authority for the laws they were endeavoring to enforce; if it was a new law-book, just prepared by themselves, and having sacred sanction, we should expect to find that they had included in it all that they regarded as necessary for the times, so that their appeal would be almost exclusively to the new law-book, and not much to the other Scriptures. Actually, they appeal to the other Scriptures about as much as to the Hexateuch. Indeed, the institutions they foster are, to a very large extent, those not mentioned in the Hexateuch, but mentioned in the other

books; notably in the books that treat of the times of David and Solomon.

If the Hexateuchal legislation was then really ancient, we should expect that, when they came to enforce it, they would supplement it by such specifications and additional regulations as the changed condition of the times required; on the other hand, if it was a law-book prepared by themselves, we should expect that they would put all such specifications and new regulations into the law-book itself, and would on no account admit any other legislation than that of the law-book. In fact, the accounts represent that they made new regulations in regard to almost every legal point they touched.

By way of illustrating these principles, let us examine a

few of the phenomena.

Their mode of quoting the older Scriptures.—Their habit of intermingling the Hexateuch, in their citations, with the other books, has already been illustrated by the fact that they appeal to the prophets as well as to Moses, and by the fact that the historical recapitulation in Neh. 9 passes on, without a break, from the history recorded in the first six books of the Bible to that contained in the following books. It might be further illustrated by most of the instances that are cited for other purposes in the remainder of this paper. For the present, we confine our notice to one illustration—that found in Neh. 1: 5-II. In this passage are five citations from Deuteronomy, and three from Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple, intermingled in the following order: 1:5 cites Deut. 10:17, and 7:9; 1:6 cites 2 Chron. 6:40, cf. 7:15; 1 Kgs. 8: 29, 52; 1:7 cites a current Pentateuchal phrase; 1:8, 9 is a resumé of Deut. 4: 25-31, or Deut. 28:64 and 30: 1-5, modified by I Kgs. 8:46-50, especially 48, or 2 Chron. 6:36-39, especially 38; 1:10 cites Deut. 9:26; 1:11 cites 1 Kgs. 8:50.

Sacred persons.—In the times of Ezra and Nehemiah, we find the high priest, priests, and Levites, substantially as in the Hexateuch, if we allow the accounts in Deuteronomy and Joshua to supplement those of the Priestcode. Otherwise, "the priests, the sons of Aaron," of Exodus and Leviticus are greatly unlike the postexilic priests, being very few in number, and the close blood relatives of the high priest. But the Gibeonites of the Hexateuch (Josh. 9:27) have disappeared, and in their stead we have Nethinim, and perhaps other tem-

ple servants, in a service that is said to date back to David's time, Ezra 8:20 et al. We further have "captains of the priests and Levites," Ezra 8:29; 10:5; and singers and gate-keepers, Ezra 7:7, 24; Neh. 7:1, et al., none of them anywhere mentioned in the Hexateuch. It is quite incredible that the usage described in the Priestcode would have differed so from the usage then existing, if the Priestcode had then only just been produced.

The one sanctuary and the sacred year.—In Ezra 7:15; Neh. 1:9, etc., the history of these times recognizes the Pentateuchal doctrine of a central sanctuary. In Neh. 10:34 (33) are mentioned the continual burnt offering, the new moons, the sabbaths, and the appointed feasts. In these and other ways the sacred year of the Pentateuch is sufficiently, though not very fully, recognized. The sabbath is mentioned many times in Neh. 9:14; 10:32 (31) seq.; 13:15 seq., traffic on that day being the especial practice rebuked; this renders it significant that traffic does not appear among the many specifications of sabbath-breaking that are given in the Hexateuch. Such specifications are numerous; if they had been prepared in the times of Nehemiah, and for these times, they certainly would not have omitted the one point that peculiarly fits these times.

The feast of Tabernacles.—Probably it is fair to assume that the first day of the seventh month, Neh. 8:1, 2, was observed as the "memorial of blowing of trumpets," Lev. 23:24; Num. 29:1, though the account in Nehemiah says nothing of this. But the reading of the law on this day, 1-8, and the gathering of the second day, with its study of the law, 13, are both extra-Hexateuchal. In the absence of information, we may assume that the day of Atonement was celebrated on the tenth day, according to Lev. 23:27; Num. 29:7-11. The narrative in Nehemiah specifically informs us that the feast of Tabernacles was kept the seven days required by the law, with the "solemn assembly" on the eighth day; and that the people dwelt in booths according to the law.* But the proclamation to go out into the mountain country and gather branches, Neh. 8: 15, is not in the Hexateuch, but is an innovation of Nehe-

^{* &}quot;The sons of Israel shall dwell in booths," etc., Neh. 8:14, is cited, with slight verbal changes, from Lev. 23:42. Some of the trees specified in Neh. 8:15, though not all, are those specified in Lev. 23:40.

miah's, as are also some of the other details that are mentioned. And in Neh. 8:17, we are definitely informed that this celebration of the feast differed from any that had ever previously been held.* It should further be noticed that the sending of portions as a festival custom appears only in Neh. 8:10, 12; Esth. 9:19, 22, and possibly 2 Chron. 31:19. There is no hint of it in the Hexateuch, though there may possibly be in 1 Sam. 1:4, 5.

The public reading of the book of the law.—Such reading, at the feast of Tabernacles, Neh. 8:18, and perhaps 13:1, was according to Deut. 31:10-13, provided we assume that the first year of Nehemiah was "the year of release," at "the end of seven years." In Neh. 8:2, 3, the reading is in the public assembly (gahal), and before women as well as men, as required by the precept in Deuteronomy. The portion said to have been read, Neh. 13:1, is from Deuteronomy; very likely, the same is true of the reading of 8: I seq., since the weeping there spoken of would very naturally attend the threats made in Deuteronomy. The precept concerning the dwelling in booths, Neh. 8:14, is, of course, not from Deuteronomy, but that was brought to light, not by the public reading in the congregation, but by special instruction given to certain selected persons, 8:13. On the whole it seems probable that the directions given in Deuteronomy were followed, as far as they went; but the account in Nehemiah mentions many particulars not provided for in Deuteronomy: the reading on the first day of the month, the special instruction on the second day, the reading at the fast, the twentyfourth day, 9:3, and the whole ritual of the reading, including the "tower of wood," the priests on either hand, the standing of the people, the blessing by the reader, the response by the people, the explaining by the Levites, 8:4-9. If the Priestcode had then just been written, largely for the purpose of supplementing Deuteronomy by giving details of ritual, is it likely that it would be thus silent in regard to all these regulations?

^{* &}quot;For from the days of Jeshua the son of Nun unto that day, the sons of Israel had not done thus." The word ken, thus, is made emphatic by being thrown out of its natural place. It is very strange that some have understood this sentence as affirming that they had never before dwelt in booths at the feast; the affirmation clearly is that they had never before so managed the matter of the booths as they did at this time; and this implies the previous existence of the custom.

Sacred services .- In Neh. 10: 33-40; Ezra 7: 16, 17; 8:28, 35; 9:4, 5; 10:19, et al., are mentioned the shewbread, the burnt offering, the sin offering, the trespass offering, the meal offering, the drink offering, the tithes, the first fruits, the firstlings, free will offerings of more than one sort, the fact that the priests and the sacred vessels are holy to Jehovah, and, in fine, so full a list of the Pentateuchal sacred services as to justify us in inferring that the whole Pentateuchal system of worship was in operation. But the variations mentioned are very considerable, and that though the whole space given to these matters extends only to a few sentences. "The evening meal offering" is spoken of in Ezra 9:4, 5 in a way that can hardly be paralleled in the Pentateuch. In Neh. 10:35 seq., several details are added to the Pentateuchal precepts in regard to tithes and first fruits, and a new precept given for bringing these "unto the chambers." The yearly poll-tax of one-third of a shekel for temple expenses, Neh. 10: 33 (32), is new, being an entirely different thing from the half shekel tax of Ex. 30:11 seq.; 38:25 seq., which was paid once for all, and was used for building, and not for current expenses. The wood offering, and the casting of lots for it, Neh. 10:35 (34), are entirely new.

These differences of detail would be significant, even if they stood alone. But in addition to these is the fact that the public religious services on which most stress is laid, in the times of Ezra and Nehemiah, are of a kind that do not appear at all in the Hexateuch. The solemn entering into oath of Neh. 10: 30 (29) might indirectly find precedent in Deut. 29: 11 seq., though nothing of the kind is indicated by either the circumstances or the phraseology. But the sealing of Neh. 10: 1, 2 (9:38; 10:1), as a public religious act, has no parallel in the Hexateuch. Prominent among the religious services of the times of Ezra and Nehemiah is public fasting, with wearing of sackcloth, and earth upon the head, Ezra 8:23; Neh. 9:1: nothing of the kind is required in the Pentateuchal legislation. Similar statements might be made in regard to public prayer, and in regard to the responsive services connected with the reading of the law, Neh. 8 and o, e. g. And the one religious service more prominent in these accounts than any other is choral singing and music, Ezra 10:24; Neh. 10:29, 40 (28, 39); 11:22, 23; 12:27, 28, 29, 36, 42-47; 13:5, 10; no service of song of this sort is provided for in the Pentateuchal ritual, though song is often mentioned in the early history, and even choral singing (see Ex. 15:20, 21) is known. Indeed, the song service of Nehemiah's time is specifically referred to the times of David and Asaph, Neh. 11:17, 22; 12:24, 35, 36, 45, 46.

And yet the Priestcode is a book of ritualistic details. Is it likely that men wrote this book for the purpose of regulating the ritual of their times, and yet omitted from it all these

important matters in the ritual of their times?

Usury, the redemption of Israelites sold to foreigners, and the year of release.—On the supposition that the first year of Nehemiah was the year of release, and perhaps even without this supposition, what is said in Neh. 5, and in Neh. 10:32(31), fits well enough the precepts given in Ex. 23:11; 22:25-27; Lev. 25; Deut. 15:1-11, etc. There are some resemblances of phraseology which seem to show that reference to these passages in the Pentateuch was intended. But even in this case, the precept used is to be found in the other sacred books, as well as in the Hexateuch.

Separation from the peoples of the countries.—In this central reform of the times of Ezra and Nehemiah, the two prominent points are the exclusion of foreigners from the qahal, or

national assembly, and the refusal of intermarriage.

The exclusion from the assembly (see Neh. 13:1-3, citing Deut. 23:3-6, and see also Neh. 2:20, et al.) may fairly be said to be based on the precept in Deuteronomy, as interpreted by the general tenor of the Pentateuchal legislation, with its requirement that Israel should be a people set apart to Jehovah.

The case is somewhat different regarding the marriages with foreign women. When this offence is spoken of briefly, in Ezra and Nehemiah, it is simply described as taking foreign wives, Ezra 10:2, 10, 11, 14, 17, 18, 44; Neh. 13:27. But marriages with foreign women are not, in these terms, forbidden in the Hexateuch, while they are disapproved in 1 Kgs. 11:1, 8, and probably in Prov. 2:16; 5:20; 6:24; 7:5; 20:16; 23:27; 27:13. Moreover, 1 Kgs. 11:1, 8 is definitely cited in Neh. 13:26. In the passages in Ezra and Nehemiah where the offence is further defined, the appeal is to the prophets, as well as to the law, Ezra 9:11; 10:3; Neh. 10:

29-31 (28-30). The phraseology cited is partly from the Hexateuch, and partly from the other Scriptures, Ezra 9:1,2, 10-12, etc. The Hexateuchal precepts appealed to originally cover only the case of the Canaanite tribes, and apply to the other peoples to whom Ezra and Nehemiah apply them, only when interpreted by the other Scriptures, or by Ezra and Nehemiah themselves. See Deut. 7:1-4; Ex. 34:16; Josh. 23:12; I Kgs. 11; I, 2. Surely, if the Hexateuchal laws had just been re-edited, and part of them just written, they would have been made to fit the cases in hand, and would not have needed to be extended by usage and interpretation, in order to make them apply to those cases. This consideration has all the more force, when we find that the Hexateuch provides no penalty or remedy for the offence, but leaves that to be done by Ezra and Nehemiah themselves.

It cannot be necessary to pursue the argument farther. Evidently, the books of Ezra and Nehemiah represent the whole body of the Hexateuchal legislation as ancient when Ezra and Nehemiah lived. Distinctly, they regard these men, not as the originators of that legislation, but as students,

promulgators, and possibly revisers of it.

SAMUEL, SAUL, DAVID AND SOLOMON.

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Prepared by William R. Harper, Yale University.

STUDY XXI.—THE TEMPLE OF SOLOMON.*

Remarks: 1. The great monument of Solomon's time was the temple. Much that has been written concerning it is of uncertain value. While it would, upon the whole, be unprofitable to give the subject the time which would be required to master it, it would be a great mistake, in the study of this period, not to obtain at least a general knowledge of it.

 The treatment here presented is that of the Rev. Jesse L. Hurlbut, D.D., Plainfield, New Jersey, published in connection with a former series of Inductive Studies.

First Step: The Development of the Temple Idea.

- 1. The germ of the Temple was the Altar, the earliest institution of worship, Gen. 4:3, 4; 8:20. This was regarded as the meeting-place between God and man, with an offering to express atonement for sinners. Wherever the patriarchs encamped, they built an altar of rough, unhewn stones, Gen. 12:6-8; 26:25. This material was employed for the altar throughout Israelite history, Exod. 20:24, 25. The stone was piled up to give it form, but the true altar was the earth within it.
- 2. An advance was made when special sanctity was assigned to a locality, as Bethel, "the house of God," Gen. 13:3, 4; 28:18-22; 35:1-3, 6, 14, 15.
- 3. Both ideas, of a meeting-place with God, and of a dwelling-place for God, were united in the Tabernacle; one in the altar, the other in the Holy of holies, Exod. 25:8. The name of this structure was "the tent of meeting," Exod. 29:42-45; 33:7 (R. V.), i. e., the tent where men met with God. Cf. the modern "meeting-house."
- 4. After the Tabernacle found a permanent home at Shiloh, it took on by degrees more of the temple-form. The name "temple" first appears in I Sam. I:9. A substantial building with posts, rooms around it for priests (I Sam. 3:3), gates (I Sam. 4:13, see margin R. V.), gradually took the place of (more probably, were built around) the ancient tent.
- 5. The rise of Judah's power under David, and the concentration of worship at Jerusalem, led to the plan of a solid and enduring building. Notice the stages of purpose in 2 Sam. 6: I-I2; 7: I-I3. A fuller account in I Chron. 15-I7. The arrangements were made during the close of David's reign, and a store of materials prepared, I Chron. 28: II-I9; 29: 2-8.

Second Step: The Purpose of the Temple.

To furnish a fitting place for the public worship of God. The services kept
Jehovah prominently before the people, and perpetuated and promoted
- religion. See Ps. 84.

^{*} The literature on this topic is voluminous; the reader may consult with profit (1) the article on The Temple in Smith's Bible Dictionary; (2) the various commentaries in loc.; (3) Gelkie's Hours with the Bible, Vol. III, chap. xvi; (4) Stanley's History of the Jewish Church, 2d series, chap. xxvii.

- 2. To symbolize the presence of God among his people. Hence the house, with its holy place, and holy of holies. Other nations had their idols. Israel had its house wherein no image stood, Exod. 20:3, 4; Lev. 26:11, 12; 2 Chron. 6:1, 2.
- 3. To present in symbols the great truths of redemption. These were expressed by the altar and the sacrifices, Lev. 1:1-5; 2 Chron. 7:1-14; Heb. 9:22.

 Much of the epistle to the Hebrews is intended to show the relation between the services of the Old Covenant and the salvation under the new.
- 4. To strengthen the bond of union among the tribes. For this purpose there was but one Temple and one altar for all the Hebrew world, and all rival shrines were forbidden, Deut. 12:8-14; Josh. 22:10-27. Three times in each year the people gathered from all Israel for worship, Deut. 16:16. Notice the effect of this on the nation, I Kgs. 12:26-28.

Third Step: The Building of the Temple.

- 1. The Place: Its earliest mention is in Gen. 22:1, 2, 14, though the identity is not certain. Purchased by David, 2 Sam. 24:17-25; I Chron. 21:18-30; 22:1. Chosen as the location of the Temple, 2 Chron. 3:1. It is believed that the native rock directly under the Dome of the Rock, miscalled the Mosque of Omar, is the spot where the alter of the Temple stood.
- 2. The Foundation: In order to provide a place, the summit of the mountain was extended on the southern side overlooking the declivity called Ophel. The platform thus constructed looked down 270 feet (according to Josephus, 450 feet to the valley of the Kedron). Under it were arched chambers, and great cisterns containing ten million gallons of water. This reservoir was filled by underground aqueducts from Solomon's Pool near Bethlehem. It supplied the Temple, and during sieges, the city. A reference to this may be in Ps. 46: 1-5.
- 3. The Materials: These were (1) stone, from quarries still to be seen, north of the city. (2) Cedar, with which the House was covered, and of which partitions and roofs were made. See 2 Chron. 2: 3-9; I Kgs. 6:8-10. (3) Gold and silver, for decorations, I Chron. 22: 14; 29:4; variously estimated at from 500 million to 5,000 million dollars, according to different valuations of the talent. Obtained by David from the plunder of conquered nations. (4) Brass (perhaps should read copper). See the catalogue of brazen utensils and ornaments in I Kgs. 7:15-47.
- 4. The Construction: Time occupied, see I Kgs. 6:1, 38. Dedicated eight months after its completion, I Kgs. 8:1, 2. Built without sound of hammer or chisel, perhaps out of respect for the ancient law, I Kgs. 6:7; Deut. 27: 5, 6. Excavations show that a trench was hewn out of the native rock, in which the lowest course of stone was laid. No chips of stone, or fragments, are found near it, showing that the hewing was done elsewhere.

Fourth Step: The Plan of the Temple.

1. Sources of Information: (1) The two accounts of the building in 1 Kgs. 5-8, and 2 Chron. 3-7. These should be studied carefully. (2) The account of the Tabernacle in Exod. 25-40. Most of the known dimensions of the Temple were twice those of the Tabernacle, and the general plan was the same. Each will help us to reconstruct the other, where figures are not given. (3) Ezekiel's vision of the temple, Ezek. 40-46. Uncertain whether

he describes Solomon's or Zerubbabel's Temple, yet the information is of value. (4) Allusions to the Temple after its building, as in 2 Kgs. 11:5-16; 12:9; 16:10-18; 25:13-17; and the parallel passages in 2 Chron. (5) The account of the later Temple (Herod's) as gathered from the references in the New Testament, the tract Middoth in the Mishna, and the description by Josephus, who, however, wrote from memory twenty years after its destruction. (6) Recent investigations, especially those under the auspices of the Palestinian Exploration Fund, which have corroborated some opinions, and absolutely refuted others.

2. The Court: This was an unroofed quadrangle, surrounded by a wall, corresponding to the court of the Tabernacle, Exod. 27:9-18. Dimensions unknown, but stated by Josephus to be about 500 feet square, or one-half those of the court of the Gentiles in Herod's Temple. The wall on the eastern side was known in the New Testament period as Solomon's Porch, John 10:23; Acts 3:11; and probably stood as the modern one does, on the ancient foundation. See allusions to this court in I Kgs. 8:64; 2 Chron. 20:5; 24:21. It was divided into two parts, outer and inner, I Kgs. 6:36; 2 Chron. 4:9; like the court of Israel and court of the priests in the later Temple. The inner court was higher, and the more sacred, Joel 2:17. In the courts were (1) the altar, built of rough stone, and covered with plates of brass or copper. Its dimensions, 2 Chron. 4:1. (2) The Tank or "sea," made of brass (copper?) and standing on twelve brazen oxen, 2 Chron. 4: 2-5. (3) Ten lavers, movable water-carriers on wheels, used for washing the sacrifices, 2 Chron. 4:6. Described minutely in 1 Kgs. 7:27-39. (4) As some hold, a grove of trees, probably in the outer court, Ps. 52:8; 92: 12-14.

3. The Porch: This was the front or vestibule of the house. It was a tower of stone, covered probably with cedar, nearly 200 feet high, in several stories, and containing rooms for various uses, 2 Chron. 3:4. Its inside measurements were 20 cubits wide, 10 cubits deep and 120 cubits high. Two remarkable pillars, perhaps named after their makers, stood in the entrance. See 1 Kgs. 7:15-22.

Fifth Step: Plan of the Temple (continued).

1. The Holy Place: Passing through the Porch, one comes to the Holy Place, called in 2 Chron. 3:5, "the greater house." Dimensions (1 Kgs. 6:17), 40 x 20 cubits. [We may regard the cubit as about I foot 8 inches long.] It was in length and breadth twice the dimensions of the same room in the Tabernacle. But we notice several variations from the pattern of the Tabernacle: (1) In place of the golden candlestick, were ten candlesticks or lamp-stands, 2 Chron. 4:7. (2) In place of the table of shew-bread, were ten tables, 2 Chron. 4:8. At each end of the room were double doors, probably in addition to the veil, I Kgs. 6:31-33. All of these were changed in the later temple, which followed more closely the plan of the Tabernacle. In the Holy Place stood also the altar of incense, I Kgs. 7:48; 2 Chron. 4:19.

2. The Holy of Holies: Beyond the Holy Place was the Holy of Holies, called in 1 Kgs. 6:16 "the oracle." This was a cube of 20 cubits in each dimension, 2 Chron. 3:8. It contained two gigantic cherubim of wood, covered with gold, 2 Chron. 3: 10-13. Also the ark of the covenant and its contents, 2 Chron. 5:4-10. For a description of the ark see Exod. 25:10-22. In the later Temple this room was entirely empty (except for a marble stone on the floor, on which the blood was sprinkled on the Day of Atonement), as the ark was lost in the destruction of the city by Nebuchadnezzar.

3. The Chambers: Around the temple building, but separate from it, and on independent walls, were rooms for the priests, occupied during each priest's fortnight of service through the year. They were in three stories; the upper stories larger than the lower, on account of different thickness in the wall, I Kgs. 6:5-10; Jer. 36:10; Ezek. 40:45, 46; 42:1-6.

Sixth Step: The History of Solomon's Temple.

The following are the leading events in the history of the Temple:

- 1. The dedication, 2 Chron. 5: 1-6: 22.
- 2. The regard for the Temple, Ps. 27:4; 43: I-4; 84:1; 132: I-5.
- 3. Its treasury plundered, under Rehoboam. This involved the loss of all the wealth gathered by David, 2 Chron. 12:9-11.
- 4. The repairs under Joash, 2 Kgs. 12:4-15.
 - 5. Desecration by Ahaz, 2 Kgs. 16: 10-19.
 - 6. Reconsecration by Hezekiah, 2 Chron. 29: 1-36.
 - 7. Desecration by Manasseh, 2 Chron. 33: 1-18.
 - 8. Purification and repair by Josiah, 2 Chron. 34: 1-13, 29-33.
 - g. Final destruction by Nebuchadnezzar, 2 Chron. 36: 11-21; Jer. 52: 12-23.

STUDY XXII.—THE HIGHER CRITICISM OF THE BOOKS OF SAMUEL.*

- Remarks: 1. Before concluding our work, it is important that we form some definite conception of the "Books of Samuel" as a whole. Inasmuch as we have studied their contents, we are in a position to do this work without much difficulty.
- 2. The work to be done may technically be called the higher criticism of the Books of Samuel, as over against the lower or textual criticism of those books. The fact that this term has been misunderstood and abused is no good reason why we should drop it.
- 3. We are not to be troubled if we find that the material of these books has been taken from several sources. We shall surely find this to be the case. The question of inspiration is in no way affected by the fact.

First Step: Name, Contents.

- 1. Consider the name of the books, and (1) ascertain the name employed in the Septuagint, (2) the reason why the books are so called, whether (a) because Samuel was the author, or (b) because he was the chief actor; (3) how can the latter view be true, when, as a matter of fact, Samuel has nothing to do with the events of the Second Book?
- Make a very hasty review of the contents of the Books under the following divisions:

^{*} The best treatment accessible in English will be found as usual in Kirkpatrick's commentary, Other and, in some respects, fuller aid may be obtained from article on Samuel in Smith's B ble Dictionary; Lange's Samuel (Chas. Scribner's Sons).

- 1) Samuel's early life, 1:1-4:1a.
- 2) A period of national disaster, 4: 1b-7:1.
- 3) Samuel's work as judge, 7: 2-17.
- 4) The first king appointed, 8-10.
- 5) The reign of Saul till his rejection, 11-15.
- 6) The decline of Saul; the rise of David, 16-31.
- 7) Reign of David over Judah, 2 Sam. 1-4.
- 8) The period of David's growth, 5-9.
- 9) David's fall and punishment, 10-20.
- 10) Various appendices, 21-24.

Second Step: Characteristic Features of these Books.

- I. If you read Hebrew, decide whether the linguistic features betoken an early or late authorship; is the language pure, classic, or full of late words, forms, and idioms?
- Recall the material of the books and decide whether the style was (1) living, fresh, vivid; or dull, heavy, monotonous; (2) simple, or involved; (3) minute, or general; (4) historical or legendary.
- Read I Sam. 9:9; 17:12, 14, 15; 27:6, and consider the evidence furnished
 by the books themselves that they are a redaction of material gathered from
 various sources. Compare the Books of Kings in reference to the same
 question.
- 4. With your eye on the brief synopsis given above, think through the books, and try to determine whether there seems to be a unity in them from the point of view of the compiler.
- 5. Compare (1) 7:15-17 with 8:1 seq. and 12:2 seq.; (2) 9:1-10, 16 with 8; and 10:17-27; (3) 18:5 with 18:13-16; (4) 1 Sam. 31:4 with 2 Sam. 1:9, 10, etc., and reconcile these apparent contradictions with the view that the books are a unit.
- Compare the Books of Samuel with those of Kings and Chronicles in reference to the existence of chronological statements, and explain why so few, comparatively, are found in Samuel.
- 7. Compare, for example, (1) I Sam. 14:47, 48 with ch. 15; (2) 2 Sam. 21-24; and note the absence of chronological order.
- Compare (1) the separation of 21: 1-14 and ch. 24; (2) 21: 15-22 and 23: 8-39, and note the absence of logical arrangement.
- q. Note the religious and theocratic character of the books everywhere apparent.
- 10. Note, finally the very large prophetic element in the Books.

Third Step: Sources, Date, Authorship.

- 1. Consider the following as probable sources of the material and try to determine what material came from each particular source:
 - 1) Prophetical records of Samuel, Nathan and Gad (cf. 1 Chron. 29:29; 1 Sam. 19:18; 22:5; 2 Sam. 24:11; 2 Chron. 29:25; 2 Sam. 7:2 seq.; 12:25; 1 Kgs. 1:8 seq.; 2 Sam. 12:1 seq.). Is not this the more probable in view of the prevailing prophetic element in the books and of the fact that later history constantly refers to prophetic writers?
 - 2) State chronicles of David (I Chron. 27:24), statistical and annalistic in character.
 - 3) The charter of Samuel (I Sam. 10:25).

- 4) National poetical literature, for example, the Book of Jasher (2 Sam. 1: 18).
- 5) Oral tradition, which, as all antiquity testifies, was a common method of transmitting even the most important literary material.
- 2. Consider, now, the date at which the Books assumed substantially their present form:
 - 1) What evidence is furnished by the language?
 - 2) What evidence is furnished by such expressions and allusions as are found in 2 Sam. 13:18; 1 Sam. 9:9; 5:5; 6:18; 27:6; 30:25; 2 Sam. 4: 3; 6:8; 18:18?
 - 3) What evidence is furnished by 2 Sam. 5:5; in the Sept. 2 Sam. 8:7; 14:
 - 27; I Sam. 27:6?
 - 4) What is the evidence furnished by the writer's attitude toward the offering of sacrifices in various places, I Sam. 7:5 seq.; 9:13; 10:3; 14:35; 2 Sam. 24:18-25?
- Consider the views which are held concerning the authorship or construction of the Books,
 - Remark: There is no space here for a presentation of even an outline of these views. The student is referred to the commentaries and articles in Bible dictionaries.

Fourth Step: Parallel Accounts in Chronicles.*

- I. Make a rapid comparison, either independently, or by aid of an analysis furnished in some commentary, of the Books of Samuel and that part of Chronicles which traverses the same ground, and note down
 - (1) The material contained in Samuel, but not in Chronicles, e. g.,
 - (a) David's reign at Hebron; war with Saul's house (2 Sam. 1-4).
 - (b) David's adultery and its punishment, 2 Sam. 11, 12.
 - (c) The history of Absalom's rebellion (2 Sam. 13:20).
 - (d) Execution of Saul's sons (2 Sam. 21; 1-14).
 - (e) David's thanksgiving and last words (2 Sam. 22; 23: 1-7).
 - (2) The events narrated in Chronicles, but not in Samuel, e. g.,
 - (a) Catalogue of warriors (I Chron. 12).
 - (b) Details of the removal of ark to Jerusalem (I Chron. 13:1-5; 15; 16).
 - (c) Preparations for building Temple (1 Chron. 22).
 - (d) Organization of Priests, Levites, army, etc. (1 Chron. 23-27).
 - (e) Assembly of the people at Solomon's accession (I Chron. 28; 29).
- Upon the basis of these facts, try to classify the points of difference between the two books, the things which each makes prominent, which each omits.
- 3. Upon the basis of these facts try to determine whether the author of one of these books was, perhaps, a prophet, the author of the other a priest. Which was the work of the prophet, which of the priest?
- 4, Now endeavor to ascertain the great underlying purpose of each writer,—the purpose, which (1) led him to insert one kind of material, and omit another kind; (2) led to a different presentation by each of the same material.
- Formulate the results of this investigation under the head of Relation of the Books of Chronicles to the Books of Samuel.

^{*} See especially Kirkpatrick, Second Samuel, Introduction, chap. 3.

Fifth Step: Relation of the Samuel History to Old Testament History in General.*

- Consider, in general, the preparatory character of the entire Old Testament dispensation and that for which it was preparatory.
- 2. Consider the chief elements included in this preparation, viz.,
 - (1) The training and development of the nation, Israel.
 - (2) The growth and development of the Messianic idea.
 - (3) "God's progressive revelation of himself."
- Consider the relations of the Books of Samuel to the first of these elements, the training of Israel.
 - (1) The period of Israelitish history immediately preceding.
 - (2) The period introduced at this time.
 - (3) The period which follows the one here introduced.
- 4. Consider, in a general way, the Messianic idea during this period.
- 5. Consider the revelation made by God of himself during this period, as seen in
 - (1) The building of the temple.
 - (2) The institution of the prophetic order.
 - (3) The advance in the closer relation of man to God, as illustrated especially in David's Psalms.

STUDY XXIII.—ISRAELITISH CIVILIZATION BEFORE THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM.

- Remarks: 1. Israel first became a nation under David; until that time there was little or no opportunity for the development of national feeling, or civilization. The question arises, What was the condition of things at the time of Solomon's death?
- The subject was in part covered by Study XX., which had to do with Solomon's reign. Only a small portion of this, however, need be repeated.
- 3. This "study" is in substance the same as that prepared by Professor Willis J.

 Beecher, D.D., Auburn, N. Y., and published as one of a preceding series.

First Step: Political Organization.

- 1. Elders: (1) From I Sam. 4:3; 30:26; II:3; 16:4 and other texts we learn that in Israel the elders were a class invested with great power, and that there were elders for a particular city, for a tribe, and for the nation as a whole; (2) no information exists as to how a man became elder, whether (a) by age, (b) by inherited nobility, (c) by some kind of election, or (d) by the fact of being a prominent citizen; (3) from I Sam. II:3; 16:4; 4:3; 15:30; 2 Sam. 17:4, 15, etc., we learn that the elders had to do not only with affairs of local government, but, as well, of matters of national importance; (4) from I Sam. 8:4; 10:17; 2 Sam. 2:4; 3:17; 5:3; 19:9-II, etc., we learn that the people and the elders appointed and deposed kings, subject to divine interference.
- 2. Civil Divisions: There were two: (1) that into tribes and families, cf. I Sam. 10:20, 21; (2) that into thousands, hundreds, fifties, which, though most frequently mentioned in connection with the army, was nevertheless also a civil division, cf. I Sam. 17:18; 2 Sam. 18:1, 4 with I Sam. 10:19-21; 23:23.

^{*} See, especially, Kirkpatrick, 2 Samuel, Introduction chap. 5, of which the treatment here suggested is an analysis.

- 3. Captains: (1) In most cases, I Sam. 12:9; 14:50; 17:18, 55; 2 Sam. 2:8, etc., the "captain" (Hebrew sar) is a military officer; (2) in other cases, however, I Chron. 15:5, 6, 22; 24:5, 6, etc., where the word is translated "chief," "master," "governor," "prince," "ruler," it is applied to men who had charge of the music, of business affairs and of civil affairs; (3) from 2 Sam. 4:2 (cf. I Sam. 22:2); I Chron. 12:21, 28, 34; 11:6, 21; 2 Sam. 23:19, etc., we learn that the captains differed from the elders in being either chiefs of free companies, who had been accepted by the king, or in being under appointment from the king.
- 4. The National Assembly: (1) From Num. 20: 10; Josh. 8: 35; Judg. 20: 1, 2; 21:5, 8; I Kgs. 8: 14, 22, etc., we learn of a national assembly (qahal) in which the people, or more especially the elders and princes (nesiim) assembled for the transaction of national business; (2) the gatherings in I Sam. 17: 47; 2 Sam. 20: 14 were not strictly "national assemblies"; (3) it is to be noted that in these assemblies the captains were prominent, the government, probably, being thus represented.

Second Step: Military Affairs.

The information is somewhat scattered and indefinite:

- I. Equipment of a Warrior: (1) Read the story of David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17) and indicate, as best you can, the dress of a warrior; (2) supplement this by reading, by aid of a concordance, various texts on the words "shield," "helmet," "coat of mail," "sword," "spear," "bow," "arrow," "sling."
- Cavalry and Chariots: (1) Read the law on the subject, Deut. 17:16; (2) Is there any record of the employment of cavalry and chariots in David's times?
 (3) Read I Kgs. 10:26; 2 Chron. 1:14, and note the changes which are in Solomon's times introduced.
- 3. Other Details: (1) Read I Sam. II:7, 8 in reference to the raising of large armies; (2) I Chron. 27: I-I5 in reference to David's national guard; (3) 2 Sam. 23:8-39; I Chron. II: IO-47, roll of David's heroes; (4) 2 Sam. 8: I8; I5:18; 20:7, 23; I Kgs. I:38, 44, etc., David's "Cherethites and Pelethites."

Third Step: Architecture and Commerce.

- Read (1) I Sam. 22:6 and note the primitive character of the scene; (2) 2 Sam.
 9-12; 7:1, 2; 11:2, and note the facts relating to the royal residence.
- Review the leading features of Solomon's temple, the king's house, the house
 of the forest of Lebanon, the house of Pharaoh's daughter, Tadmor, the
 store-cities, and draw an inference as to the condition of architecture and
 in Solomon's times.
- Read the accounts given in I Kgs. 10:12-21; 2 Chron. 9:11-20 of the fine
 wood-work, the targets and shields, the ivory throne, the gold vessels, etc.,
 and draw an inference as to the stage of advancement of the decorative art.
- 4. Study (1) I Kgs. 10:15; 2 Chron. 9:14 in reference to "traders" in general; (2) I Kgs. 10:28, 29; 2 Chron. 1:16, 17; 9:28, in reference to Solomon's horse and chariot trade; (3) I Kgs. 5:6, 8-12; 9:11-14; 2 Chron. 2:8-16; 8:2, in reference to trade with Phænicia for building materials and skilled labor; (4) I Kgs. 9:26-28; 10:11, 12, 22, in reference to voyages, Tarshish-ships; (5) I Kgs. 9:18; 2 Chron. 8:4, in reference to an overland trade.

Fourth Step: Population; Common Life.

- I. In reference to the density of *population* consider (1) the 300,000 and the 30,000 of 1 Sam. II:8; (2) the 30,000 of I3:5; (3) the 210,000 of I5:4; (4) the 800,000 and 500,000, with the 1,100,000 and 470,000 of 2 Sam. 24:9; I Chron. 2I:5.
- 2. In reference to the credibility of these numbers, consider (1) that these regions then had a larger area of good soil, and less of barren rock, than now; (2) that the Philistine force mentioned in (2) above may have been partly allies from great distances; (3) that the "thousands" may sometimes have been "thousands" of organization instead of being strictly numerical, and that a large proportion of the thousands may not have been full; (4) that discrepancies may perhaps be accounted for by varying modes of enumeration, rather than by supposing false numbers; (5) that there are probably some cases of error in the transmission of numbers.
- 3. In reference to common life, consider (1) I Sam. 16:20; 17:17, 18; 25:11, 18; 2

 Sam. 16:1, 2; 17:27-29 as to what constituted good living; (2) I Sam. 25:

 11-36; 2 Sam. 13:23, 28, as to what were apparently secular feasts; (3) I

 Sam. 9:12, 13, 22-24; 16:2, 3; 20:6, on the local sacrificial feasts; (4)

 I Sam. 1:9, etc.; 2 Sam. 6:17-19; I Chron. 16:1-3; 29:21, 222, on the

 peace-offering to Jehovah; (5) the texts, taken from a concordance, which

 contain the words "wine," "strong drink," for the use of wine and strong

 drink in this period; (6) I Chron. 29:3-9, etc., on the accumulation of

 wealth.

Fifth Step: Administration of Government.

- I. Under executive management, consider (1) 2 Sam. 8:15-18 (cf. 20:23-26; also I Kgs. 4:1-6) in its bearing upon the administration of the Kingdom of Israel under David; (2) the terms: (a) recorder (2 Kgs. 18:18, 37; 2 Chron. 34:8); (b) scribe (cf. 2 Kgs. 12:10; 18:18); (c) tribute or levy (20:24); (3) additional information to be obtained from I Chron. 27:25-34.
- 2. Under the administration of justice, consider (1) Ruth 4:12, on the formality of procedure in civil cases; (2) I Kgs. 2:25, 34, 46 on the summary treatment of offenders; (3) 2 Sam. 3:27; 14:6, 7, 11 on the existence of the law of blood-revenge; (4) 2 Sam. 15:2-4, on the right of appeal to the king; (5) whether these cases and others which may be cited are in agreement or disagreement with the Pentateuchal laws.

Sixth Step: Customs and Manners; Music; Poetry; Writing.

- I. Customs and Manners: Consider (I) 2 Sam. 13: I-22, on the arrangements of the royal household, employments of those belonging to the royal family, simplicity of the royal establishment; (2) 2 Sam. 13: 23-29, on the character of the festivities of the princes; (3) 2 Sam. 14: I-24, on the possibility and manner of approach to the king; (4) 2 Sam. 15: I-6, on the simplicity and details of the royal functions; (5) the contrast with this of Solomon's surroundings (see Study XX.).
- 2. Music: Consider I Sam. 10:5; 18:6-8; 2 Sam. 23:1; 6:5; Amos 6:5; I Chron. 13:8; 15:16, 19, 22, 24; 16:5, 6, 42; 23:5; 25:1-31; 2 Chron. 7: 6; 29:27, 30, in reference to the condition of the art of music.
- 3. Poetry: Consider in reference to the existence and character of the art of poetry (1) 1 Sam. 2:1-10, 27-36; 2 Sam. 1:17-27; 3:33, 34; 22; 23:1-7;

- (2) the titles to the Psalms; (3) the passages in reference to music (see above); (4) I Chron. 16:7-36; Luke 20:42-44; Acts 1:16, 20:2:25-31, 34; 4:25, 26; Rom. 4:6-8; Heb. 4:7.
- 4. Writing: Consider (1) the possibility of the poetic, musical, architectural, historical, priestly, and prophetic activity of these times existing without the art of writing; (2) I Sam. 21:13; 2 Sam. 11:14, 15; 2 Chron. 2:11; 1 Chron. 27:24; 23:27; 24:6; 29:29; I Sam. 10:25, etc.

STUDY XXIV.—THE PROPHETIC ELEMENT CONNECTED WITH SAMUEL, DAVID AND SOLOMON.

- Remarks: I. It is appropriate to close this series of "studies" with a brief résumé of the material which it furnishes in the line of prophecy.
- 2. The work attempted must, of necessity, be only a general classifying of the most important points, under a few heads.
- 3. For a full discussion of the material, the reader is referred to Briggs, Messianic Prophecy; Orelli, Old Testament Prophecy; Elliott, Old Testament Prophecy.

First Step: Texts upon Prophecy.

- 1. Let us read those detached verses in the Books of Samuel, which have to do with the question of prophecy. These texts are I Sam. 2:27; 3:10; 9:9; 10:5,6-12; 14:42; 19:19, 20, 23; 28:6; 30:7.
- 2. Examine them a second time, with a view to seeing what light they throw upon the following questions:
 - (I) What different words are used to describe the prophet? (Prophet, seer, man of God?)
 - (2) How did the prophet receive the divine revelation? (Dream, vision, word of mouth, enlightened spiritual discernment?)
 - (3) What information is furnished about the order of the prophets, and prophetic schools?

Second Step: Prophecies.

- 1. Make a fresh study of Hannah's Hymn, I Sam. 2:1-10, under the following heads:
 - (1) Discover the particular circumstances under which the Hymn is said to have been delivered.
 - (2) Study the thought of each verse, and then combine the verses into sections as follows:
 - (a) vs. 1-3. The character of Jehovah,—holy, incomparable.(b) vs. 4-8. The power of Jehovah in the world.

 - (c) vs. 9, 10. His treatment of the wicked and the righteous.
 - (3) Consider now whether the Hymn contains any reference to the supposed occasion of its writing, viz., Samuel.
 - (4) Explain how, fifty years before the anointing of a king in Israel, there could be so definite a reference to a king as is contained in v. 10.
 - (5) Consider whether this reference to a king may not be of a prophetic character, and the whole Hymn find its connection with Samuel in view of his work in founding the monarchy.

- (6) Notice, finally, the climax of the poem: The Lord shall judge the ends of the earth, that he may (this is the correct rendering) give strength unto his king and exalt the horn of his anointed.
- 2. Study again 1 Sam. 2:35, 36:
 - Recall the circumstances, viz., the religious condition of things, the lives of Eli's sons.
 - (2) Read the prophecy and note its general meaning: destruction of Eli's house, raising up of another family.
 - (3) Gather from I Sam. 14:3; 21:2; 22:9; 22:20-23; I Kgs. 2:27, the facts concerning the subsequent history of Eli's house.
 - (4) Take up (a) the strong argument in favor of interpreting the passage of Samuel, based upon the connection of the preceding and following chapters; and (b) the objections founded on the difficulty of applying to Samuel such terms as "sure house," "walk before mine anointed forever." "priest."
 - (5) Consider the interpretation which would find the fulfilment in Zadok's line, and through this in the Messiah.

Third Step: Prophecies (continued.)

- 1. Study 2 Sam. 7: 11-16 (1 Chron. 17: 10-14):
 - (1) Examine closely the circumstances leading up to the prophecy.
 - (2) Compare the parallel passages in Sam. and Chron.
 - (3) Decide upon the meaning of each verse, e. g.,
 - v. II. Shalt thou build a house for me? Rather I will build a house for thee.
 - v. 12. When thou art dead I will establish thy seed after thee.
 - v. 13. He shall build a house for me; I will establish his throne forever.
 - v. 14. I will be his father, and he shall be my son; if necessary I will punish him; but
 - v. 15. I will never leave him, as I left Saul.
 - v. 16. Thy house, thy throne shall be established forever.
 - (4) Now select the great ideas contained in the passage, and those which especially characterize it.
 - (5) In conclusion, determine whether it was fulfilled in Solomon, in the whole royal line of David, including the Messiah, or in the Messiah alone.
- 2. Study 2 Sam. 23: 1-7, the last words of David:
 - Understand that before these words were uttered the Psalms which David wrote must have been sung.
 - (2) Examine the long, repetitious, yet very interesting introduction in vs. 1-3a.
 - (3) Study the character of the righteous ruler as described in vs. 3b, 4.
 - (4) What is the thought of v. 5? "Is not my house so with God, in view of the everlasting covenant, etc.?"
 - (5) Formulate, on the other hand, God's relation to the wicked, vs. 6, 7.
 - (6) Select, now, the great ideas of the passage, as they stand related to the Davidic dynasty.

Fourth Step: The Prophetic Order.

- Certain aspects of this subject, in view of Samuel's connection with it, deserve study at this juncture:
- I. What, after all, was the relation of Samuel to the order?

- Consider the number and character of the prophecies and prophets before this
 period.
- 3. What were the "Schools of the Prophets?" (1) The localities in which they were held; (2) the subjects studied; (3) the teachers' methods; (4) the character of the students; (5) their means of subsistence; (6) the periods of history in which they flourished; (7) their influence upon Israelitish history.

Fifth Step: The Work of the Prophet.

Only some of the more important aspects of the question may be noticed:

- The various methods of communication to the prophets, e. g., (I) dream, (2) vision, (3) enlightened spiritual discernment.
- The particular periods in the history of prophecy in which each of these methods was most prominent.
- 3. Their relative character; which the highest? which the lowest?
- 4. The methods employed by the prophet in conveying his message to the people.
- 5. The work of false prophets in Israel: (1) its extent; (2) its character.
- 6. Were there prophets outside of Israel? In what respect did their work differ from that of Israel?
- 7. The place of the work of the prophets in the divine plan of redemption.

Sixth Step: Prophecy.

Consider a few of the questions relating to prophecy:

- 1. What is it? Are you satisfied with the definition "religious instruction"?
- 2. What is the origin of prophecy?
- 3. Distinguish between prophecy and prediction; or are they synonymous?
- Distinguish also between a prophecy which is directly prophetic, and one which
 is typically prophetic.
- 5. How could men, in the Old Testament times, distinguish false from true prophecy?
- 6. May some predictions be supposed to have been made from a study of history, past and present, and instinctively, as it were?
- 7. What is the evidence of the fact that the prophecies had a supernatural origin?
- Remark.—It is not expected that at this stage of the work, the ordinary student will be able to answer to himself all the questions here indicated. They are intended rather to stimulate thought and to prepare the mind in a measure for a consideration of the material which will be obtained later.
- Concluding Remark: In this series of studies, much valuable material has been omitted, because the original plan demanded a limitation of the amount to be used. It is believed, however, that enough has been furnished, if it has been properly mastered, to give a broad and, in the main, accurate idea of the history and the literature of the period of Samuel, Saul, David, and Solomon.

^{*} See articles in Bible Dictionaries; also The Schools of the Sons of the Prophets, by Ira M. Price, Ph.D., THE OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT, Vol. VIII, pp. 244-249.

BIBLE STUDY IN THE FAR WEST.

By Rev. THOMAS F. DAY,

American Fork, Utah.

It is often asserted that the Christian minister in the far West cannot possibly maintain critical habits of study, or attain excellence as a preacher, because of the peculiar conditions under which he labots. That serious difficulties are in the way, all must admit. The theological graduate who goes west to "grow up with the country," finds the country already well advanced on lines that call for repression. Sin is riotous. His attitude must be that of uncompromising protest. If the people around him are not hostile to his work, they are at least prevailingly out of sympathy with it. His warfare is a double one. He must strive to infuse a purer moral tone into the life of the community; and he must consciously beat back the influences that assail his own spirituality. The danger is that he will lose both intellectual and spiritual vigor without realizing it. His surroundings are unfavorable to studious habits. Unless he strongly fortifies himself with native resolution, he will insensibly decline in the matter of preparation for the pulpit. After exhausting his reserve fund, the chances are that he will drivel.

Again, the frontier preacher is at a disadvantage by reason of his isolation. He is deprived of those quickening human companionships which are both a gauge and a stimulus to effort. His appliances for study, perhaps, are few. "The hundred best books" are for the most part on the shelves of another; and that other is too far off to be a convenient lender. The choice new books are known to him only through the echoes of a chance review. The "invaluable work" which "no clergyman can afford to be without" (see the latest advertisement), he cannot afford to buy! But the one best book is already his; and, despite what the advertisements say, he can afford to go without a great many other books, if he but

make good use of this.

No matter how isolated the western preacher may be, or how limited his critical apparatus, or how dull and uninspiring his environment, it is possible for him to devote some of his time to conscientious and critical study of the Scriptures in their original tongues. The contention is not that it is always easy, but that it is possible. Moreover, this is the price he must pay, if he would promote thoughtfulness in his people, and keep his own thoughts from becoming stale and trivial. The secret of growth, freshness, usefulness, other things being equal, is with him who studies. Let his privations be what they may, his is not a case that calls for pity, if to his other graces he adds the grace of daily communion with the Holy Spirit speaking through the Greek and Hebrew Scriptures.

The trouble with most western pastors is, that they have gotten behind, and it seems impossible ever to catch up. Their Hebrew has become "mislaid"; they are sadly in arrears with "Westcott and Hort." Worse still, their enthusiasm is gone. The fires need rekindling. The desi leratum is not time so much as stimulus. And the largest praise is due the "Correspondence School of Hebrew" for the friendly hand held out to those who have thus lost their grip and become discouraged. The present interest in Hebrew study in the Territory of Utah is directly traceable to its influence. The Utah Hebrew Club was organized in the fall of 1888, with ten members; of these five were pupils in the Correspondence

School. One of the objects aimed at in the formation of this club was the establishment of a local Summer School of Hebrew. By request a brief statement is here given of the results thus far accomplished.

So quiet and unpretentious a movement deserves no notice at all, except perhaps as showing what may be done in the way of self-help by Bible students remote from centers of instruction. Really, three persons of one mind in this matter will constitute a progressive and prosperous Bible school. And there were five students enrolled in the Summer School of Hebrew that was held in the Presbyterian church at American Fork, Utah, July 22-August 10, 1889. Of this number, two were ladies—one a missionary teacher, and the other a pastor's wife. Both had been pupils in Prof. Harper's Correspondence School. The other three were ministers, of whom one is a recent graduate of McCormick Theological Seminary, and the remaining two are home missionaries of long residence in Utah. One of the ministers had done some work previously by correspondence. The graduate above mentioned was prevented by ill-health from taking Hebrew in the seminary.

Plans previously made, and which could not be changed, prevented some from attending the school, whose interest and sympathy were at the same time cordially expressed. The enthusiasm of those who came ensured the success of the enterprise from the start. A beginners' class was formed, which covered the ground of the first twenty-five lessons in Harper's Introductory Hebrew Method. The reviewers' class completed the book. An hour before breakfast each day was devoted to sight reading in First Samuel. All of the Hebrew word lists were memorized. The work was characterized by painstaking zeal, and the appetite for Hebrew grew perceptibly.

A small beginning truly! but not on that account to be despised. The plan of holding a similar school next year met with favor. Several new members have recently joined the club. Prof. E. L. Curtis, of the chair of Hebrew in McCormlck Theological Seminary, Chicago, promises to come and lend assistance in the conduct of the school next year; and the prospect of a considerably increased attendance is every way encouraging.

That the critical study of the Bible in the original will exert a wholesome influence upon the more popular study of the English Bible, requires no demonstration. It is proper, however, in this connection to refer briefly to a plan of systematic study of the English Bible which has been in operation for three or four years among the members of the Presbytery of Utah. Thus far, owing to the pressure of other work, only one week each year has been devoted to united study. In former years the prophecies of Isaiah and Hosea, the Gospel of John and the Epistle to the Hebrews have been studied with more or less care, in whole or in part. This year the time was given to Haggai and Zechariah, and First Peter. Next year exclusive attention will be given to some portion of the Old Testament. The average attendance at these meetings is between thirty and forty. Some of the teachers make a journey of two hundred miles—half of that distance by stage—in order to attend. New and better methods are applied from year to year. At the same time the work is done with a true missionary fervor, and with an intensely practical aim. Ministers and teachers alike come to this place of study, after a hard year's fight with a system of grossest error, in order to fill their quivers with fresh arrows wherewith to reach "the heart of the King's enemies" (Ps. 45:5).

SOME RECENT EXPOSITORY LITERATURE.

Biblical exposition is not becoming a lost art. On the contrary it is becoming a recovered possession of our time. Crowded out of its rightful place for a season by the theological method of looking at the Bible, its star is again to be seen in the sky and in the ascendant. The old days of exposition, when puritan divines expanded the sacred text into tomes and played havoc with the principles of interpretation in the interests of present and temporary application, can never return. It is not desirable that they should. Their memory is kept green in the occasional grotesque effusions of some enthusiastic evangelists and sensational preachers. But as a living force this expository method is not to be found. It committed suicide—dying of an aggravated and inordinate affection for itself, pushing its performance to an extreme so extravagantly absurd, that common sense stepped forward and hurled it out of sight, enthroning abstract theology or meek commonplace in its stead.

But exposition has had a new birth into new conditions. The rise of modern exegesis and the development of the principles of grammatico-historical interpretation made a new library of commentaries necessary, and now they have come in to guide and foster the awakening desire of men for the expository handling of the Scriptures. In these circumstances a sudden growth of this kind of literature is observed. The books are so numerous as to make it difficult to keep up with them. It is purposed, at this time, to call attention to a few of these among the many and to draw out their distinctive characteristics.

Prominent among these works is a series of volumes appearing under the general title of "The Expositor's Bible." Of the general method and scope of this series readers of this journal have already been informed. Some of the volumes have been singularly excellent—others have been lamentably poor. Perhaps the lowest point has been touched in the two volumes of Prof. W. G. Blaikie on the Books of Samuel, which are not up to the mark in matters of exegesis and interpretation, and not seldom sacrifice the Scripture thought to the passion for hortatory and applicative material. The author is a scholarly man and a forcible writer. But he belongs to the old school, as his other writings, valuable and useful of their kind, clearly show.

The volume on Galatians* by Prof. Findlay, of Headingley College, stands well up among the other volumes. Were it not for the singularly high standard which this series maintains, this volume would call for particular commendation. Considering the subject with which it deals, it is, indeed, excellently planned. The book of Galatians is a theological pamphlet with its fundamental and permanent principles appearing in the forms of a temporary occasion. The expositor of its teachings must be one who can disentangle the thread of living thought from the outworn dress. He must feel these great truths with something of the earnestness of the apostle himself and be able to communicate them with fiery intensity of language. In all this Prof. Findlay seems noticeably fitted to his theme. If anything there is too much intensity—too sudden and violent turns from careful exegesis to vehement expression. The language sounds sometimes harsh and unpleasant. The impressions given, while not, indeed, wrong, are more striking

^{*} THE EPISTLE TO THE GALATIANS. By the Rev. Professor G. C. Findlay, B.A. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. Pp. 461. \$1.50.

and vivid than are warranted. Not only so, but the manifest result of so constant and unyielding a strain of enthusiasm, poured forth on each and every division and paragraph of his theme is, at last, to weaken attention and dissipate effectiveness. We feel, also, that the expositor has not infrequently wasted time and thought on matters of exegesis, fine points, which are not worth the expositor's or reader's prolonged attention. May it not also be suggested, though with hesitation, that the general impression is, on the whole, sacrificed to the particular thoughts? These are the chief matters of criticism in a work which by its spirit and energy, its careful and scholarly exegesis, and its vivid, striking turns of expression will prove a stimulus and a source of information to many biblical students.

An entirely different train of reflection and criticism is set in motion by the volume on the Epistles of St. John,* by Bishop Alexander, well known for his poetical gifts, who has written a brilliant and devout series of lectures on the Psalms. The volume is really a commentary which emphasizes the expository element. It has a unique character. Its usefulness will lie in its suggestiveness on particular topics rather than in its general availability as a thorough treatment of the Scripture in hand. The discourses are brief; they are partly introductory to the subject, partly discussions of particular texts, partly reflections on subjects rising out of the study of the material. Professing to be expository, the work is really topical. It is an interesting example of what some preachers do when they want to expound, but are so bound by old training and habit that exposition is only another name for discussion of some suggestive theme which the passage contains. No one can fail to be helped by the comments of this eloquent and forcible writer upon what the apostle says—but just what he says comes in only by implication and suggestion. Given a careful study of the epistles preliminary to this book and it is a helpful and stimulating comment on these writings. It isolates and develops salient thoughts. The course of thought is nowhere followed out and emphasized. It is to be said that St. John is not a clear reasoner and his connections of thought are intuitive rather than logical. It is true, also, that he burns with a few great thoughts, which are constantly set in new light, rather than presents a constant succession of new images and ideas. With these deductions allowed, it still remains that we have in this volume not properly an exposition, but a brilliant study of St. John's thought.

In coming to Revelation,† which is handled by Professor Milligan, one is at first struck with what seems to be an incongruous and unhappy choice. This Scripture needs a poet to interpret its glowing imagery, and here we listen to the most sober, scholarly and sensible of Scotchmen. But on second thought the judgment is reversed. To be sure Revelation has suffered from dry and dusty literalists. But the book has been handled far more ruthlessly by poetical and wild dreamers. The ideal commentator, who combines the best elements of the two extremes, must be still prayed for. Meanwhile the present writer is eminently fair and judicious in what he has done in this volume. He offers a somewhat new element in his method. In each discourse the Scripture material is not supposed to be all before the reader's eye or in his mind from the beginning. In every lecture upon a long section of Scripture, the author starts with a brief passage for exposition, explains and expounds it, and then into the body of his discourse inserts another section of the Scripture, and so on until each chapter or passage with which in that lecture he is occupied has been traversed. This course seems

^{*} THE EPISTLES OF ST. JOHN: TWENTY-ONE DISCOURSES, WITH GREEK TEXT, COMPARATIVE VERSIONS, NOTES. By William Alexander, D.C.L. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. \$1.50. † THE BOOK OF REVELATION. By William Milligan, D.D. New York: the same. Pp. 392. \$1.50.

to be almost necessary in so varied and shifting a scene as the Book of Revelation exhibits, and it offers manifest advantages for the treatment of other books because it re-awakens and holds the reader's thought to the passage in hand. This is no small gain where large portions have to be massed for expository purposes. On the other hand it breaks up the course of thought, each particular passage forming a kind of barrier to cut off any way of approach from what has been left behind. The practical outcome, also, is to prevent any recapitulation of the subject of discourse or any opportunity to present as a whole the single impression made by the entire chapter or section. As to the substance of the exposition of Dr. Milligan it is not necessary to write at length. It is to be noted, however, that the element of application to present life and experience is almost wholly wanting. Hence the volume will instruct the mind more than it will please and edify the heart. And as such it is seriously deficient in spite of its scholarly and reasonable exegesis.

Of all these volumes the palm must be given to that by Dr. Dods, of Glasgow, on First Corinthians.* For a happy union of the practical and the scientific it is distinguished above all. Long passages are treated with so great a respect for the apostle's thought and so marvelous a capacity for fitting every detail of it into the picture, as well with so firm a grasp of its bearings upon practical life and a strong way of putting these edificatory and stimulating thoughts, that the interest is sustained while the meaning and scope of the Scripture is fully apprehended. Still there is felt here, also, the lack of that most important element—the unified impression of the whole epistle. If in Paul's letter there was no great ruling idea, purpose, conception, teaching, or whatever other word may be used to express what we are after, then this book is thoroughly complete. Good reasons might be given for that view. But, a priori, the epistle should contain a single thought. That was the way Paul's mind worked. He ramified a single conception. He developed a simple practical teaching. What that was in this case, if there was any, Dr. Dods does not intimate.

It may be that the tone of these reflections has been unreasonably critical. It must be remembered, however, that the attention here has been fixed upon one thing—the expository element in these volumes. While none of them has been fully satisfactory in this respect, warm testimony should be given, were this the time and place, to the wise choice of the men to write these several volumes as well as to the uniform excellence of their writing, the exceedingly high standard of attainment, reached in some cases and aimed at in all, and the union of reverence and scholarship displayed in the exceptical treatment of the Scripture. The American publishers are to be thanked and the American readers to be congratulated, that such books can be obtained at a price within the reach of all.

^{*}THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS. By Marcus Dods, D.D. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. Pp. 399. \$1.50.

Synopses of Important Articles.

The Apostle John.*-It is difficult to express one's idea of this apostle because of the singular spiritual elevation of his character-that element which made him dear to his Master. He was the son of Zebedee and Salome, probably younger than his brother James. Salome, whose nature was an enthusiastically religious one, doubtless exercised much influence over his development. He was not a learned man. His writings show it, for had he been trained in the schools and not by contact with nature and man we would never have had the Fourth Gospel and the Apocalypse. He was a disciple of the Baptist and tells us many things that could have come only from a sympathetic eye-witness of his work. Then he became a disciple of Jesus who at once took him to His heart "because he so leaned on Him and clung to Him." The other disciples seem to have seen how appropriate this relation was and never murmur at it. After the death of Christ he is found at Jerusalem as one of the pillars of the church, apparently not yet having comprehended the entirely independent character of Christianity. Tradition tells us that he long lived at Ephesus and there was buried. In his character is noticed (1) his idealistic nature. He belongs less to the age in which he lived than to the ages that followed him. He sees Jesus with the eye of intuition, his thought clothes itself in general terms. (2) He was contemplative rather than energetic. Yet he was not supine. His feelings flowed deep and strong and expressed themselves sometimes in passionate vehemence of devotion to Christ and indignation against His enemies. (3) He was gentle, womanly, though not timid or effeminate. (4) His nature was preëminently receptive. This is why he was drawn to Jesus and Jesus to him; why he has revealed the heart of Jesus most fully. (5) On this trait of character depend others-his simplicity, sublimity, pathos-all rising out of his absorption of devotion to Christ. These are some of the features of character in the man, from whose thoughts and representation of Christ the deeper and more living theology for which we are anxiously longing. will spring.

A deeply clear and beautiful picture which will hardly bear reduction to the miniature here given.

Polytheism in Primitive Israel. † The use of the term Elohim in Gen. I, is a proof that there was a time when those who then applied it to the one God of Israel, had in the past employed it in its natural meaning of "gods." Other passages indicate it, e. g. "let us make man." The Canaanites are found to use the plural "gods" for the singular, "god" and the Israelites adopted their language. When the term "El" began to be avoided by writers, "elohim" took its place, but though used of the national God, the term implies polytheism in those who used it. That the earliest users of it were affected with some elements of polytheism is seen in the teraphim-worship, and the worship of the high places which died out in Judah first owing to the centralizing of worship at Jerusalem. The frequent lapses of the nation into idolatry show that the old national habits of polytheism still remained. Though there were monotheistic elements in the

^{*} By Rev. Professor William Milligan, D.D., in The Expositor, Nov. 1889, pp. 321-341.

⁺ By Rev. Professor A. H. Sayce, In the Jewish Quarterly Review, Oct., 1889, pp. 25-36.

Semitic mind and religion, they never developed into monotheism, except where the holy prophets of Israel proclaimed the divine message. Natural causes prepared the way by breaking down the old polytheism. The gods of the Canaanites were identified with the national God of Israel; the unity of the political life in the king led to the unifying of the religious life in the one God. The female divinities of the Semite were absorbed in the male consort. Then the time came when the revelation was given: Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord."

This paper, attractive and clear-cut as are its arguments and helpful as its main position may be in explaining some phenomena of the Old Testament, is based on assumptions concerning the history of Israel which do not commend themselves to the majority of students.

The Blood of Jesus Christ; The New Testament Doctrine.* The literal way in which emphasis is laid upon the saving virtue of the blood of Jesus has led many to seek to erase it from New Testament teaching. But it cannot be erased; it belongs to the substance of the book. What does the New Testament mean by it? (1) Scripture says "the blood is the life." Blood is the token of that which is inmost, the life, the character. Hence the New Testament says that we are saved by the blood, i. e. the life, the character of Christ. (2) Blood is also a symbol of transmitted life. There is a power transmittible in God and a power of reception in man. The blood of God, i. e. his character, flows in our lives. We are saved by the blood of Christ when the transmitted nature of God enters into us and becomes part of our own nature through Jesus Christ. (3) It is not mere blood that is shed, which is precious, it is the self-denial and self-sacrifice typified in that blood. Thus the blood of Christ saves in that the life of Christ is laid down for us. But it is only as this life is in us that we are saved by it. We are not saved by "expiation," "substitution," "vicarious" sacrifice. These words are not in the New Testament. We are saved by One who brings the divine life down into the world: and we are saved when our own hearts and our own lives are open and his heart and his life are poured into ours.

This article exhibits what Matthew Arnold called "pouring a fresh stream of thought" about old and established formulas of theology. It seems that the writer, however, gives too little weight to the Old Testament sacrificial system in his explanation of the New Testament view of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Bible and Egyptology. +- The points of contact between the Bible and Egyptology on which recent excavations have thrown light are (1) the arrival of Abraham in Egypt, (2) the rise of Joseph, (3) the stay of the Israelites in the country, (4) the Exodus. It is generally agreed that the arrival of Abraham and the settlement of the Israelites occurred at a time when Egypt was governed not by native Pharaohs but by the Hyksos. It is highly probable that their invasion of Egypt is connected with the conquest of Lower Mesopotamia by the Elamites. The name of Apepi, Joseph's king, is repeatedly found on the monuments. His statues have been found at Bubastis, which was doubtless an important Hyksos settlement. "Goshen" has been located in the immediate vicinity. Apepi became involved in a war with the native prince, the result of which, not appearing, however, in his reign, was the expulsion of the Hyksos. Rameses II, was the oppressor of the Hebrews. His reign is known very fully to us. Pithom, his store city, has been discovered. Raamses remains unknown. At Naukratis, granaries, probably similar to those in these cities, have been discovered. We are still doubtful about the place of the Exodus. The name "Raamses," whence they started, must be regarded as describing a district. The view of Ebers and Daw-

^{*} By Lyman Abbott, D.D., in The Andover Review, Dec., 1889.

[†] By Edward Naville, in The Theological Monthly, Sept., 1889, pp. 145,-161.

son makes the Israelites pass south of the Bitter Lakes. The objection is that then they would have had to cross a range of mountains. The view of Lesseps is better, that the passage was north of these lakes. The slightly undulating desert, which has all the appearance of an ancient sea, witnessed that deliverance.

The article is difficult to abbreviate, and should be read as a whole by all students of the Bible,

Discovery and Revelation. -- Apart from what the mind furnishes to itself, there are three ways of gaining knowledge; by tradition, by discovery and by revelation. Which of these methods can account for the Bible? Take (1) the account of the creation. Using "tradition" in the sense of receiving knowledge from others, and taking it on their authority, this account could not have had such a source. Granting that the Chaldean account of creation resembles the Hebrew, we note (a) the Hebrew is the simplest; (b) the impression the Hebrew gives is totally different from that given by any other account. It was a revelation, therefore, to the people of Israel. Now could Moses have discovered it? If so, he was the wisest man, considering his times, that ever lived. His view of God and the idea of creation must have been revealed to him. (2) The same reasoning applies to the Legislation of Moses. It could not have been an outgrowth of the popular thought of the day. The people were never up to it. If Moses "discovered" it all, what surpassing wisdom! (3) Take Prophecy. Did the progressive prediction of the Christ come by tradition? Those who first conceived those ideas, could not have gotten them in that way. Nor could these predictions have come by discovery, for they see too far ahead. This growing idea, the increasing definitions of places and lineage must have been given by Revelation from first to last. The distinction is important between Revelation and Discovery. The Bible could not have come by Discovery as distinct from Revelation. But what if the two are identical: all Discovery being virtually Revelation? This is a favorite modern rationalistic idea. It makes the wise and holy thoughts of the wise men of China, India, Persia and elsewhere to come from Divine Revelation. On the contrary these ideas (1) were not regarded by these thinkers themselves as in any way a revelation; (2) they were not such as could not be reached by discovery; (3) God took no such pains to have them preserved as he took in relation to the Scriptures. Of course there was a divine providence in the matter, and some remains of a primitive revelation still lingered. But the true view of the matter is that God was training his own chosen people up to the introduction of the Gospel, while leaving these other nations, each in its own way, to find and demonstrate the necessity for a Christ and a Divinely instituted ministry.

This article, though somewhat bunglingly written, contains not a little fresh and instructive thinking.

The Doctrine of the Day of Jehovah Before Joel's Time.†—The idea contained in the phrase "Day of Jehovah" is found in the earlier times. In Exodus 32:34 we have the idea enunciated of a great "day of visitation" which it may well be thought, the men of Joel's time had in mind. The phrases "latter days," (Gen. 49:1; Numb. 24:14; Deut. 31:29 etc.) and "that day" (Deut. 31:17, 18) suggest a more or less definite period of time in the future corresponding in the character of its events to the "day" in Joel. It may be granted that these earlier passages are vague, but yet as, warning and promise, they were doubtless handed down, until, in the mouth of Joel they assumed the more definite character of the doctrine of the "day of Jehovah."

A careful and interesting study in the history of biblical theology.

^{*} By Rev. W. D. Wilson, D.D., in The Church Review, Oct. 1889, pp. 1-23.

[†] By Prof. Willis J. Reecher, in The Homiletic Review, Nov. 1889, pp. 449-451.

General Notes and Notices.

THE PHILADELPHIA LOCAL BOARD OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

Philadelphia has had the benefit for five years of Summer Schools given by the American Institute of Hebrew. That Institute recently expired by limitation, and out of it grew the American Institute of Sacred Literature, prepared for a much larger work. Philadelphia had to ask the question whether she was willing to give up the work of the Summer School. The new Institute would not hold Schools here on their own responsibility as the old one had done. If the school was to be continued, it must be under the joint direction of a local committee and the Institute.

Last June a number of meetings were held during the session of the School, and a committee was appointed to formulate a plan for permanent work, and to bring the matter before a representative body. This committee gave a dinner in October to those whom they thought likely to be especially interested in the new movement, and who were best qualified to carry it on successfully. The expression in favor of a permanent Summer School was unanimous. The committee who had the matter in charge nominated the following as Directors of the Philadelphia Local Board, and they were elected unanimously.

Rev. Dr. George D. Balser, Rev. L. W. Batten, Rev. Dr. John T. Beckley, Rev. Dr. C. W. Buoy, Mr. George H. Crozer, Rev. Dr. S. W. Dana, Rev. Dr. Chas. A. Dickey, Prof. J. Rendel Harris, Mr. Chas. C. Harrison, Rev. Prof. H. V. Hilprecht, Rev. Dr. Wayland Hoyt, Rev. Dr. Henry E. Jacobs, Major W. H. Lambert, Rev. Dr. W. J. Mann, Rev. Dr. S. D. McConnell, Rev. Dr. W. N. McVickar, Mr. Robert C. Ogden, Hon. Robert E. Pattison, Rev. Dr. J. DeWolfe Perry, Rev. Dr. Henry G. Weston.

To these should be added Rev. Dr. Edward T. Bartlett, and Prof. W. R. Harper, who by virtue of their positions in the American Institute, are ex officio directors of this Board; and Dr. William Pepper, Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, who was elected a director, at the first meeting of the Board.

This Board will carry on a two-fold work; (1) A Summer School, to be held at the University of Pennsylvania, beginning about the middle of June. At this School instruction of the best character will be offered in all the branches of Biblical study, stated in the prospectus of the American Institute of Sacred Literature, including the Old and New Testaments, in the original, and in English,

(2), A course of ten weekly studies in the English Bible to be conducted by Prof. W. R. Harper. The aim of this course is to give the best results of modern scholarship to those who are limited to the English Bible. In the summer clergymen, Sunday School teachers, and Bible classes are so scattered that only a small proportion can be gathered for special work. But these studies, coming in the winter, when all these people are easily accessible will, it is hoped, appeal to a very large number of earnest Bible students.

L. W. BATTEN.

Book Notices.

A Study of Religion.

A Study of Religion; its Sources and Contents. By James Martineau, D.D., LL.D. 2 vols., pp. 392, 391. New York: Macmillan and Co. \$4.50.

These volumes, though by their title presumably coming within the scope of the STUDENT, in reality deal with matters which are outlying or rather which underlie its sphere. The "Study" of Religion here entered upon is a philosophical and metaphysical examination into the grounds of religious belief, not a study of Religion, as it has assumed concrete form among men. Of the inestimable value of the former line of research there can be no doubt. It underlies all objective and concrete investigation. It lays the subjective basis for all such studies. Dr. Martineau is a subtle reasoner, wielding a matchless style, limpid and sparkling, a keen defender of the religious element in the human soul, its presence, its power, its witness to God. One cannot help confessing to a feeling of disappointment that he did not also examine the other side, the objective facts; that he did not make a study of "Religions" as well as of "Religion." With his philosophical mind and ample learning he could have produced a most helpful work. What is specially needed, now-a-days, is the treatment by a religious metaphysician of the elements of biblical religion as given in the Old Testament and the New-a study of the facts and their significance from the point of view of the universal religious element in man. Rightly handled, it would clear up many problems in biblical study, lay a basis for objective work, and furnish one of the strongest presentations of the uniqueness of the biblical revelation.

The Kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God; or, Christ's Teaching according to the Synoptical Gospels. By Alexander Balmain Bruce, D.D. Pp. 344. New York: Scribner and Welford. \$2.00.

The exegetical and theological writings of Prof. Bruce have begun to be not a few. Everything that he has written is valuable both because of its matter and because of its manner of presentation. This statement includes and is true of this work, his latest contribution to the study of New Testament thought. It consists of a study of the biblical theology of the Synoptical Gospels. The topics treated are such as these: "Christ's Idea of the Kingdom;" "Christ's Attitude toward the Mosaic Law;" "Christ's Doctrine of God and Man;" "The Righteousness of the Kingdom;" "The Death of Jesus and its Significance," etc. These chapters are preceded by a "critical introduction," which is certainly characterized by acute criticism and a degree of freedom in the handling of the Gospels which is surprising. This freedom is sometimes veiled by a curious circumlocution which might impose upon a careless reader, by which the opinions of some other writer are presented, enforced and made the basis of investigation while the author himself nowhere either disavows them or professes to accept them as his own. It is difficult, also, for the ordinary student to see how the historical character and trustworthiness of Luke's Gospel can be maintained on the critical basis which is accepted in this volume. Fortunately, however, these views do not seem to affect the presentation of the theology of Jesus Christ which forms the bulk of the work. As to this the chief element of the book, it may be said that in the main it is thoroughly satisfactory. Dr. Bruce strongly antagonizes Weiss' conception of the close relationship of the work and teaching of Jesus to the Old Testament life and teaching. He maintains with an over-emphasis the uniqueness of Jesus, taking a position which, to many, will seem to make the Old Testament of small account for present life and teaching, certainly in its Messianic elements. Weiss is doubtless at fault in the arbitrary character of much of his interpretation, but as yet, from the historical point of view his presentation, of the life of Jesus Christ is unexcelled. Not the least of the excellences is the way in which he brings out our Lord's constant and close relation to the Old Testament life. Still, it will not hurt a student to be put on his guard against unqualified dependence on Weiss by this book of Prof. Bruce. Ministers will find their knowledge of the Gospels broadened and corrected by it. It is a stimulating work. The external form and style of it are worthy of all praise.

Systematic Theology and the Bible.

Dogmatic Theology. By William G. T. Shedd, D.D. 2 vols. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$7.00.

Christian Doctrine Harmonized and its Rationality Vindicated. By John Steinfort Kedney, D.D. 2 vols. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Systematic Theology; a Compendium and Commonplace-book, designed for the use of Theological Students. By Augustus Hopkins Strong, D.D. Second edition, revised and enlarged. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. \$5.00.

Whither? A Theological Question for the Times. By Charles Augustus Briggs, D.D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. \$1.75.

These four works, dealing with questions of theology, have been rightly taken as signs of the times, as indications of the intense interest among thinking men of our day in matters of theological thought. From the standpoint of this journal, the standpoint of biblical study, it is worth while to consider and estimate them. What is their attitude toward the Bible? The first work is not in these respects entirely satisfactory. In the treatment of "Bibliology" occur statements like these: 'Biblical history, chronology and geography differs (sic) from corresponding matter in uninspired literature, by being unmixed with error." This statement would not be generally regarded as true of chronology as all biblical interpreters admit. Again, in speaking of Satan's words to Eve and those of Job's friends it is said "those words were actually spoken and they are recorded with infallible accuracy." This is not in accord with the best orthodox exegesis which does not demand that the book of Job or the early chapters of Genesis be taken as literal history. The former doubtless is a dramatic poem and the latter may be poetical or symbolic. But apart from the matter bearing directly on the Scriptures, the use made of biblical material in the development and proof of doctrine is neither sufficiently full and distinct nor based on sound principles of interpretation. The old proof-text-collection-method is the prevailing one. Of Dr. Shedd's ability and strength in abstract theological reasoning there can be but one opinion. It is masterly. The Christian world cannot but be grateful to him for so convincing and so massive a defence of its ancient doctrines. If only there had been an adequate treatment of Scripture and Scripture material, the work would have been well nigh perfect. The second treatise is confessedly speculative not biblical. One might turn over dozens of pages without finding a single reference to such a work as the Bible. The author's treatment of Inspiration is not so clear as one could desire and more authority is given to the Christian consciousness in the determination of the truth than would be admitted by many. The statement is made, however, that "these writings differ so greatly from all other human productions as to require distinct explanation." In the third treatise no little space is given to the discussion of the Doctrine of Scripture. Error in the Bible is denied except as it may arise out of transcription and incorrect interpretation. Defects in culture and literary style seem to be acknowledged. Inspiration is "verbal as to its result but not verbal as to its method." As to the book of Job it is said, "It is not necessary to suppose that the poetical speeches of Job's friends were actually delivered in the words that have come down to us." In other parts of this work there is a very gratifying regard for biblical statements of truth and a manifest endeavor after a careful exegesis and interpretation. Of course the author is governed largely by dogmatic considerations in the treatment of texts and therefore his interpretations would not satisfy either the scientific exegete or the advocate of an opposing system. The fourth work is rather a pamphlet than a treatise. The atmosphere in which it moves is heated and controversial. Its position, however, is clear. Claiming that "Traditional Orthodoxy has been undermined and honeycombed by the recent biblical and historical studies" and that "the doctrine of the inerrancy of the Scriptures not only comes into conflict with the historical faith of the church but (it) is also in conflict with biblical criticism" and that the rigid advocates of verbal inspiration "cannot escape the evidence of errors in the Scriptures" and that "no more dangerous doctrine has ever come from the pen of men than that which asserts that 'a proved error in Scripture contradicts not only our doctrine (i. e. of inerrancy) but the Scripture claims and therefore its inspiration in making those claims," he pleads for what he regards as the true Westminster doctrine which bases the authority of Scripture on the internal evidence of its divinity and the witness of the Holy Spirit in the heart. "It is therefore the authority of God Himself, speaking through the Holy Spirit, by and with the Word to the heart, that determines that the writings are infallible as the inspired word of God." This position will be met in the spirit in which it is asserted and its arguments will be fiercely contested. Certainly one thing is imperatively demanded from every consideration—the liberty for Christian scholars fearlessly and faithfully to use the materials and methods of literary and historical criticism in the study of the Bible.

The Epistles of Paul.

Studies on the Epistles. By F. Godet, D.D., Translated by Annie Harwood Holmden, New York; E. P. Dutton and Co. Price \$2.00.

The author's wealth of sound scholarship, his critical acumen and ripe judgment, his devout spirit and reverent sympathy with the inspired Word, are qualifications which in themselves would ensure valuable results. But when combined with a life-long training as an exegete, and with a remarkable capacity of expressing thought clearly and forcibly, we are entitled to expect a volume of more than ordinary importance. The present publication does not disappoint the reader's highest expectations. It deals only with the Pauline epistles, considering them in chronological order, and noting the apostle's attitude toward the problems that confronted the early church, and his spiritual conflicts with gnostic and Judaising heresies. A fair idea of the scope of the volume and the method of treatment may be gathered from a statement of the contents of the several chapters. The epistles to the Thessalonians lead to a consideration of the excitement over the second advent among the Christians of Thessalonica; the epistle to the Galatians, the

conflict among them between the Law and the Gospel; the epistles to the Corinthians, the opposition to the apostle in their city and his ultimate triumph; the epistle to the Romans, the preaching of the Gospel in the Imperial City; the epistle to the Colossians, the first indications of gnosticism in Asia Minor; the message to the Gentile churches comes before us in the letter to the Ephesians; the first anti-slavery petition in that to Philemon; the thanks of an apostle in that to the Philippians; the last labor of a soldier of Christ in the pastoral epistles, and the message to the Judeo-Christians in the epistle to the Hebrews. The final chapter contains a general review of the Pauline writings. If we glance, for instance, at the chapter which treats the briefest of all the epistles, the letter to Philemon, we are at once instructed by the lucid exposition, and charmed by the exquisite skill which brings out every delicate shade of meaning, and makes the scene live before us as if we were spectators of the events. The same is true in a measure of all the chapters. The genuineness of the commonly accepted Pauline epistles is ably vindicated against the assaults of modern criticism. With the majority of modern scholars Dr. Godet regards the epistle to the Hebrews as addressed to Judeo-Christians, especially to those at Jerusalem, who were on the point of reverting to the old faith with its outward rites and ceremonial worship from which they had never more than half broken loose. He inclines to the belief that the real author may have been Silas. No one can rise from a reading of these admirable "Studies" without a clearer conception of the conditions under which the epistles were written, and consequently a better understanding of this important portion of the New Testament.

The Catholic Epistles.

An American Commentary on the New Testament. Edited by Alvah Hovey, D.D. The Epistle of James, by E. T. Winkler, D.D. The Epistles of Peter, by N. M. Williams, D.D. The Epistles of John, by H. A. Sawtelle, D.D. The Epistle of Jude, by N. M. Williams, D.D. I vol., 8vo. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society. \$2.00.

In this series of commentaries have appeared some works of permanent value, such as the volume of Dr. A. Hovey, on the Gospel of John, that of Dr. J. A. Broadus, on Matthew, that of Dr. W. N. Clarke, on Mark, and that of Prof. E. P. Gould, on the Epistles to the Corinthians. The present volume cannot be ranked with any one of these. The authors do not profess to be specialists in New Testament exegesis, and of course their work at its best could be little more than the exercise of good sense and the faculty of selection and condensation in the use of the writings of scholars and specialists upon these books of the New Testament. So far as this goes they have produced fairly good work. The commentary on James is the most scholarly. It contains the fullest and best introduction, in which element the book, as a whole, is noticeably deficient. The writer maintains that James was a true "brother" of the Lord. He presents some theories about Greek tenses which cannot be regarded as of much value. While the notes in general are good the treatment of the reference to Job (5:11) is inadequate, as he fails to notice the obvious objection that as Job appears to us in his words and actions he is far from "patient." The consideration of faith-healing (5:15) is excellent, one sentence throwing a flood of light on the passage: "the absoluteness of the promlse displays the coloring of the age of miracles." The notes on Peter, by Dr. Williams, and on Jude, by the same author, are characterized by a vigor of expression which sometimes betrays the writer into extravagance. He is inclined to use his text as a convenient means for attacking such favorite foes as Romanism, premillenarianism and agnosticism. Of course I Peter 3:18 ff., gives him an excellent opportunity for inveighing against the doctrine of a second probation, and he closes the notes on Jude with a suggestion that the warnings of this epistle can well be employed against those who are to-day maintaining "the principle that the Bible must be explained by one's spiritual consciousness." He also has a grudge against certain classes of ministers, and at 2 Peter, 2:16, says, "The ass (Balaam's) wastes no words, but-which is more than can be said of some preachers-speaks with directness and force." He refers to certain views of the marriage relation which "would sling domestic life into chaos." Still in spite of these infelicities and occasional vagaries, the commentary, if not scholarly and judicious, aims to cover all questions suggested by the epistles. The author would have produced a more acceptable work if he had not been so eager to spring at the throat of what he regards as present errors of Christian teaching and life. The work done on the Epistles of John calls for more unqualified commendation. The spirit is admirable. The difficult passages are treated soberly and with a firm hand. By an oversight Eusebius is cited as authority for the statement that Papias was a hearer of John the Apostle. Eusebius, however, claims that John the presbyter must have been the person referred to by Papias. The great lack in all this volume is any adequate use of the fundamental principle of historical interpretation.

The Incarnation.

The Incarnation as a Motive Power. By William Bright, D.D., Canon of Christ Church, Oxford. New York: E. and J. B. Young and Co. Pp. xxvii, 283. Price \$1.75.

A series of sermons by an Oxford professor does not as a rule promise a rich and savory repast. It cannot be said in this case that the writer has produced a remarkable volume. The purpose of the collection however, is excellent, being expressed in the title page. Christianity as a life, it is claimed, cannot be separated from Christianity as a system of doctrine. Chief and central among these doctrines of the Gospel is the fact of the Incarnation. "Christian morality, which consists in doing what Christ has bidden, cannot but be grounded on the doctrine which tells us who Christ is. And thus throughout all Christian ages, the essence of Christian life is the absolute devotion of the soul to the Person of its divine and human Saviour, so that for the purposes of a belief which is to be not barren but fruitful-the Incarnation will mean the Incarnate." The idea is carried out into the several aspects of this doctrine in their bearing on the Christian life. The sermons are simple in language and practical in thought without presenting much that is new or stirring the heart. The discourse on "Christ's Presence amid theological studies" touches a very serious and difficult problem in the scholar's life-how to preserve a living faith and an active devotion in the mldst of scientific investigations into Scripture and theological doctrine.

The Acts of the Apostles.

The Acts of the Apostles, being the Greek text as revised by Westcott and Hort, with explanatory notes. By Thomas E. Page, M.A. London and New York: Macmillan and Co. 12mo. Pp. 270.

This is a convenient little volume for the use of schools and of private students who desire to study the original text by the aid of brief explanatory notes. The author claims for his work little beyond clearness and simplicity. He seems to have gathered much useful material and to have covered the ground in a satisfactory way. A serious oversight is the omission of a map.

The Bible, the Word of God.

The Book Divine; or, How do I Know the Bible is the Word of God? By Jacob Embury Price, D.D. New York: Hunt and Eaton. 75 cents.

Among the subjects considered in this series of lectures are the unity of the Bible, its harmony with history and with physical science, the prophetic element in the Scriptures, and the character of Jesus Christ. Prepared for a popular audience it claims only to be based on careful research and to possess clearness of statement. The writer is a liberal-minded and devout clergyman, and the book is one which can be put into the hands of young people with profit. We find the mistakes in detail that are to be expected in the work of one who has not made a special study of the many fields of investigation which he rapidly traverses, but they do not affect the main positions of his argument which is forcibly and vividly presented.

Some Commentaries on the Gospel of Luke.

The Pulpit Commentary: St. Luke. Exposition by Very Rev. H. D. M. Spence, D.D. Homiletics by Rev. J. Marshall Lang, D.D., and others. Vol. I, chaps. I-12. New York: A. D. F. Randolph and Co. \$2.00.

People's Commentary on the Gospel according to Luke. By Edwin W. Rice, D.D., with maps and original engravings. Philadelphia: The American Sunday School Union,

The scope and character of these two commentaries are clearly suggested in their respective titles. The former is for homiletic uses by the preacher. The latter is designed to supply the need for a compact popular work for Sunday school teachers and other intelligent students. Each seems to be adapted to its purpose. The exposition or exegetical notes, as they are in reality, given in the Pulpit Commentary are among the most helpful material to be found anywhere. Ample space is given to the discussion of difficult passages. Breadth, freedom reverence and good sense as a general rule are characteristic of the remarks and comments. For a thorough student few works could be more useful. Dr. Rice's volume has certain special features of its own. The text appears at the foot of the page—a frank acknowledgement, doubtless, that the important element of the book is to be found in the comments. There is a scholarly introduction; the text is divided into brief sections for annotation; each section is closed by pointed and suggestive applications of the material. The book is made still more valuable by full page wood-cuts of Bible scenes made from original photographs. The teacher who possesses and studies this book will be well furnished for work.

The Gospel of John.

The Gospel according to St. John. [Hand-Books for Bible Classes.] By Rev. George Reith, M.A., New York: Scribner and Welford. 2 vols. Price \$1.60.

This commentary belongs to a series of Hand-books of which the average excellence is high. The series as a whole does not equal the Cambridge Bible for Schools though individual volumes in it may surpass corresponding volumes in the latter. The present work has peculiar features of its own which will commend it to some but fail to please others. Its strength is in exposition of the thought of this profound Gospel. Its summaries and analyses of chapters are fully and carefully made. The danger is sometimes not escaped of being too voluminous in explanation. In the notes paragraphs are few; the material is massed; the fine type makes consultation somewhat burdensome. It is difficult

to find just the passage and the comment one desires. A comparison made with the volume on John in the "Cambridge Bible for Schools" would bring out the fact that for the purposes for which both volumes are designed, the latter commentary is much more suitable. The "Bible-class" that could gain much help from Mr. Reith's extended and thoughtful comments would have to be far advanced in study. The simpler notes of the Cambridge Bible John would be found much nearer their comprehension. By this fact the intrinsic excellence of Mr. Reith's book is not denied. It is a scholarly and helpful aid to the advanced student of this Gospel. An elaborate Introduction of sixty-one pages is furnished. The absence of an index is to be lamented. Ministers will find the homiletic element in this commentary exceedingly useful while the devout and spiritual tone of the work will commend it to all.

Difficult Passages in the New Testament.

Notes on Difficult Passages of the New Testament. By Elias Riggs, D.D., LL.D., Missionary of the A. B. C. F. M. Boston and Chicago: Congregational Sunday School and Publishing Society. Pp. 259. \$1.00.

The opinions of a devout and thoughtful man upon difficult passages in the Scriptures are always of interest. Dr. Riggs is all this and more. He passes in review in their order the chief of such passages where the ordinary reader would, find difficulty, and seeks to bring to bear upon their solution the best knowledge that he can offer. He is eminently candid and judicious in his comments-fairly stating the various opinions and briefly considering them while presenting his own view. Where a definite decision cannot be arrived at, he states fully the elements both of certainty and of doubt. Where no satisfactory view appears he frankly states the fact. Of course one cannot agree with him in all his conclusions, but his remarks in every case are worthy of consideration. It may be worth while to state some of his views. On "the Spirits in Prison" he finds no view which meets the facts in the case. The "Speaking with Tongues" both in Acts 2:4 and in the Epistle to the Corinthians he regards as speaking in a foreign language, in both cases a temporary endowment. The "Immanuel Prophecy" of Isaiah is considered as having its direct fufillment in Jesus Christ. He prefers the old translation in Acts 26:28 "Almost thou persuadest," etc., and makes an excellent suggestion that the "almost" is a translation of the Hebrew particle having that meaning. This beautifully printed little volume ought to be widely known, since it would be of great service to thoughtful readers of the Bible in every line of life, while not without interest to the scholar.

The Hittites.

Old Heroes: the Hittites of the Bible. By Rev. J. N. Fradenburgh, Ph.D., D.D. New York: Hunt and Eaton. Price \$0.75.

This little volume is an attempt to popularize the investigations of specialists into this somewhat recondite and unsatisfactory question of the Hittite people and civilization. It is a praiseworthy endeavor. The larger part of the book is really taken up with descriptions of the peoples with whom the Hittites came into contact. This fact shows how meagre are the materials for gaining satisfactory information. The author quotes freely from the leading authorities on the subject and endeavors to make his presentation as vivid as possible. One may question whether the book will be sufficiently attractive to interest young people and others ignorant of the subject, or full and scholarly enough to claim the attention of those who are already somewhat acquainted with the field which is so hastily traversed.

The Sermon Bible.

The Sermon Bible. I Kings to Psalm 26; Psalm 37 to the Song of Solomon. 2 vols. New York: A. C. Armstrong and Son. 1889. Pp. 520, 476. Per vol. \$1.50.

This is undoubtedly one of the most useful publications of its kind. While such a book, containing outlines of sermons on particular passages, can be easily abused by idle men who unscrupulously appropriate its language and thought, it can also be of great service to one who studies it for method and not for matter. These volumes are also particularly valuable because of their wise selection of material. Very little that is poor and trashy finds place. The selections which cover the book of Ecclesiastes call for special mention because of their unique value to the biblical student. A continuous exposition of this book is given from a volume of Prof. Momerie who, though of recent reputation, is a singularly keen and stimulating thinker. The constant reference to other material bearing on the same topics adds to the value of this publication. The work is a very complete thing and its convenient shape, excellent make-up and moderate cost ought to gain for it a large sale among clergymen and students of the Bible.

Recent Biblical Criticism.

Jacob and Japheth: Bible Growth and Religion from Abraham to Daniel. Illustrated by Contemporary History. By the Author of "God in Creation," etc., New York: Thomas Whittaker. Price \$1.25.

This book is a praiseworthy polemic against the school of negative criticism represented by Renan. It is written in a rather warm tone and with strong emphasis. While all will not agree with the prospectus which accompanies the volume when it declares that "this book routs more learned lions from the lairs of Germany and France, than any other of our generation," it may be said that no one can fail to see that the writer is well acquainted with his subject. He is familiar with recent discussions, and battles manfully for the liberal-conservative positions. All can learn something: the timid will be encouraged; the wise will smile approvingly; the ignorant will be enlightened; the wearied and perplexed inquirers will be refreshed and stimulated; the "destructive critics" will duly squirm under the onslaught which is here made upon them—and the battle will go on.

CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL OF HEBREW.

A year ago prizes in books to the value of one hundred dollars were offered to those members of the Correspondence School who should send in the largest number of examination papers, with a grade of eight or more on a scale of ten, within the year ending November 30, 1889. These prizes are now awarded as follows:

- 1. Rev. George S. Duncan, Mooredale, Pa. \$25.00.
- 2. Rev. Alfred Osborne, Markham, Ont. \$20.00.
- 3. Miss Eliza E. Howard, Charlottesville, Va. \$15.00,
- 4. Rev. GEORGE S. ROLLINS, Wilmington, N. C. \$10.00.
- 5. Rev. Anthony Hall, Manchester, England. \$10.00.
- 6. Rev. W. D. AKERS, Maryville, Tenn. \$5.00.
- 7. Mr. S. S. Conger, Princeton Theological Seminary, N. J. \$5.00.
- 8. Rev. R. D. BAMBRICK, Sydney Mines, C. B., N. S. \$5.00.
- 9. Rev. P. K. DAYFOOT, Strathroy, Ont. \$5.00.

That others who have done a large amount of work may have some acknowledgment of their efforts, the list is extended to include all who have sent in more than forty examination papers during the year. The names are arranged according to number of papers sent in:

Mr. S. D. Lathrop, Redfield, South Dakota; Rev. Wm. Stuart, Dromore West, Ireland; Mr. W. T. Brown, New Bedford, Mass.; Miss C. P. Dwight, Elmira, N. Y.; Rev. W. A. Dahlke, Reserve, N. Y.; Rev. A. P. Greenleaf, Battle Creek, Mich.; Rev. R. F. Norton, East Norwich, N. Y.; Miss Frances Blackburn, Oxford, England; Mr. W. S. Ross, Peekskill, N. Y.; Rev. J. G. Tanner, Houston, Texas; Rev. W. F. Markwick, New Haven, Conn.; Rev. G. F. Malnwaring, Paradise, N. S.; Rev. James Cosh, Balmain, New South Wales, Australia; Rev. James Rowe, Genoa Bluff, Iowa, a "Torontonian," Ontario, Can.; Rev. E. M. Wherry, D.D., Chicago, Ill.; Miss Maria Whitney, New York City; Rev. R. R. Watkins, Franklinville, N. Y.; Rev. S. O. Curtlee, Port Chester, N. Y.

The number who have completed just a course during the year is quite large.

The new members of the School since the last report (April STUDENT) are as follows:

Rev. G. L. Alrich, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Mr. Yeiji Asada, Evanston, Ill.; Prof. J. D. Barr, Argyle, N. Y.; Mr. Geo. T. Berry, Peekskill, N. Y.; Rev. Prof. J. L. Bigger, Londonderry, Ireland; Mr. W. O. Black, Galesburg, Ill.; Rev. J. R. Bridges, Salem, Va.; Mr. D. J. Brimm, Columbia, S. C.; Rev. J. P. Brown, Portland, Oregon; Charlie J. Bruce, Valley, N. S.; Rev. T. P. Burgess, Charleston, S. C.; Rev. P. S. Campbell, Hamilton, Ont.; Rev. G. M. W. Carey, Ottawa, Ont.; Mrs. Grace M. Clark, Pasadena, Cal.; Rev. A. A. Cober, Milford, Ind.; Rev. G. M. Cox, Tuscarora, Ont.; Mrs. May L. Crawley, Fredericton, P. E. I.; Mr. H. E. Cushman, College Hill, Mass.; Rev. W. S. Danley, Lincoln, Ill.; Mrs. Delia M. Dickson, Montclair, N. J.; Rev. W. F. Dowd, Dubba, Miss.; Mr. G. W. Draper, Garfield, Texas; Miss Harriet E. Eddy, Brooklyn, N. Y.; Rev. A. L. T. Ewert, Central City, Col.; Rev. C. Finster, Allendale, Mich.; Rev. W. J. Fisher, Van Buren, Pa.; Rev. J. B. Focht, Lewistown, Pa.; Rev. John C. Goddard, Sallsbury, Conn.; Rev. W. C. Gordon, Brookfield, Mass.; Rev. R. A. Greene, Jenkintown, Pa.; Rev. S. T. Hallman, Augusta, Ga.; Rev. C. M. Harless, Pattonville, Texas; Mr. W. H. Hazard, West Chester, Pa.; Rev. S. C. Hodge, Hartford, Conn.; Miss Annie B. Jackson, North Adams, Mass.; Mr. F. W. Jackson, Newark, N. J.; Rev. M. T. Jefferis, West Chester, Pa.; Rev. Samuel Jennings, Nipper's Harbor, Newfoundland; Mr. J. Frank Kelly, Blairstown, Iowa; Rev. J. S. Kolner, Conover, N. C.; Z. L. Leonard, M.D., New York City; Rev. G. L. Marble, Toledo, O.; Mr. W. E. Marden, Allentown, Pa.; Rev. M. M. McKay, Griffin, Ga.; Mr. J. H. McLaren, Bangor, Me.; Rev. John McQuold, Leavenworth, Kan.; Mr. J. B. Miller, Detroit, Mich.; Rev. C. H. Morgan, West Bay City, Mich.; Rev. J. N. Morris, Ghent, N. Y.; Rev. A. A. Morton, S. Portsmouth, R. I.; Rev. J. A. Newnham, Cote St. Antoine, Montreal, Que.: Rev. J. O'Neill, Toronto, Ont.; Mr. J. O. Paisley, Freeland, O.; Rev. F. S. Parkhurst, Canisteo, N. Y.; Rev. C. F. Partridge, Brownsville, Vt.; Mr. Wm. Polk, Jr., Ronald, Va.; Rev. J. H. M. Pollard, Charleston, S. C.; Prof. M. Pugh, Waitsburg, Wash.; Mr. T. W. Pulham, Princeton, N. J.; Rev. M. W. Reece, North Royalton, O.; Rev. J. D. Reiniger, Dayton, O.; Rev. C. H. Reynolds, Falls Village, Conn.; Rev. W. D. Roberts, Boston, Mass.; Rev. W. T. Robinson, Crafton, Pa.; Rev. G. H. Rogers, M.D., Pendleton, Oregon; Rev. N. I. Rubinkam, Berlin, Germany; Prof. D. N. Severance, Healdsburg, Cal.; Mr. E. B. Shand, Windsor, N. S.; Mr. A. K. Staiger, Bloomfield, N. J.; Miss Rosa Stannus, Chicago, Ill.; Rev. Alfred Thompson, Summerville, Oregon; Rev. W. M. Tufts, North Bedeque, P. E. I.; Mr. F. A. Vogt, Buffalo, N. Y.; Mr. H. H. Walte, Adams, N. Y.; Rev. W. C. Weaver, Circleville, Pa.; Prof. A. D. Woodworth, Merom, Ind.; Rev. A. C. Wright, Cushhuiriachic, Mexico; Rev. J. W. A. Wright, Livingston, Ala.; Rev. C. T. Wyckoff, Kyoto, Japan.

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- 449. The Holy Scriptures in Ireland one thousand years ago: Selections from the Wurtzburg Glosses. By T. Olden, London: Christian Knowledge Society, 38.
- 450. The Gospel in the Book of Numbers. By the Rev. Lewis R. Dunn, D.D. 12mo. New York: Hunt and Eaton. \$1.00.
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- 452. Biblischer Commentar über das Alte Testament. III. Teil: Prophetische Bücher. I. Band: Commentar über das Buch Jesaia von Frz. Delitssch. 4. durchaus neubearteitet Auflage. \$5.90.
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- 458. Westphal's Les Sources du Pentateuque. Review by Francis Brown, in The Presbyterian Review, Oct., 1889.
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- 463. Heiligstedt's Preparation zu Hiob. Review by Budde, in Theol. Litztg., Oct. 19, 1880.
- 464. Le système de M. Stickel relativement au cantique des cantiques. By A. van Hoonacker, in Le Muséon, VIII, 3, 1889.
- 465. Workman's Text of Jeremiah. Review, by H. P. Smith, in Presbyterian Review, Oct., 1889.
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- 467. Deane's Daniel. Review by T. W. Chambers, in Presbyterian Review, Oct., 1889.
- 468. Revelation and Discovery. By W. D. Wilson, D.D., LL.D., In The Church Review, Oct., 1889.
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- 470. The Relation of the Bible to Mental Culture. By Rev. W. Galbralth, Ph.B., in The Canadian Methodist Quarterly, Oct., 1889.
- 471. Quelques Observations àpropos de Chronologie biblique. By A. Chevaller, in l'Unlv. Cath. N. S. T. I., Aug., 1889.
- 472. Jewish Pseudigraphic Writings. By W. J. Deane, in the The Theological Monthly, Sept., 1889.
- 473. La Réforme des études bibliques selon Maurice Vernes. By A. Kuenen, in Revue de l'hist. de religions, juillet-août, 1889.
- 474. Who is God? What is God? IV. By Rev. A. M. Phillips, B.D., in The Canadian Methodist Quarterly, Oct., 1889.
- 475. The Bible and Egyptology. By Edward Naville, in The Theological Monthly, Sept., 1889.
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- 492. Die Briese des Paulus seit sünszig Jahren im Feuer der Kritik. By Th. Zahn, in Ztschr. s. kirch. Wissench. u. Leben., 9, 1889.
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OLD TESTAMENT STUDENT A MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

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PROFESSOR IN YALE UNIVERSITY; PRINCIPAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SACRED LITERATURE.

(The Editor is not responsible for the views expressed by contributors.)

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- 1. Sample copies of the Advanced Grade of Studies 1 and 2 can be obtained of the Publishers.
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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE CHRIST,

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By WILLIAM R. HARPER AND GEORGE S. GOODSPEED.

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- Introductory Statements.—1. The series of "Studies" of which this is the first, will include forty-eight, all treating of the Life of the Christ, based on the Book of Luke.
- The plan herewith presented does not aim to present results, but to suggest an order of work
 which will secure results.
- 3. It is not intended for professional scholars, but for students of any class who desire to study.
- Helps.-τ. Any good commentary will be found serviceable. The following books are particularly recommended as helpful and inexpensive:

(z) Cambridge Bible for Schools, St. Luke, by F. W. Farrar, D. D., Macmillan & Co. (N. Y.), \$1.10 (abbreviated, Farrar); (2) Handbooks for Bible Classes, St. Luke, by T. M. Llndsay, D. D., 2 vols., Scribner & Welford (N. Y.), \$1.50 (abbreviated, Lindsay); (3) The Handy Commentary, St. Luke, by E. H. Plumptre, D. D., Cassell & Co. (N. Y.), \$1.00.

- 2. References will be made from time to time in these "studies" to the following works; (1) Van Oosterzee on Luke in the Lange series (abbreviated, Van O.); (2) the Pulpit Commentary, St. Luke, a vols. (Pulp. Com.): (3) Godet, on Luke, 2 vols. (Godet); (4) Westcott, Introduction to the Gospels (Westc.); (5) Stapfer, Palestine in the Time of Christ (Stapf.). References to other works will be made in full.
- 3. A "Life of Jesus Christ" while not indispensable will afford much assistance in the "studies." The Life of Christ, by Rev. J. Staiker, Scribner & Welford, 60 cts., is unsurpassed in real value by many larger works. The books of Farrar, Geikie, Edersheim, Vallings, and Ellicott are heipful. The Life of Christ, by Dr. B. Weiss, Scribner & Welford (N. Y.), 3 vols.. \$9.00, is the latest and ablest work of German scholarship. It is a book for critical students.
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- 5. These "helps" must be rigidly held subordinate to the study and investigation of the text itself. The primary aim of these "studies" is to lead the student to do his own work.
- 6. It is understood that these "studies" are prepared on the basis of the Revised Version of the New Testament. The student will not permit himself to be without it even if he has no other help. It is better than any commentary.
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STUDIES I AND II.-THE PRELUDE. LUKE 1: 1-56.

- Remark.—It is desirable that in beginning each "study" the entire passage assigned be read over rapidly and the main divisions of the narrative noted.
- * The January number contains eight "studies," in order that ample material for study may be in the student's hands from the first,
- + For full particulars, address The Student Publishing Co., 28 Cooper Union, New York City.

I. EXAMINATION OF THE MATERIAL.

[It will be noted that the following order is observed invariably in this work:

(1) the verse or section is read and its contents stated in a general way;

(2) important or difficult words and phrases are studied; (3) a complete statement of the contents of the verse or section is formed in view of the work already done; (4) the religious teaching is sought.]

§ 1. Chapter 1: 1-4.

I. Look over these verses and note their subject. Is it not Origin, character and purpose of the Book?

2. Of words and phrases the following require study:* (1) have-taken-in-hand (v. 1), (a) the same Gk. word in Acts 9:29 ("went-about"); 19:13 ("took upon"); (b) in view of the context in this and the other passages does this word suggest more or less failure in the undertaking? (2) those matters, etc., i. e., the life of Jesus; (3) delivered (v. 2), (a) chiefly by word of mouth, (b) same word in Mk. 7:3; Acts 6:14; 1 Cor. 11:2, 23; (4) which, refers to "they" not to "us"; (5) eyewitnesses and ministers, i. e., apostles chiefly; (6) traced-the-course-of (v. 3), lit. "followed-alongside-of;" note the figure; (7) in order, either (a) order of time, or (b) of logical and spiritual relation—to be decided by further study of the book; (8) most-excellent, probably an official title, cf. Acts 23:26; 26:25; (9) know, i. e., fully and clearly; (10) wast-instructed, more fully "didst-receive-oral-teaching."

3. Is it not sufficient as a statement of the contents of this section to say, Since many accounts of the life of Jesus had been prepared on the basis of what the apostles told us, I concluded to investigate all things and to write an orderly narrative, noble Theophilus, that you might be sure of what you had been taught.

4. In view of the facts (1) that Luke put forth such effort to make clear and certain the facts of Jesus' life, (2) since he saw that faith depends on the certainty of them—(3) consider the obligation resting upon us to know the facts and to attain this certainty.

§ 2. Chapter 1:5-7.

- I. Read and note the subject: The life and character of Zacharias and his wife.
- 2. Words and phrases calling for examination are, (1) Herod[†] (v. 5), (a) date, (b) history, (c) character; (2) course of Abijah (a) cf. 1 Chr. 23:6; 24:1, 10. (b) the use made of this in the chronology of Jesus' life; (3) had no child (v. 7), regarded as a misfortune. Why?
- 3. Study the following condensation of the section; In Herod's reign there lived a priest, Z., and his wife, E., righteous people but childless in their old age.
- 4. Observe an upright and godly personal and family life maintained in spite of the withholding of ardently desired blessings.

§ 3. Chapter 1:8-25.

- I. This passage relates to The angel's announcement to Zacharias, and its results.
 - (1) It came to pass (v. 8), an O. T. phrase, one of many similar Hebraic phrases in this chapter; (2) thy supplication (v. 13), (a) for a son; how reconcile with the
 - * Besides the material in the commentaries, students will find a brief but helpful treatment in Westcott, pp. 196-198.
 - † A helpful presentation of these thoughts will be found in Alexander Epistles of St. John (Expositor's Library), pp. 45-48.
 - \$ See Bible Dict. art. Herod; or Stapfer, pp. 68-70.

unbelief of v. 18? or (b) for the promised Messiah (Christ)*; (3) John, its meaning? (4) "there shall be wide-spread joy as a result of his birth" (v. 14); how was this fulfilled? (5) filled with the Holy Ghost (v. 15), in the O. T. sense, endowment with the gifts required for service, cf. Ex. 31:3; Judg. 13:29; 1 Sam. 11:6; (6) go before his face (v. 17), i. e., be the Lord's herald; (7) fathers to children either (a) heal domestic troubles, or (b) recall the days of the patriarchs; * (8) seen a vision (v. 22), throws light on v. II "appeared;" (9) reproach (v. 25), in what it consisted?

3. The condensed statement of this passage may be arrived at as follows: (1) vs. 8-12, "While Z. burns incense in the temple the appearance to him of an angel terrifies him"; (2) vs. 13-17 "the angel says, You shall have a son named John who, endowed with spiritual power, shall be the herald of the Lord and prepare the people for him;" (3) vs. 18-25, "Z. asks for a sign and is made dumb by the angel until the word is fulfilled. On his return home Elizabeth conceives and hides herself." Summing up these several statements: An angel appears to Z. in the midst of his priestly service and announces that a son shall be born to him named John who shall be the herald of the coming Lord, Z. is made dumb for doubting it. He returns home and the announcement begins to be fulfilled,

4. May not the religious teaching be found in the fact that one who is to do a mighty spiritual work for God (1) is given somehow in answer to prayer; (2) to one least expecting him; (3) must himself practice self-denial and (4) must be filled with the Holy Ghost. Such a man is great in the sight of

the Lord.

§ 4. Chapter 1: 26-38.

I. Does not your reading of these verses determine that they relate how The angel announces to Mary that she shall bear Jesus?

2. (1) A virgin betrothed (v. 27); learn something of the significance of betrothal among the Jews ;† (2) highly favored (v. 28), etc.; what light on the character of M.? (3) troubled; why? (4) Jesus (v. 31), meaning (Mt. 1:21)? (5) Were vs. 32 a, 33, fulfilled? Why not? (5) handmaid, what light on Mary's char-

3. The contents of these verses may be given thus: The angel visits and salutes a betrothed virgin named Mary announcing, " You shall have a son Jesus, son and successor of David, son of God, since the Holy Ghost shall come upon you. Elizabeth, too, is to bear a son, according to God's promise." Mary accepts submissively the message of the angel.

4. Observe the devout humility and obedience of one who is called to do and be that, which, though inexpressibly exalting, is associated with much that is

incredible and humiliating.

§ 5. Chapter 1:39-45.

- I. Read this section and decide whether the subject of this section is Mary's visit to Elizabeth.
- 2. (1) Went in haste (v. 39); what reason for this journey? (2) hill-country, where? (3) she that believed (v. 45); further light on Mary's character.

* Cf. Pulp. Com. note.

† Cf. Bib. Dict., arts. Betrothal, marriage; Bissell, Biblical Antiquities, pp. 44-46.

- 3. Note the following permanent statement: Mary hastens to Elizabeth who, as she enters, is led to salute her as the mother of the Lord and blesses her faith with assurance of fulfillment.
- 4. Is not your attention here directed to the need of sympathy and the helpfulness of it?

§ 6. Chapter 1:46-56.

- I. May this be called Mary's Hymn?
- 2. (1) Notice that vs. 46 and 47 state the same thought in different forms. This is a characteristic of Hebrew poetry called "parallelism;" find other examples in the hymn; (2) compare the language with that of the O. T., i. e. (a) with Hannah's song, I Sam. 2:1-10; (b) with Ps. 35:9; III:9; 103:17; 98:1; Isa. 31:8: Mic. 7:20; (3) all generations, etc.; light on Mary's faith: (4) in v. 52 note that the two lines express opposite thoughts; this is called antithetic parallelism, so v. 53; (5) study the statements of vs. 51-53 and inquire their meaning in the circumstances; e. g., (a) this is God's ordinary action in the world, or (b) he will do this through the birth and life of the Christ.
- 3. The contents of the hymn are worthy of special study; observe four strophes,*

 (1) vs. 46, 47, my whole being rejoices in God, my saviour; (2) vs. 48-50 [my saviour] because he exalted me so that coming generations shall call me blessed, therein displaying his might, his holiness and his mercy; (3) vs. 50-53, his mercy extends to all his servants, manifested in the power by which he abases the haughty and lifts up the lowly, (4) this mercy to his people being in fulfillment of promise.
- 4. Does not this hymn illustrate God's mercy toward them that fear him (1) in lifting them up, (2) in protecting them, (3) in fulfilling his promises on their helps!

II. CLASSIFICATION OF THE MATERIAL.

1. The Contents and Summary.

 The Contents. The following table of the sections of the material is to be read, studied and reviewed until it is thoroughly mastered.

THE PRELUDE.

- \$ 1. ORIGIN, CHARACTER, AND PURPOSE OF THE BOOK.
- \$ 2. LIFE AND CHARACTER OF ZACHARIAS AND HIS WIFE.
- § 3. THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE TO ZACHARIAS AND ITS RESULT.
- § 4. THE ANGEL'S MESSAGE TO MARY.
- § 5. MARY'S VISIT TO ELIZABETH.
- § 6. MARY'S HYMN.
- 2) The Summary. Setting aside vs. 1-4 which is an introduction, gather under this the various statements of the contents into a general view of the thought of the whole passage, e. g. In the reign of Herod an angel announces (1) to the old priest Zacharias that his wife Elizabeth shall bear him a son who is to be the herald of the Lord; (2) afterwards to Mary, a betrothed virgin, that the Holy Ghost shall come upon her and she shall bear Jesus the Christ of God. Meekly receiving this message she hastens to Elizabeth who greets her as the mother of the Lord, whereupon Mary sings of God's mercy in exalting her as well as all lowly ones, putting down the haughty, and fullfilling his promises to Israel.

^{*} Lindsay I, pp. 50, 51 (notes), gives an excellent analysis.

2. Observations upon the Material.

The following statement of facts or conclusions which are of importance in connection with the passage are to be read carefully and considered.

- x) z : 2. Those who saw Jesus and worked with him told to believers what they saw and heard of him.
- a) 1:1,3. What former writers had stated about the life of Jesus did not entirely satisfy the writer of this work.
- 3) 1:3. He claims for his work (1) careful examination into sources (2) accuracy, (3) completeness, (4) orderly arrangement.
- 1:1-4. The preface indicates that it was written by a man of education and literary ability.
- 5) r: 4. The book is written to a Christian who is acquainted with the subject in order to establish him in the faith.
- f) r:5 In passing to this and the following verses the style changes and is characterized by Hebralc forms of thought.
- 7) r: 5-56. Two visits of angels and four other miraculous events are referred to.

- z:5-56. The whole narrative is marked by delicacy and reserve.
- 1:5-56. The persons mentioned are expecting the coming of the Christ.
- 10) 1: 5, 17. The herald of the Lord is to come from a priestly family but is himself to be a prophet.
- 11) 1:8-11. Note that certain elements of the temple service are here mentioned. Cf. Lindsay, Luke I., p. 44 for a description.
- 12) 1:35. The reasoning of the angel may be thus stated:—"Since the child is to be holy, the Holy Spirit must come upon thee," l. e. the moral character of the Christ makes this miraculous event a necessity.
- 13) 1:46-55. The hymn of Mary is an echo of the O. T. and shows her acquaintance with it.
- 14) It is possible, in view of v. 3, that this account was given to Luke by Mary herself.

3. Topics for Study.*

- I). Early Gospel Literature.† [Obs. 1, 2]: (1) The origin of this literature in the oral teaching of the apostles. (2) Read Acts 2: 22-24, 32, 36, 42; 10: 36-43; I John I: I-3 and observe, (a) the apostles preached and taught concerning the life of Jesus, but, (b) they emphasized his death and resurrection, (c) their purpose was rather to convert and edify hearers than to inform them. (3) Consider whether these writings depending upon this oral teaching would be, (a) complete, (b) continuous or (c) fragmentary, (d) disconnected. (4) Estimate their historical character. (5) What did Luke think of them?
- 2). The Gospel of Luke.‡ [Obs. 3-5]: (1) Learn the witness of early Christian writers to the authorship of this book. (2) Read Col. 4: 14 (cf. vs. 10, 11); 2 Tim. 4: 11; Phile. 24 for facts about Luke. (3) Might not Luke have had just the mental qualities of the writer of this preface, (1-4)? (4) Consider the purpose of this work for edification, (a) comparing John 20: 30, 31, (b) observing the importance of this fact in judging of the character and arrangement of the work.
- 3). The Message to Mary. § [Obs. 12-14]: (1) Form a general estimate of Mary, from the material gathered e. g. vs. 28, 34, 38, 39, 45, 47-56. (2) Determine whether her character had anything to do with the Divine choice. (3, Thoughtfully consider the event of v. 35, (a) gathering the indications of its historical character, (b) noting how few references there are to it in the rest of the N. T. and seeking the reason.

† These points are considered in the Introductions to Farrar and Lindsay; in Pulp. Comm., p. 1, 2; in Reuss' History of N. T. I., \$\$ 29-39, 52, 163,-178.

‡ Cf. Westc. pp. 195-198, 238-241; the introductions to the Commentaries; Reuss' History of N. T. §\$ 179-185, 200-209.

§ Cf. some thoughtful remarks in Pulp. Comm., pp. 6, 7.

^{*} Observe that here the "observations" are arranged topically for further study, "Observations" which are not dealt with here will be considered in connection with other similar material which will come up in later "Studies,"

4. Religious Teaching.

Let all the religious teachings of the sections be gathered up into the one great lesson of the passage. Does it not have to do with the Proclamation of a Deliverer and Preparation for him, (a) all originating in a divine impulse, (b) all according to divine promise, (c) all finding its earthly beginning among devoted servants of God, (d) the deliverer himself to be preceded by a human herald, and (e) though the Son of God, also the son of Mary.

STUDIES III AND IV.—BIRTH AND BOYHOOD OF JOHN AND JESUS. LUKE 1:57—2:52.

Remark: It is desirable that in beginning each "study" (1) the material of the preceding "study" be reviewed, and (2) the entire passage assigned be read over rapidly and the main divisions of the narrative noted.

I. EXAMINATION OF THE MATERIAL.

[It will be noted that the following order is observed invariably in this work: 1) the verse or section is read and its contents stated in a general way; (2) important or difficult words and phrases are studied; (3) a complete statement of the contents of the verse or section is formed in view of the work already done; (4) the religious teaching is sought.]

§ 1. Chapter 1: 57-66.

1. Read and note the subject: Birth of John and events attending it.

2. The following words and phrases may be studied with the helps available: (1) Eighth day, v. 59, cf. Gen. 17:12; (2) would-have-called, lit. "were calling," i. e. "wanted to call"; (3) made-signs (v. 62), was Z. deaf also? (4) writing-tablet (v. 63), see Comm. or Bib. Dict. for description; (5) marvelled, was it in view of both mother and father agreeing independently on this name? (6) noised-abroad (v. 65), so that Luke may have learned thus these facts; (7) hand of the Lord, etc., an O. T. phrase, cf. Judg. 2:15; Ezra 7:9.

3. Study the following condensation of this section: The child of E. is born amid rejoicing, circumcised, named John by mother and father. The father at once recovers speech and praises God. These things move all who hear of them to

wonder, fear and consider the future.

4. Observe how much greater likelihood of the growth of a child in righteousness, when, as in this case, in the giving of his name, in the life and the belief of his parents and in the universal expectation, the atmosphere of godly influences is thrown about him from the beginning.

§ 2. Chapter 1: 67-79.

1. Look over these verses and note the subject. Is it not The hymn of Zacharias?

2. (1) prophesied (v. 67), (a) note the revival of prophecy, (b) in what sense this is called prophecy (cf. Van O., note on v. 67); (2) hath-wrought-redemption (v. 68), (a) lit. "wrought red," though still in the future, regarded as past, (b) "redemption" equals "deliverance," (c) is it from national oppressors or national sins? (3) horn of salv. (v. 69), cf. Ps. 18:2; 92:10; (4) v. 74, first political freedom, then righteousness; (5) remission of sins (v. 77), i. e. when their sins are remitted the nation will know that deliverance is at hand, Mk. 1:4, (cf. Pulp. Comm., note on v. 72); (6) the dayspring (v. 78) see the explanation of the figure in Lindsay, note on v. 78.

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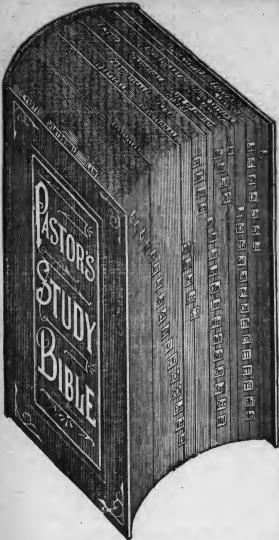
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