

it is the aim of the writer to walk, and encourage others to walk, "in the old paths," though he would not, of course, deprive them of any assistance from modern research which may serve to help them on their way.

The following extract from a well-known work, written by one at whose feet the writer sat in his youth, will illustrate the spirit, at once liberal and orthodox, by which he desires to be guided in these pages :

"These thoughts have reference chiefly to the New Testament. But the conviction has been fixing itself deeply in my mind that the Old Testament, too, ought to be read much more simply and according to the letter than we are used to read it ; that we have not made its application to our individual cases more clear by overlooking its obvious national characteristics ; that if we had given heed to them we should have found an interpretation of some of the greatest difficulties in history and in the condition of the world around us. This opinion is strangely opposed to that which is common among the philosophical thinkers of our day. It sets me in direct opposition to those writers, in this country and America, who make it their business to copy German models, though it does not authorize me to refuse any help from German learning when it comes within my reach, or to pronounce sentence upon a nation with which I am most imperfectly acquainted, or to generalize under one name theologians who, I suppose, exhibit as many varieties of opinion and are scattered through as many schools as our own."¹

ART. VIII.—THE MONTH.

IT is seldom that a New Year promises to answer to that designation so fully as the one on which we are just entering. In politics, at all events, we seem to be entering on an entirely new career. The subjects which occupied our thoughts at the commencement of last year have almost disappeared from view ; the old divisions of party seem vanishing, and an issue is before the country of which no one dreamt twelve months ago—except, we suppose, the statesman who has created it and the two or three others who may have shared his thoughts. It is difficult to recall so complete a transformation in the political world. The last thing that

¹ F. D. Maurice, "Prophets and Kings of the Old Testament," Dedication, p. xi.