

*SURVEY OF LITERATURE ON THE NEW
TESTAMENT.*

INTRODUCTION.—Among the most important books connected with New Testament literature which have made their appearance during the last few months may be mentioned Baljon's *Greek Testament*. The full title is *Novum Testamentum Graece, praesertim in usum Studiosorum recognovit et brevibus annotationibus instruxit*, J. M. S. Baljon (Groningen). The first volume contains the four Gospels. Satisfied neither with the text of Tischendorf, nor with that of Westcott and Hort—the one leaning too much on the Sinaitic, the other on the Vatican MS.—he has constructed a text for himself. But the chief attraction of the book is that he gives us the authorities with considerable fullness, and expresses a regret, which many share, that Westcott and Hort did not furnish a full critical apparatus. The authorities are not given as full as in Tischendorf's Eighth larger Edition, but they occupy almost the same space as in the "Editio viii. minor." Indeed, this edition of Baljon's is a revised Tischendorf, with a different text and some additional conjectures. The text is printed in a rather small, but sharp and distinct type, and the critical notes are precisely what the student needs. They are not discouragingly bulky, but are practically serviceable, and by their aid any one can make a text for himself. Baljon's edition may be recommended to all who wish to ascertain the authorities for the various readings of the New Testament text.

In connection with the text, it may be mentioned that the Rev. G. Margoliouth has printed some portions of a Syriac MS. recently acquired by the British Museum, which he thinks to some extent throw light on the Palestinian Syriac version. The title is, *The Palestinian Syriac Version of the Holy Scriptures: Four recently-discovered Portions*, edited, in photographic facsimile, from a unique MS. in the British Museum; with a Transcription, Translation, Introduction, Vocabulary, and Notes (privately printed by the Society of Biblical Archæology). Of the New Testament one lesson from the *Acts* is printed, showing, the editor believes, that the Malkites were content to prepare a mere adaptation from the Peshitta.

Messrs. Macmillan and Mr. Mackail are to be congratulated on the completion of their *Eversley Bible*, which will find its way to the shelves and hands of all lovers of a beautiful book. The same publishers are also making progress with their issue of Professor Moulton's *Modern Readers' Bible*, and have now issued St. Matthew and St. Mark and the General Epistles. Among these the Epistle to the Hebrews is included. The notes and introductions are decidedly helpful.

Messrs. Eyre & Spottiswoode, who more than twenty years ago struck out in their *Teachers' Bible* a new path (which has been abundantly followed by other publishers), wishing still to be in the van, issue a thoroughly revised, and in some respects wholly new, edition. It contains not only the usual Teachers' Aids, but, under the editorship of Mr. Ball and Mr. Kenyon, no fewer than 172 plates have been produced, many of them new, and representing monuments and documents hitherto known only to a few experts. Ten of these plates illustrate the origin and development of the written character by means of which the Scriptures have been transmitted, and they throw fresh light upon the pedigree of the alphabet. Fourteen more give us the great MSS. from the 4th to the 14th centuries A.D. The remainder illustrate the ethnographical, historical, social, and religious aspect of the Old and New Testaments. Undoubtedly it gives an impression of the trustworthiness of the Biblical history, when we see the likeness of Amraphel, King of Shinar, and other worthies.

Mr. Albert S. Cook, Professor of the English Language and Literature in Yale, has published with Messrs. Macmillan a volume which will have an interest for students of the Latin Versions of Scripture, as well as for those who read Old English prose. It is entitled *Biblical Quotations in Old English Prose Writers*. The volume now issued is the first of a possible series, and contains the quotations which occur in Alfred and Ælfric. These are given in full, with the Latin originals. The introduction contains a great deal of information on the translations of Scripture into Old English during the period from the 7th to the 10th century.

The place which the Archbishop of Armagh's scholarly and suggestive volume on *The Leading Ideas of the Gospels* has won for itself is sufficiently proved by the issue of a new edition

(Macmillan & Co.). The author tells us that "the present edition has been carefully revised and corrected. A few additions of some importance have been introduced." These additions seem mainly to consist of a note from Carlyle's *Schiller*, and a brief passage on the origin of the Gospels.

Mr. Arthur Wright, Fellow and Tutor of Queen's College, Cambridge, is known as the ablest living advocate of the "oral tradition" theory of the origin of the Gospels; and the research he has spent on this subject, and the ingenuity and originality he brings to bear upon it, prepare for his *New Testament Problems* (Methuen & Co.) a hearty welcome. With one exception, the problems here discussed arise out of the Gospels and the Acts. We may say of the whole volume what the author says (p. 193) of one chapter: "We have passed in review a great number of subjects of engrossing interest to all Biblical students. We have shown that many received opinions need revision. We have pointed out places where further investigation is desirable, and we have submitted some new proposals." His new proposals deserve consideration, but will certainly be disputed. To name only some of them; He finds three stages of formation in Mark's Gospel; in this Gospel two suppers are fused in the account of the last Passover; a one-year's ministry is considered attractive and not improbable; the Crucifixion is placed in the year 29 A.D., on Friday, the 14th Nisan, which probably fell on March 18th; the Gospel of Luke is dated about the year 80 A.D. But even when Mr. Wright's proposals fail to win assent, they are suggestive, and his arguments in their favour are always instructive. Many will be grateful to him for a delightful and helpful volume.

Under the slightly-misleading title, *Philology of the Gospels*, Prof. Blass, of Halle-Wittenberg, gives us a brilliant essay on the textual condition and criticism of the Gospels. [Perhaps the first intention of the volume was to strengthen the author's theory—that Luke issued two editions both of his Gospel and of the Acts. But the establishment of this theory involves as its first requirement an examination of the text; and Professor Blass in his present essay presents us both with principles of textual criticism and applications of these principles, which are new, and may almost be called revolutionary, for he traces back the variants in the Gospels to sources and to a time which cannot

be reached by documentary evidence. Conjectural emendation must be much more largely used than hitherto. Some of the specimens of conjectural emendation given by Prof. Blass scarcely encourage inferior scholars to follow his example. But there is a great deal of truth as well as of novelty in his remarks on the origin of various readings, and the volume is both stimulating and important. The English deserves a word of acknowledgment; and Prof. Blass does not need to be told that in this country his work on the New Testament is followed with interest and respect.

Four Lectures on the Early History of the Gospels, by the Rev. J. H. Wilkinson, M.A., sometime Lecturer at Queen's College, Oxford, are published by Messrs. Macmillan & Co. They are intended to embody what is known of the Canonical and associated Gospels in the first two centuries, and thus to throw light on the origin and history of the evangelic tradition. Several of Mr. Wilkinson's opinions are too dogmatically stated, but as a whole his volume is a convenient and useful manual. Those who desire to arrive without much expenditure of time at some knowledge of Gospel literature in the first two centuries may consult it with advantage.

EXEGESIS.—There seems to have been less output than usual in the department of Exegesis. But we have some notable attempts to engage the attention of the laity in a more accurate study of the apostolic writings. Thus Canon Gore treats with accuracy, but popularly, *The Epistle to the Ephesians* (John Murray); while Principal Moule attempts a somewhat novel style of commentary in his *Colossian Studies* (Hodder & Stoughton). His aim has been to furnish the reader with an accurate translation, so eked out by paraphrase as to convey the meaning of the Apostle to an average English mind. Further than this, he emphasizes by brief, pregnant comment the more important teachings of the Epistle. Unquestionably, the student who wishes at once a scholarly and a devout guide to the true meaning of the writings of St. Paul could not have a better guide than Principal Moule.

SERMONS.—For the preacher's aid two volumes have been issued by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton. The first is a handsome volume by the late Dr. Broadus, favourably known in this country as the author of one of the best commentaries on *Matthew*, and is called

A Treatise on the Preparation and Delivery of Sermons. Its popularity may be inferred from the fact that this is its 23rd edition. It is very full, and gathers up from other writers a great deal that is significant and well said. And without disparaging the numerous and excellent volumes which stimulate and instruct the preacher, Dr. Broadus' treatise may be accorded the first place for completeness as a manual on its subject.

The other volume, *The Clerical Life*, is of wider range, and is composed of twenty letters supposed to be written to ministers in various circumstances and of various character. Thus we have letters to "a minister whose sermons last an hour," "a minister who has studied in Germany," "a minister who has no theology in his sermons," "a minister who inclines to condescension," and so on. The writers are Dr. John Watson, Principal Edwards, Dr. Denney, Dr. Nicoll, and others. The volume contains much that is both racy and profitable.

Of recently published sermons the most notable are those selected from the papers of the late Prof. Henry Drummond, and now published by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton under the title *The Ideal Life*. Brief sketches of the author are prefixed by Dr. Robertson Nicoll and Dr. John Watson. To some readers these sermons will seem the finest fruit of a singularly rich and prolific life. No man has ever put Christianity in a more reasonable and winning form; and these sermons, as original as they are simple and persuasive, are likely not only to enthrall the mind, but to win the heart and secure the conviction of all readers.

The same firm has also published specimens of the best style of Welsh preaching, although written in English. They are selected from the manuscripts of the late Dr. Herber Evans, and are models of popular preaching. They are thoroughly evangelical, full of happy illustration, intensely earnest and impassioned, and ringing with true eloquence.

Prof. Martin's volume, *Winning the Soul* (Hodder & Stoughton), gives evidence of the sacrifice made by the pulpit to fill the chair. It will appeal to all who mingle thought and reflection with their religion, and who can appreciate good literature. The sermons are of first-rate quality, and account for the large influence Prof. Martin had as a preacher.

To Dr. Robertson Nicoll's series of "Little Books on Religion"

(Hodder & Stoughton) two notable additions are made: *From Strength to Strength*, by J. H. Jowett, M.A.; and *The Holy Father and the Living Christ*, by Dr. Forsyth, of Cambridge. Mr. Jowett's volume exhibits that combination of profound and original thought with perfect lucidity of expression which characterized his predecessor in Carr's Lane. In a thoroughly popular manner he discusses the strengthening of the will, the conscience, the heart, the mind. If these sermons are read as widely as their vigour and utility merit, they will run into many thousands.

Dr. Forsyth's treatment of his subject is such as was to be expected from a preacher who has already won the ear of all in this country who are interested in religion. The theme of God's Fatherhood might be thought hackneyed, but it is here treated in a wholly fresh and most fruitful manner. The reader will inevitably wish that Dr. Forsyth would devote a volume to the Atonement, for remarks occur in these pages which reveal that he has much to say on that subject which the Church would benefit by hearing. The volume is important in the inverse ratio of its size. Those who read it once will certainly read it again.

Short Studies on Vital Subjects, by the Rev. P. W. de Quetteville, M.A. (Elliot Stock), if scarcely distinguished enough to catch the public ear, contain much that is wise and well said, much that is conciliatory and persuasive. They are the "studies" of a man who looks at life with his own eyes, with intelligence and sympathy.

The Nourished Life, by Rev. E. Aubrey, Glasgow (Stockwell and Co.), is a series of Homilies on Hosea xiv. 5, 6, 7. *The Children of Wisdom, and other Sermons preached in Canadian Pulpits*, by the Rev. John de Soyres, M.A., Rector of St. John's Church, St. John, New Brunswick, is published in this country by Messrs. Deighton Bell & Co.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Among publications less strictly bearing upon New Testament study may be mentioned Mr. J. R. Illingworth's *Divine Immanence: an Essay on the Spiritual Significance of Matter* (Macmillan & Co., Limited). There is no living writer who, with greater richness of exposition and penetration, treats those roots of theology which are embedded in a philosophical soil; and although there is perhaps in the present volume scarcely the same finish and felicity as in that on "Personality," yet it is a book to read twice and thrice, until its teaching becomes a solid part of our

mental equipment. The relation of matter and spirit is treated in a wholly original manner. It is shown that though spirit is of no use to matter, matter is of use to spirit, and especially by its religious influence. From this it is argued that matter is a manifestation of spirit. And if the problem of the connection of God with the world is to be solved at all, it must be so under the guidance of the analogy in our own experience. That our spirit transcends matter will scarcely be denied; but our spirit is also immanent in matter, not only working through the brain, but manifesting itself in the entire organism, and in a secondary degree extending even to the external world. "For a man imprints his spiritual character upon all the things with which he deals—his house, his clothes, his furniture, the various products of his hand or head." This relation of our own spirit to matter is that which guides us to the relation held by the supreme Spirit to the material world. "As self-conscious, self-identical, self-determined, we possess qualities which transcend or rise above the laws of matter; but we can only realize these qualities, and so become aware of them, by acting in the material world; while, conversely, material objects—our bodies and our works of art—could never possibly be regarded as expressions of spirit, if spirit were not at the same time recognised as distinct from its medium of manifestation." "Spirit which is merely immanent in matter, without also transcending it, cannot be spirit at all; it is only another aspect of matter, having neither self-identity nor freedom."

It will be understood that in the course of Mr. Illingworth's argument many interesting points are raised, such as Freewill, the relation of Heredity to the Virgin Birth, and others. Miracles are considered from a fresh point of view; and, in every part of the volume, matters which exercise the thought of the philosopher and the theologian are felicitously and suggestively handled.

To the International Theological Library issued by Messrs. T. and T. Clark two volumes have been added. One is by Dr. Washington Gladden on *The Christian Pastor and the Working Church*. It forms a complete guide to the whole of a minister's work, in the study, in the pulpit, among his congregation, with his lay assistants, in connection with the Sunday School, the poor, and other Churches. The choice of Dr. Gladden as the writer of this volume has been a most happy one. He is a man of ex-

perience and of sense, neither hampered by traditional methods nor carried away by an innovating spirit. The counsel he gives will approve itself to all who follow it as wise and trustworthy, and the young minister could not have a safer guide in the various departments and delicate emergencies of his work. To follow Dr. Gladden's instructions is to secure a successful ministry. It need scarcely be said that the point of view is strongly anti-sacerdotal and that the style is lively and attractive.

The other volume is Prof. A. V. G. Allen's *Christian Institutions*. Dr. Allen is an expert in Church History, and his familiarity with the development of the Church and of her creeds stands him in good stead here. No one who has read Prof. Allen's *Continuity of Christian Thought* need be told that he is a most skilful and learned writer, able to pick out the salient features of a perplexed period and to render the obscure intelligible. The volume now published is characterised by wide knowledge and great literary skill. It is divided into three large sections, of which one is devoted to Church organization, another to the creeds, and the third to the worship of the Church. A large amount of space under the first head is devoted to an account of the development of the ministry or official orders in the Church. Necessarily Dr. Allen touches here upon many warmly debated matters, and his conclusions will not satisfy every one. In the other parts of his book there will also be difference of opinion both as to the proportion of space given to the various subjects and as to the success with which they are treated; but all will agree that the volume is in a high degree instructive and valuable, written with unusual learning and in a temperate and candid spirit.

Mr. John A. F. Gregg, late Scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge, has published (William Blackwood & Sons) his Hulsean Prize Essay on *The Decian Persecution*. The biographical list which Mr. Gregg prefixes to his essay (and in which some misprints occur) reminds the reader that this difficult period of history has been constantly investigated by scholars. Mr. Gregg does not profess to have made important discoveries, although he claims to be the first who has brought the Greek of the "Acta Pionii" to this country. But he has investigated the period in a scientific and scholarly manner, and has produced a monograph which may be read with pleasure as well as with profit. In connection with this period of history it may be mentioned that Sir William Muir,

K.C.S.I., Principal of Edinburgh University, has published through Messrs. T. & T. Clark a much needed protest against Cyprian's intolerance and sacerdotalism. The title of the pamphlet is *Cyprian: His Life and Teaching*.

A New Directory for the Public Worship of God has been prepared by the "Public Worship Association in connection with the Free Church of Scotland," and has been published by Messrs. Macniven & Wallace. On the whole this Directory seems more satisfactory than any aid to worship which has previously appeared. It is prepared on the principle of suggesting topics rather than of providing completely finished services, and in preparing for the conduct of public worship ministers will find in this volume judicious and welcome aid. The question to be put to a parent presenting his child for baptism is: "In presenting your child for baptism, do you profess your faith in God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost?" Ought it not rather to be, Do you now accept, for yourself and for your child, the Spirit of the Son here in this ordinance of Baptism offered you by the Father?

To the series of "Books for Bible Students" (Charles H. Kelly) Mr. Alfred S. Geden, of the Wesleyan College, Richmond, has contributed *Studies in Comparative Religion*. As he intends to publish a second volume on the same subject he confines his attention in the present book to Egypt, Assyria, and Babylonia, Zoroastrianism, and Muhammadanism. The last-named religion is treated with considerable fulness, a history being given of its rise as well as of its more important developments. It will serve its purpose well and be found useful as a manual for classes.

From the same publisher comes a valuable book by Prof. W. T. Davison, of Handsworth College, *The Christian Interpretation of Life, and other Essays*. The papers in this volume, with the exception of the first, have appeared in the *London Quarterly Review*, and were apparently evoked from time to time by the appearance of certain noteworthy theological or philosophical volumes. We thus have in the present collection criticisms by an able and fair-minded writer of such books as Martineau's *Seat of Authority in Religion*, Balfour's *Foundations of Belief*, and the various writings of John Morley and Cotter Morison, Mr. Lilly and Dr. Hatch. Those who desire to survey some of the most important departures in recent thought could not have a better informed or safer guide than Prof. Davison. His mode of dealing

with anti-Christian and semi-Christian writers is incisive and convincing.

Christ the Substitute, by E. Reeves Palmer, M.A. (John Snow & Co.), is a series of studies in Christian Doctrine based upon the conception of God's universal Fatherhood. Mr. Palmer advocates a new interpretation of Christ's substitution, and also endeavours to establish the "larger hope." His book is much weakened by a superficial exegesis, and much is asserted or taken for granted that ought to have been argued. There are, however, passages in the book which show thought and a capacity to appreciate spiritual religion.

The Rev. Alexander Robinson, B.D., has published a second edition of his *Study of the Saviour in the Newer Light*, (Williams and Norgate). The first edition of this work occasioned Mr. Robinson's deprivation of his office in the Church of Scotland. In the present edition certain expressions are modified, but substantially the teaching is unaltered.

The Hittites and their Language, by C. R. Conder, Lt.-Col. R.E., contains the results of many years' study (William Blackwood & Sons). The author believes the Hittites to be Mongols, and he has much that is interesting to tell us about their language and inscriptions, as well as about the origin of the alphabet and of writing. A book so full of material and of suggestive interpretation of it cannot fail to advance the study of a subject which is of recognised importance.

In this place we can scarcely do more than record the appearance of a work on *Christian Dogmatics* by the Rev. John Macpherson, M.A. (T. & T. Clark). That Mr. Macpherson is competent for the task he has undertaken no one who has read his previous publications will dispute. In reading the present volume what strikes one is that Mr. Macpherson is very well read in modern theology; that he has digested his reading and so mixed it with original thought that his "Dogmatics" is a very readable book, but that it seems scarcely written all on the same plane. In connection with some doctrines he utters himself from a somewhat advanced position; whereas in speaking of other doctrines he seems scarcely to have apprehended the difficulties felt by the modern mind. As an introduction to the study of systematic theology it is to be recommended for its lucid style, its interesting treatment, and its references to literature in which fuller discussion may be found.

Those who are in search of books likely to interest the young in religion would do well to turn their attention to the series published by A. & C. Black and R. & R. Clark for the *Guild Library* of the Established Church of Scotland. With the exception of Dr. Charteris' *A Faithful Churchman*, these volumes are catholic in subject and treatment, and may be profitably used by the members of any Church. On former occasions attention has been called in these pages to the supremely excellent volume on *Our Lord's Teaching*, by Dr. Robertson, of Whittingehame. Other volumes are now added to the series: Prof. Wenley's somewhat too philosophical but eminently instructive *Preparation for Christianity in the Ancient World*; *The Missionary Expansion of the Reformed Churches*, by the Rev. J. A. Graham; and *Hymns and Hymn Makers*, by the Rev. Duncan Campbell.

From Paris (Librairie Fischbacher) we have received *Les Origines de la Compagnie de Jésus, Ignace et Lainez*, by Hermann Müller—a critical history in which it is shown that Ignatius was indebted for the "Exercises" to Garcia de Cisneros, and for the constitution of the society to the Mussulman orders of Catalonia. There is much that is curious and new in the volume. Another contribution to history comes from the same firm: *Speculum Perfectionis seu S. Francisci Assisiensis Legenda Antiquissima auctore fratri Leone nunc primum edidit Paul Sabatier*. The editor believes that in Leo's *Speculum* we reach the primal source of Franciscan tradition. That Brother Leo lived with St. Francis and had ample opportunities of observing his actions, recording his sayings, and understanding his rule, cannot be doubted. The "Speculum" exists in several MSS., which are carefully described by Sabatier. He fixes the date of the work in 1227, and believes it to have been finished within a year after the death of St. Francis. Its relation to subsequent documents connected with Assisi is investigated, and a well-printed text with critical notes puts readers in a position to judge for themselves of the merits of the work. Two further volumes are promised, and these, with Sabatier's Life, will furnish those interested with an adequate Franciscan library.

From the same firm we have received *Un Essai de Religion Scientifique*, par Christian Cherfils. This volume is an introduction to the writings and ideas of Wronski, who was born at Posen in 1778 and died at Neuilly in 1853. It seems there are

Wronskists of various types—philosophical, political, religious—to whom this volume will be acceptable and whose numbers it may increase.

From Lausanne (Payot) comes *Le Danger Moral de l'Evolutionnisme Religieux*, par Gaston Frommel, prof. à l'Université de Genève. It has been evoked chiefly by M. Sabatier's *Esquisse* and Chapuis' *Du Surnaturel*, and is written with ability and deserves consideration.

The space at our disposal prevents us making fuller mention of some apologetic books. The most important is *Scientific Aspects of Christian Evidences* (New York: Appleton), by G. Frederick Wright, of Overton College, an excellent treatment of some scientific difficulties, written by a thorough scientist. The volume may be confidently recommended to all who are interested in the relation of Christianity to science. *Reason in Revelation* (James Nisbet & Co.) is written by a lady who has won the ear of the public in connection with similar publications, Emma Marie Caillard. The Rev. J. J. Lias, Chancellor of Llandaff Cathedral, has published, also with Messrs. Nisbet, *Science in Relation to Miracles, Special Providences, and Prayers*.

We have also received a vigorous appeal by Mr. Samuel Pearson, entitled, *Why Worship?* (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.), and Wijnkoop's, *Hebrew Grammar*, a convenient manual, published by Luzac & Co.

We have received the following periodicals: Holtzmann's *Theologischer Jahresbericht*, containing a survey of the Exegetical Literature for 1897; the *Classical Review*, which continues its vigorous career; the *American Journal of Theology*; the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, which is not so exegetical as it used to be; the *Presbyterian and Reformed Review*; the *Primitive Methodist Review*; the *Dublin Review*; the *New Orthodoxy*; the *Anglican Church Magazine*; the *Jewish Quarterly Review*, containing an article on Aquila by Mr. Burkitt, and another on an apocryphal work ascribed to Philo by Dr. Leopold Cohn; the *Critical Review*, which, so far as current literature goes, is the best of all.

MARCUS DODS.