

lives of those who have no scope beyond the daily round and the common task. When men see the impure become chaste, the drunkard temperate, the naturally arrogant humble, the hot-tempered gentle, the dishonest upright, then they marvel and take knowledge of them that they have been with Jesus.

NEWPORT J. D. WHITE.

*SURVEY OF RECENT ENGLISH LITERATURE
ON THE NEW TESTAMENT.*

INTRODUCTION. — By the issue of a fifth “fasciculus,” Bishop Wordsworth and Mr. White complete the first volume, containing the Gospels, of their standard edition of the Vulgate.¹ The part now issued contains what the editors call an “Epilogue,” which is really an introduction, but an introduction written with the experience and knowledge accumulated in course of editing the work. It deals with the precise object Jerome had in view in preparing the Vulgate, the character of the Greek MSS. he used, the history of the text both written and printed. The editors show that it was not Jerome’s object to write a wholly new translation from the Greek, but rather to compare the various Latin versions already in existence and make such use of them as he considered most consistent with regard to the original. It is obvious, therefore, that with care a critic may ascertain, with the help of the Vulgate, the character of the Greek text which in Jerome’s days was most approved. This line of enquiry is pursued by the present editors with their usual scholarship, acuteness and judgment. Two types of readings were, they find, under Jerome’s eye, the one differing from all MSS. now extant, the other agreeing with the group **BL**. The Latin Vulgate texts, again, they divide into three classes, of which the highest comprises the MSS. which are the most ancient and unadulterated. It is remarkable that although these, as was to be expected, were

¹ *Novum Testamentum Domini Nostri Jesu Christi Latine secundum editionem Sancti Hieronymi recensuit J. Wordsworth, S.T.P., H. J. White, A.M.; Oxonii Typog. Clarendon.*

Italian in their origin, it is rather to Milan, Capua, and Naples we owe them than to Rome. Besides a thoroughly scientific sifting of the Codices, the editors furnish also several statistical tables which enable the reader to some extent to check their statements. They further give an account of the rules which governed them in their application of the commonly received critical principles; while a copious index of Latin words, with the Greek they represent, completes a work creditable to English scholarship. For the editors have produced not only the authoritative edition of the Vulgate [Gospels] but at the same time an extremely valuable contribution to Textual Criticism.

Any one who aims at making a thorough study of the New Testament is very soon compelled to long for a satisfactory Greek text, or at any rate for the material out of which such a text can be formed. In the main the text of Tischendorf or of Westcott and Hort is sufficiently acceptable, but we cannot tell how far we should follow either until the authorities out of which it is formed are under our eyes. For the purpose of exhibiting these authorities Tischendorf's larger eighth edition is perfect for the library, while Westcott and Hort's second volume affords an excellent training in the use of these authorities. But Tischendorf is too bulky, and Westcott and Hort is not complete. Prof. Sanday's Appendix to the Oxford Greek Testament gives a selection of the more important readings, with the authorities for them, and is a work of judgment and accuracy. But what is wanted is a text with an accompanying digest of all various readings together with the authorities. The Dutch scholar, Baljon, perceiving this want, has aimed at supplying it in his *Novum Testamentum Graece* (Groningen), which is now completed. Of course he is largely indebted to Tischendorf: indeed a considerable part of the notes is identical with the older editor's "Editio critica minor." He does not always accept Tischendorf's text, nor does he agree with the English editors. In common with many others, he is of opinion that the German critic was too much influenced by his own discovery, the Sinaitic MS., while W.-H. too implicitly trusted the Vatican. Baljon himself, although recognising the vast importance of this MS., also bears in mind that even the best MS. is faulty and removed by three or four centuries from the autograph. He therefore admits a good deal of conjectural emendation. It will therefore be understood that the text thus

produced will or will not be approved according as the reader's subjective judgment or taste happens to coincide with the editor's. The text is printed in a small but clear type, and the notes, which are solely critical, occupy the lower half of the page and are easily legible. The form of the book is convenient, a small octavo; and although not perhaps ideally perfect, this Greek Testament may provisionally be cordially recommended.

From the Delegates and Syndics of the Oxford and Cambridge University Presses we have received *The Holy Bible* in the Revised Version *With References*. These have been prepared with the greatest care by men in whom the public has confidence. They took as a basis for their work the marginal references in the Authorised Version and those in Dr. Scrivener's paragraph Bible. But these have been verified, revised and augmented by skilled Biblical scholars. The system of signs is excellent, the modes of indication being simple and sufficient. In previous editions of the Revised Version the numbers of the verses were placed on the margin of each page: they are now placed at the beginning of each verse, which is certainly more convenient for reference. The chapters are also indicated in a bold, black, obtrusive type, so that everything conduces to the ease of finding any passage. In every respect this is a most satisfactory edition.

Prof. Richard G. Moulton, of Chicago, continues the issue of his *Modern Reader's Bible* (The Macmillan Co.). The New Testament is now complete, and both the arrangement and the notes undoubtedly help the reader to understand the sequence and the significance of the text. Mr. Howard Swan also continues to issue *The Voice of the Spirit* (Sampson Low, Marston & Co.). It will be remembered that this is an attempt to translate the Bible, idea for idea, into modern style. Book iv. contains *Matthew* and *Galatians*.

A most valuable contribution to the study of the Synoptic Problem has been made by the Rev. Sir John C. Hawkins, Bart., M.A., in his *Horae Synopticae* (Clarendon Press). He disclaims the intention of presenting a solution of the problem. This he may attempt at some future time. At present he restricts himself to the necessary task of gathering material from the Gospels themselves which may be found to contribute to the ultimate solution. He is of opinion that from a careful examination of the language of the Gospels certain conclusions are inevitable; and

this opinion he justifies by the full lists of peculiarities and tables of comparison with which in this volume he furnishes the student. Even as a study of the linguistic characteristics of the Synoptists the book is of great value. Apart altogether from the use which may be made of the material here gathered for the solution of the Synoptic problem, this volume presents a more complete comparative analysis of the language of the Synoptists than can be found elsewhere. One really becomes once more hopeful of the ultimate solution of the problem, when it becomes apparent that patient and self-restrained zeal, scholarly aptitude and sanity of judgment, such as are manifest in this book, are enlisted in the work.

Another volume devoted to the same problem cannot be pronounced so successful. It aims higher and accomplishes much less. Mr. Joseph Palmer, in his *Gospel Problems and their Solution* (Allenson), believes that he has found the key or keys which unlock all the hitherto closed doors. His Master Key is that "the narrative parts of the Gospels were written soon after, and for the most part immediately after, the events happened which they relate; and that the reports of Christ's longer addresses were taken down as they were spoken." Mr. Palmer further holds that our Lord spoke both Aramaic and Greek, and that His utterances in Aramaic are mostly contained in the Synoptists, while His Greek discourses are to be found in John. These propositions so completely traverse the results of criticism that many readers will be tempted to throw Mr. Palmer's volume aside as a mere eccentricity. This, however, will be to their loss. For the book contains much that should be considered.

The second "Livraison" of the first part of Godet's *Introduction au Nouveau Testament* (Neuchâtel, Attinger Frères) has appeared. It contains 200 pages on the Gospel of St. Matthew.

The esteemed American scholar, Prof. De Witt Burton, of Chicago, has reprinted from the *American Journal of Theology* his exhaustive and valuable article on *The Politarchs in Macedonia and Elsewhere*. This paper gathers together all available information on the subject and brings up to date this fragment of New Testament knowledge.

The Rev. A. Welch, in *The Authorship of the Epistle to the Hebrews* (Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier), advocates the view that St. Peter was the author—a view not likely to be accepted. In

the other papers contained in the volume the Melchizedek priesthood, the Descent into Hades, and other subjects are treated with some suggestiveness.

Dr. Briggs, of Union Theological Seminary, has certainly conferred a boon upon students of the New Testament by reissuing his *Biblical Study* in a thoroughly revised and greatly enlarged form under the title *General Introduction to the Study of Holy Scripture* (T. & T. Clark). The learned and industrious author has gathered into his massive volume a vast amount of information on the languages, the text, the canon, the history, and the interpretation of the sacred writings both of the Old and New Testaments. It is exactly the suitable text book for any one who is in want of an accurate survey of the whole field of Introduction.

Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., have done a good work in issuing a translation, by Mr. Henry St. John Thackeray, of Prof. Blass' *Grammar of New Testament Greek*. The great reputation of the author as a Greek scholar and his well-known enthusiasm in New Testament studies will carry this book into popular use. And it deserves cordial welcome. It is full, yet compressed; it is not a mere echo of other Grammars, but is marked by originality and independence; it is also thoroughly up to date. That it is better than those already in the field need not be absolutely affirmed. The distinctive characteristic on which the author lays chief stress is that MSS. are referred to rather than editions. But that which will win for it general acceptance is its fulness and convenience of arrangement. The translation could not be improved.

Prof. W. M. Ramsay's answer to the question *Was Christ Born at Bethlehem?* (Hodder & Stoughton) has already made itself so well known that it is too late to commend it to public attention. The critical predictions or surmises to which he had been led by sagacious deduction from extant material were remarkably verified by discoveries brought to light after the publication of his volume. The net result of his book is a further assurance of the credibility of St. Luke, and the probability that our Lord's birth took place in 6 B.C. The volume contains much excellent matter tending to the elucidation of the history of the period and to the placing of historical criticism on a surer basis. Prof. Ramsay's volume is a solid contribution which at once takes its place in the structure of New Testament criticism.

Prof. Potwin, of Adelbert College, U.S.A., has collected a number of exegetical studies and has published them under the title, *Here and There in the Greek New Testament* (Allenson, London). To those who have given some attention to the New Testament vocabulary, Prof. Potwin is known as a diligent and intelligent collector of statistics, whose labours have been used freely by less industrious scholars. In the papers now published he gives evidence that he is able to make effective use of his own material, and by applying his linguistic knowledge to some contested passages of the New Testament, he makes a distinct contribution to their happier interpretation. There is also much to be learned from his notes on words borrowed from the Latin, the Hebrew and the Aramaic. The volume is introduced by a paper under the title, "Hints on New Testament Exegesis," in which there is much that is at once wise and practical. It is to be hoped that Prof. Potwin's volume will be widely read on this side of the Atlantic.

The importance of Aramaic for the study of the Gospels is now generally recognised, and it is gratifying that so many scholars are turning their attention in this direction. Among these, Mr. Stanley A. Cook occupies a distinguished place, and some of the fruits of his investigations are published by the Cambridge University Press in *A Glossary of the Aramaic Inscriptions*. This volume cannot but advance the knowledge of the language. Especial care has been bestowed upon the proper names which occur in the Inscriptions, and the dates have also been carefully registered.

Some minor books which belong to the department of Introduction should also be noticed, such as *Bible Manners and Customs*, a contribution to the Guild Library of the Church of Scotland, by Rev. G. M. Mackie, whose name is well known by his articles in the new Bible Dictionary, and who is qualified for his work by a long residence in the East.—Mr. Cecil Torr publishes a brief note on *Portraits of Christ in the British Museum* (Cambridge Univ. Press). These portraits represent Christ as very young, and Mr. Torr suggests an ingenious theory regarding the date of Christ's birth.

A large and handsome volume by Dr. Kuyper, the powerful advocate of orthodoxy in the Netherlands, has been published by Messrs. Hodder & Stoughton. The title is probably not attractive

to English readers, as *Encyclopædia of Sacred Theology* is too elaborate a study and too far removed from life to win practical men. But although parts of this volume may repel by their theoretic and formal character, it yet contains an important discussion of revelation and inspiration. In his treatment of these hackneyed themes, Dr. Kuyper proves that it is possible to be at once conservative and original. Certainly no one will read these chapters without receiving new ideas and fresh light. Were there nothing more in the volume, it would still deserve the strongly commendatory notice which Dr. Warfield prefixes to the translation.

MARCUS DODS.