

At the Literary Table.

THE BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

PART I.

THE LAND OF THE MONUMENTS.
 BY JOSEPH POLLARD. (*Hodder & Stoughton.*
 Crown 8vo, pp. xx + 456, with illustrations.)
 The interest in Egypt is rising, rising every day. We have to thank Professor Flinders Petrie for that in no small degree. His own personality has an expectancy about it; and then he gives himself so wholly to expect great things from Egypt, and sometimes even to receive them. It is the land of greatest expectation of all the lands on earth.

We want to know about Egypt. All our friends know something; we must know something too. We even hope to go to Egypt. And we have learned this much about it, that going to Egypt is of little account if we do not know what we are going for. We must know all that can be known about Egypt before we go, that our going may not be in vain.

So Mr. Pollard has written this book for us. It serves that purpose well. It serves that purpose better than any book on Egypt we have seen. Mr. Pollard himself knew what to look for when he went to Egypt, and was not disappointed. That he carried a seeing eye, however, as well as the necessary knowledge in his head, we shall show you in a moment. And then he can tell what he saw, not with the glamour of grand writing, but with the attractive simplicity of the truth. He has no tricks of style, but he has a very pleasant rhythm of language.

Then there are the illustrations. There are fifteen in all, full-page and distinctly artistic every one of them—a feature, indeed, that would be the *making* of many a book.

And now, that Mr. Pollard has the seeing eye, let this short extract testify:—

Sunrise on the Pyramids and the Sphinx.—We rose at 5 A.M. to see the sunrise upon the Pyramids and Sphinx. We crossed the plateau in the moonlight, for the moon was shining almost as brightly as when we paid our evening visit to the same spot. But dawn was struggling with the moonlight, and soon gained the mastery. The Pyramids looked cold and grey, and the sand was crusted over by the heavy dew, for the valley of the Nile was curtained with white mist. We had no conception that the atmosphere of the

desert contained moisture enough to produce such an effect; but had always associated dew with vegetation, and could not imagine that it fell on the barren sand. Wherever we set our feet the crust was broken, and warm dry sand lay underneath. In this our guide scooped out comfortable seats immediately in front of the Sphinx, and we waited patiently for the sun to appear. Light feathery clouds floated aloft, and became beautifully and brilliantly coloured as the rays of light illuminated them, far in advance of any other objects. The mists of the valley began to rise as a freshening breeze sprang up in the east, and we were surprised to see little clouds float about the Pyramids, and almost conceal the smaller one. Presently the golden rays caught the summit of the Great Pyramid, then that of the Second, and gradually descending the eastern and southern sides, brought them into the full light of the rising sun. At last the rays caught the face of the Sphinx, and we could almost imagine that we saw a smile of welcome pass over the worn and noble features as the sun rose fully above the eastern hills, bringing light and warmth to all. One ceases to wonder, after witnessing such a glorious sight, that the sun was worshipped by the ancients.

WITH OPEN FACE. BY ALEXANDER BALMAIN BRUCE, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton.* Crown 8vo, pp. 332.) Whether we agree with Professor Bruce or not, we can always read him. It is not so much that he has the surpassing gift of writing. It is more that he is always himself, and that he is always so whole-heartedly human. The story goes that Dr Bruce was announced to preach in a certain church, and a member said to the minister: 'We are to have Professor Bruce with us on Sunday; I believe he is a very great divine.' To which the minister made ready reply, 'Yes, and he is also a very great human.' These studies in the synoptic gospels are the work of a very great human. And so they are charmingly readable, whether we agree with them or not.

We do not agree with them wholly. Irresistibly charming in their freedom from conventionality, they are—well, they are at times too human for the truth. For *Jesus* was both human and divine, and in Him the divine was more than Professor Bruce seems able to find it. We are not even so sure as we used to be that the better way to come to Jesus is to come by the Man of Nazareth. The greatest of all the evangelists would have us approach from the other side: 'In the beginning

was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.' Indeed it is the oldest way of all: 'As the hart panteth for the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God.' And when we find our God in Christ, how easy to pass to the Carpenter. But how hard it always seems to have been to rise from the Carpenter to 'my Lord and my God.'

Nevertheless, it is in many ways a very delightful volume. Fresh aspects of old truths, fresh light on old texts, almost innumerable. And it makes you read; it makes you think. It does not hand you your theology ready made and respectable; it disturbs your respectable theology, and makes you think and live.

THE BIRTH AND BOYHOOD OF JESUS.

By G. F. PENTECOST, D.D. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. 399.) Dr. Pentecost has published these twenty sermons exactly as they were delivered. It may be questioned if sermons ever should be published so. But the method has its interest. If we know the man, it brings us nearest to his living personality. And if sermons are read to be preached again, it makes them easier to preach.

They are good sermons, great sermons they may even be fearlessly described. They are full of matter,—and it is biblical matter,—true, sound, suggestive exposition of the Word of God. For Dr. Pentecost has a gift, and it lies unmistakably there.

THE TABLE-TALK OF JESUS. BY THE

REV. GEORGE JACKSON, B.A. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xii + 278.) Mr. Jackson has a gift no less. It is not the exposition of Scripture so much as its application. These addresses are, and for once most assuredly ought to have been, published just as they were delivered. For the personal element is everything—the present interest, the pressing appeal, the persistent watching for the souls that stand and listen, or pass and seem to heed it not. They are addresses, not sermons, the preacher is right; and they are addresses that could scarcely be improved for their purpose.

A FIRST READER IN NEW TESTAMENT GREEK. BY JAMES HOPE MOULTON,

M.A. (*Kelly*. 12mo, pp. viii + 40.) One word is enough: it is the simplest, most practical and most practicable introduction to New Testament Greek that is likely to be written.

THE BIBLE FOR HOME READING. BY C. G. MONTEFIORE. (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. xviii + 621.) The author (or editor, as he prefers to call himself) adds: 'With comments and reflections for the use of Jewish parents and children.' It is not the whole Bible, even as Mr. Montefiore accepts it; far less however is it mere detached passages from the Bible. The story is made consecutive, made a story, indeed, and the interest thoroughly sustained by the reflections and explanations which connect one passage with another. Now these reflections and explanations are the work of a scholar, the work also of a man of reverence for God and love for children. We think the book a great success. How difficult it was to do; listen to the mighty army of those who have tried it and failed. There is to be another volume; let it be only as good as this and it will do. It is the Old Testament, and the Old Testament belongs to Christian as well as to Jewish parents and children.

EVIL AND EVOLUTION. BY THE AUTHOR OF 'THE SOCIAL HORIZON.' (*Macmillan*. Crown 8vo, pp. 184.) There has been a great shifting in recent years of the responsibility for evil. It has been shifted from the shoulders of Satan and laid to the arm of God. This is the work of evolution, and the innumerable multitude who accept the theology of Lord Tennyson. But our author would bring the responsibility back. He does not deny the appearance of design in evil. Yet he holds that the only reasonable, as the only possible, explanation of evil is the old one that an enemy hath done it. Now this position is noteworthy, since it belongs to a man who is so conversant with modern ways of thinking. The book is well worth the interest it is almost certain to excite.

BIBLE CHARACTERS—FROM ADAM TO ACHAN. BY ALEXANDER WHYTE, D.D. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. viii + 301.) The sale of Dr. Whyte's *Bunyan Characters* has already been very great. This book will surely have a greater sale. For it is a greater subject even than Bunyan, and the workmanship

is every whit as competent. It is marvellous how new the story is, how living it becomes in these accomplished hands. We thought we knew the 'characters' of the Hexateuch; we certainly know them better now. And even if, in the days to come, we cannot separate them from the mind that gives them so freshly to us, we shall not count it loss.

PALESTINE: THE GLORY OF ALL LANDS. BY THE REV. ARCHIBALD SUTHERLAND, M.A. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. 383.) There are many men who have travelled in Palestine and, having returned, have surprised their friends by not writing a book about it. Probably they entertained the erroneous idea that there are books enough about Palestine already. There cannot be books too many; there are not likely to be books enough. For Palestine has many sides, and so have we. And it is scarcely possible that all that can be said about Palestine ever should be said; or that all the ways that we must have it said can be fulfilled. Thus one man writes a physical geography of Palestine, another a superficial geography, another a historical geography. They are all necessary, and they are all only geographies. Mr. Sutherland writes a geographical history (and does it altogether well). And it is probable that there are other kinds of histories—histories of the Land you see—that yet await to be written.

Mr. Sutherland does it well. He wants his book to be read, not merely consulted. He wants it to be easily read. He wants it to be read at the very fireside, in truth. He wants to cheat you with the delightful sensation of passing through Palestine in an easy-chair and not on a camel's back; and does it. He even carries you in your easy-chair where the camel cannot go, across the Sea of Galilee and up the great stone steps of the Pyramids.

MESSAGES TO THE CHILDREN. BY THE REV. CHARLES JERDAN, M.A., LL.B. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. xiv + 416.) Seventy-two sermons to children within the compass of one moderate volume! Of sermons to children we cannot get enough. Surely this should hold us going for a time. And they are mostly well chosen and felicitous, sometimes wholly delightful; and always true to the gospel of the blessed God.

RICHARD CAMERON. BY JOHN HERKLESS. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown, 8vo, pp. 152.) Professor Herkless has written a new chapter of the history of religion in Scotland. He has searched the sources and verified the references, and found the truth and written it heartily. A mere name before, and scarce a savoury one, Richard Cameron is now a man of like passions such as we are, and greater, withal, than most of us dare to be. The 'Famous Scots' series is fast becoming a famous series.

A BAG WITH HOLES. BY JAMES AITCHISON. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. viii + 192.) *A Bag with Holes* is an old title, but new children are always coming to the enjoyment of it. Mr. Aitchison has a very warm attachment to them, and he is not afraid to use an old title. Throughout the little volume, which is one of the 'Golden Nails' series, there is a fine admixture of doctrine and practice. The children are given something to stand upon, and they are gently counselled to be steadfast and unmovable. It is a volume of the 'Golden Nails' series that has some strong meat in it.

HELPS TO MAKE IDEALS REAL. BY MRS. A. R. SIMPSON. (*Oliphant Anderson & Ferrier*. Crown 8vo, pp. 96.) Mrs. Simpson's Christmas books have always found an open door. They are never without literary grace; but their beauty is within. They have the mind of Jesus, and like the Master Himself, they cannot be hid.

THE CRITICAL REVIEW. EDITED BY PROFESSOR S. D. F. SALMOND, D.D. (*T. & T. Clark*. 8vo, vol. vi. pp. 452.) How did we get on without the *Critical Review* before the *Critical Review* was born? It is an unanswerable question, and all we know is that we cannot get on without it now. For we must know what progress theological study is making; we must be guided to the best and most recent of the literature in all its departments. This volume is as sweeping in its range, as searching in its criticism, as any that have gone before it. And not the least of all its triumphs is this, that it always reviews its books *at once*.

SO GREAT SALVATION. BY THE REV. G. H. C. MACGREGOR, M.A. (*T. & T. Clark*. 16mo, pp. 138.) Most welcome is this new edition,

and full of happy significance. For it is a true evangel—the gospel of the grace of God in all its simplicity and persuasiveness.

CHRIST CHURCH SERMONS. BY THE REV. E. F. SAMPSON, M.A. (*Longmans*. Crown 8vo, pp. xlv + 292.) Sermons preached to university men need not differ from sermons delivered to other men. But these do. Not in that they are short; not in that they deal with great doctrines and bring them always down to the test of daily life, insisting that they must *walk*. They differ in a subtle aroma of reasonableness—a deference almost to the understanding; as if university men had only to be shown what it is expedient for them to do and they may be counted on to do it. And Mr. Sampson knows his men. He has not spent all these years in Oxford for nothing. His preliminary essay is a clever piece of writing, and probably as useful as it is clever. For, first, he traces the progress that vital religion has made in Oxford since the Tractarian movement began, and then he bravely says that the danger ahead is the abuse of money, and Oxford men had better recognise ‘that the present distribution of property is not a Divine ordinance, and may be amended or entirely changed without mortal sin.’

BARBED ARROWS. BY C. H. SPURGEON. (*Passmore & Alabaster*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. viii + 295.) A companion to *Feathers for Arrows*. The illustrations have been gathered from Spurgeon’s sermons, and they are mostly well worth the gathering. Not a few are very familiar now, but some had almost been forgotten.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL AND ITS RELATIONS. (*Sunday School Union*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 79.) (1) ‘To the Home,’ by Dr. Dods; (2) ‘To the Church,’ by the Rev. Hugh Black; (3) ‘To Amusements,’ by the Rev. George Jackson; (4) ‘To Athletics,’ by the Rev. A. R. Buckland; (5) ‘To Temperance,’ by Principal Simon; (6) ‘To Biblical Criticism,’ by Dr. Dods; and (7) ‘To the Business of Life,’ by the Rev. A. R. Henderson. So they are not harmless and helpless essays, they are subjects of the utmost pressure to-day. And they are not men of facile pen and miscellaneous knowledge, they know just the subjects that they write upon, and few are they that know them better. An exceptionally opportune and valuable little volume.

EVERYBODY’S MEDICAL GUIDE. (*Saxon*. 16mo, pp. 122). Some of Saxon’s ‘Books for Everybody’ we do know and can judge. If this is as good as they are, it is very good indeed.

The Integrity of Luke i. 5–ii.

BY MR. F. P. BADHAM, M.A., EXETER COLLEGE, OXFORD.

THE integrity of the first two chapters of St. Luke has been impugned in three different directions. It has been suggested (1) that these two chapters are derived from a Hebrew original, and that this is at anyrate the case with the three Psalms; (2) that the Psalms once existed separately, and have been post-added to the narrative; (3) that the second chapter is older than the first, less Hebraic in style, and contains naturalistic implications incompatible with the idea of miraculous conception. My purpose is to examine the validity of these three hypotheses.

Now, as to a Hebrew original, all one’s sympathies are at first enlisted in its favour. The whole cast of this section is so thoroughly Hebraic.

So many first-rate Hebraists have given this theory their suffrages. Closer scrutiny, however, shows irrefragably that the Hebraic appearance is delusive, for, without possible exception, the Old Testament references are all derived from the Septuagint.

The obligation of Luke i. 5–ii. to the Old Testament is obvious, but the full extent of this obligation may easily be overlooked. Every word, every detail has to be carefully scrutinised. When, for example, Elisabeth’s friends came to share in her rejoicings (*συγχαίρειν*), we find that it is after the fashion of Sarah’s (Gen. xxi. 6). When Mary treasures up (*διετήρει*) the premonitions of her Son’s greatness, it is as Jacob did in