

advantage over the strangers (47^{22, 23}). This is a provision such as the most liberal of modern states have had hesitation in conceding; and it is the more worthy of notice in Ezekiel, who has little to say of bright prospects for the heathen. It is on the principle enunciated in Nu 15^{15, 16}, but it goes far beyond it in application. And the liberality of the provision is the more noticeable, because the amount of land to be divided had become much less by the withdrawal of the territory beyond Jordan to the east.

7. There are some peculiarities which ought not to be passed over in the account given of the city, the metropolis of the tribes, the new Jerusalem, as we might call it. (1) It belongs to the whole of the tribes in common; as does also the 'possession of the city,' which is half the size of the priests' portion, or the Levites' portion. Along with these two it makes up a great square (45⁶ 48¹⁵⁻²⁰). (2) There is legitimate difference of opinion as to the relative positions of these three portions of the oblation. At present there is a predominant inclination to place the Levites to the north of the priests, though it might be the other way; then the city and its land are on the south of both the priests and the Levites. On either view the curious result is reached, that the temple stands

wholly apart, one might almost say widely separated, from the city. There is a way of avoiding this conclusion, if we place the city and its land between the portion for the priests and that for the Levites; in which case the words in 48¹⁰, 'and the sanctuary of Jehovah shall be in the midst thereof,' are to be understood as telling that it was in the midst of the priests' portion from east to west, but not from north to south. See the statement in v.⁸ (3) But more singular, on any of these interpretations, it still remains difficult to see how the new Jerusalem and the new temple could stand where they stood in the time of David and Solomon. That original Jerusalem had only the tribe of Judah (including Simeon) to the south of it, all the rest of the tribes lay to the north of it. Quite differently, Ezekiel sees five tribes to the south of the city, whose situation, it has been said, would therefore more nearly correspond to that of Bethel or Shiloh. How far is this shifting of the city northward to be brought into connexion with what the prophet had taught of the reunion of the stick of Ephraim with that of Judah (37¹⁵⁻²²), and with what he had also taught of the restoration of Samaria and Sodom with Jerusalem (16⁶⁰⁻⁶³)? Or is it connected with physical changes in the land of Judah, such as are hinted in Zech 14^{4, 8, 10}?

Explorations in Bible Lands during the Nineteenth Century.

By REV. J. A. SELBIE, D.D., MARÝCULTER.

THE editor, the authors, and the publishers of the great work whose title stands at the head of this notice, are all to be congratulated on its appearance. Professor Hilprecht's laborious and successful work, both in excavating and in deciphering Babylonian monuments, are too well known to need any detailed reference to them. Universally recognized as one of the most eminent archæologists of the day, he fittingly edits the whole of the work before us. The account of explorations in Assyria and Babylonia, from Dr. Hilprecht's own pen, occupies more than two-thirds of the book, which runs to about 800 pages. This proportion is not an undue one in view

either of the materials that have been obtained from these explorations or the importance of their bearing upon the study of the Old Testament. At first sight some might be disposed to think that the account of researches in Palestine (only 43 pages) by Professor Benzinger, and those in Egypt (67 pages) by Professor Steindorff, are inadequate and meagre, especially as compared with that of the work in Professor Hilprecht's own special field. But the truth is that in the case of Palestine there have not been till quite recently any great amount of scientifically assured results. An enormous amount of site identification by men like Conder was done far too hastily, and has been

entirely superseded by more recent explorers. There can be no doubt that a very rich harvest remains to be gathered in Palestine. The excavations at Tell el-Hesi show what may be looked for, and every one will wish that the urgent appeal recently made by the *Palestine Exploration Fund* for financial aid to complete Mr. Stewart Macalister's excavations at Gezer, may be successful. As to Egypt, Professor Steindorff's account contains all that is needed by the student of the Old Testament, although we have no doubt that the information he obtains here will send him with fresh zest to study fuller accounts of what is in some ways the most interesting of all the ancient civilizations.

Professor Hilprecht's history of the course of exploration in Assyria and Babylonia is entitled to take rank as the best and most complete within its compass of anything of the kind that is extant. It is a most fascinating account of the part played by the leading countries of Europe and by America in bringing to light the records of the past. There is much that is flattering to the pride of England, whose roll of fame includes such names as Loftus, Layard, Rawlinson, and George Smith, not to mention many others, the story of whose work, either as pioneers or completers of discovery, is fully told by the graphic pen of the editor. But France is not a whit behind with names like those of Botta and Place and Oppert and de Sarzec; while Germany follows with Moritz and Koldewey. Last comes the great work of the American Expedition organized by the University of Pennsylvania, whose labours have been literally *campaigns*. Here the most prominent names are of course those of Hilprecht himself, Peters (whose zeal does not seem to have been always balanced by discretion), and Haynes. The achievements of Layard and Rawlinson which excited so much astonishment and admiration in the early days of Assyriology have been rivalled, nay in some ways surpassed by the results achieved by the Americans at Nippur. All this is told in a way that never allows the interest of the reader to flag.

In recent years, as is well known to Old Testa-

ment students, the South Arabian inscriptions have come to hold a very important place. We feel certain, indeed, that too much is built upon these by Winckler and Hommel and some others, whose combinations have at times a striking resemblance to the oft-recurring 'Jerahmeel' of the *Encyclopædia Biblica*. Nevertheless, we have much to learn from Arabia, and the reader will turn with interest to Professor Hommel's account of the explorations in that field (61 pages).

Finally, Professor Jensen writes 40 pages on 'The so-called Hittites and their Inscriptions.' It will be generally felt that no better selection of an author could have been made. Certainly no man living has devoted more patient study to the subject, or shown more perseverance in keeping to what he believed to be the right track. Without aid from any quarter, and shunning with marvelous foresight certain tempting paths, he discovered what appears to be now generally admitted to be the true road to the decipherment of the Hittite inscriptions. This recognition has been long in coming and has been half-grudgingly accorded by some; but *it has come*.

The book closes with a general index and an index of Scripture texts, and it contains 4 maps and nearly 200 illustrations. The execution of these is all that could be desired, and adds very materially to the value of the book.

We have left to the last what we have felt to be the principal value of this great work, namely, that it brings together in *a single volume* a complete account of recent explorations in *all* Bible lands. We could read elsewhere of Babylonia and Assyria, or of Palestine or Egypt or Arabia or the Hittites, but there is no reliable book in which we can read of them *all together* as we can do in the pages of Professor Hilprecht. Nothing could have been more opportune than the publication of this book. It is precisely what we have been waiting for. Amongst the many services to the scientific study of Scripture which have been rendered by Messrs. T. & T. Clark, a very high place must be accorded to their placing a masterpiece like this at so small a cost (12s. 6d. net) in the hands of students of the past.