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## **Biblical Work and Workers.**

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The translation of Abbe Fouard's "Life of Jesus," made by Mr. Griffith, has proved so successful that he has translated another volume of the same author's series on the origins of the church, entitled "St. Peter and the First Years of Christianity." It will be published soon by Longmans, Green & Co.

There is now being issued in Paris, under Roman Catholic auspices, a new Bible Dictionary, edited by the Abbé Vigoux. Two parts have already appeared, comprising over three hundred pages and going as far as "Animals." It is altogether a notable work, because of its size, its source, and its high quality.

Germany still leads in theological activity, and theology still holds the most prominent place in that country's literature. Out of 18,875 books published in Germany last year, 1,763 were classified as theological—a large proportion. The next division, that of "literature," fell short of this number by only thirty-two books.

Prof. A. W. Dieckhoff, of Rostock, one of the extremely conservative Lutheran theologians of Germany, has recently made quite a significant departure from his former position in his lately issued book entitled "Inspiration and Inerrancy," wherein he maintains that neither the Fathers nor the Reformers held the view of inspiration now regarded as orthodox, it having been elaborated by seventeenth century dogmaticians.

The railway between Jaffa and Jerusalem, which promises to be soon in operation, is but the beginning of railways which before long will take possession of Palestine. A concession has just been granted by the Turkish Government for a railway across the Jordan, the route proposed being from Acre to Jezreel, to Beisan, and on to Damascus, a distance of one hundred and twenty miles. This may be the beginning of a railway route to the East.

A marked improvement has been made in the appearance and character of *The Treasury*, a magazine whose aim it is to treasure up the current religious thought. Particularly intended for ministers, as is apparent by the predominance of its homiletic material, it yet contains good general reading. The departments are numerous, and the design seems to be to have everything brief and fresh. It comes much nearer now to the standard set by the *Homiletic Review*.

The authorized English translation of Professor Godet's "Introduction to the New Testament" will be published by Messrs. T. and T. Clark, Edinburgh. The original work is to form three large volumes, the first containing Paul's Epistles; the second, the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles; the third, the Hebrews, Catholic Epistles and Apocalypse. The first volume is now in the press, and arrangements have been made for the publication of the translation as soon as possible after the original edition is ready.

A *Variorum Apocrypha* is to be published by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, London, as a companion volume to their *Variorum Bible*, which was an important forerunner of the Revised Version, and still has much value. The text is to be that of the Authorized Version, with appended various readings and renderings, and comments by the editor, Rev. C. J. Ball. The new work will find a welcome, as the Apocrypha have gained a new importance in the present historical investigation of Jewish religious thought.

Prof. O. S. Stearns, who has for twenty-five years occupied the Chair of Old Testament Interpretation at Newton Theological Institution, recently tendered his resignation, and was elected professor emeritus, to serve until his successor is chosen. The chair of New Testament Interpretation, vacated by Prof. E. D. Burton, will be filled by President Hovey, who thus leaves his place in theology to be filled by another. Rev. Rush Rhees becomes associate professor of Greek, and Mr. W. F. Arlington will assist Prof. Brown in Hebrew.

The recent election of a professor to occupy the chair of Hebrew in the Free Church College, Glasgow, awakened some interest. The two prominent candidates were G. A. Smith of Aberdeen, and Mr. Harper of Melbourne, the latter favored by the more conservative Presbyterians. It seemed, however, to be understood among scholars that there were no particular difference between them concerning critical questions, and both were thoroughly competent for the work. The result was the appointment of the former, by a large majority. Prof. Smith is 37 years of age, and had fulfilled the duties of the chair during the interim after Prof. Robertson Smith had left it.

There has just been published in England a book entitled "The Composition of the Book of Genesis," (David Nutt, Publisher), by Mr. Edgar I. Fripp. The material of Genesis is analyzed into its constituent elements, these being printed in different types in parallel columns, and restored as far as possible to their original forms. There is also a series of six maps, illustrating the historical relationships reflected in the patriarchal stories, an abridgment of the Chaldean flood legend, etc. The work seems to cover about the same ground as "The Genesis of Genesis," by Rev. B. W. Bacon, which appeared but a few months ago in this country. There is no longer any reason for ignorance as to what the analysis of Genesis proposes.

Prof. J. Rendel Harris, after a careful comparison of the so-called Western Text with the Codex Bezae, arrives at the conclusion that the Western Text had a Gallican origin, as is indicated in the manuscript by the orthography of certain words as affected by local pronunciation, Gallican provincialisms. He shows also that the Latin text of this Mss. is genealogically contiguous to the Latin translation of Irenæus, and that Tatian used a Latin copy of the Gospels, also a copy whose text was closely related to the Latin of Codex D. He thinks, therefore, the probability is that the whole body of Western readings goes back to a single liturgical copy as the original of D, which copy was in existence as early as the second century A. D.

An effort is being made to obtain the necessary funds for the printing in this country of a modern Syriac dictionary, embracing some 45,000 words and covering all the principal dialects into which the language is divided. The copy

is all prepared, being the work of Rabi Baba, of Persia, a Syrian scholar who has been long connected with the American Presbyterian Mission, and for whose knowledge and ability there are many to vouch. He was one of the collaborators in the revision of the modern Syriac Old Testament, and stands first in his nation as regards his acquaintance with ancient and modern Syriac. He has come to America to secure the publication of his work, and has received the endorsement of members of the American Oriental Society, as well as of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions. It is to be hoped that the work will be published, as it will be of large value to many scholars.

An inner view of how some literary work is done may be gained from the facts connected with the publication of Dr. Delitzsch's "Hebrew Version of the New Testament," of which there have been some fifty thousand copies sold. The first edition appeared in 1877. A large number of copies were interleaved with writing paper, and sent to most of the Hebrew scholars in Europe and America. In this way a mass of valuable criticism and suggestion was obtained, all of which was carefully considered and the text revised. The first proof of this revised copy was read by a Hebrew scholar on the Rhine, and then passed on to Dr. Delitzsch, who read it and returned it to the printer. The second proof was treated in the same way. The third proof was read by Canon Driver, and finally worked over by Dr. Delitzsch, when it was turned over for publication. It is such care and attention that indicate the love of scholars for their work, and their faithfulness in the performance of it.

The *Expository Times* is doing a useful piece of work by publishing from time to time a conspectus of recent literature upon a particular group of Scripture books. The May number of the magazine contained such an article upon the Poetical Books of the Old Testament, viz.: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Songs. The literature upon each book is treated separately, a list of the recent works upon it being given which contains the title, author, publishers, size, date, and price. Then follows a brief discussion of the different books, individually and comparatively, as regards their characteristics and merit. Without reproducing the lists in detail, it will prove interesting and helpful if the books named be here cited. They are: (1) *Job*. The Student's Commentary, vol. 3; The Book of Job, by G. H. B. Wright. A Commentary on the Book of Job, by S. Cox, D. D.; Job and Solomon, by T. K. Cheyne, D. D.; The People's Bible, vol. 11, by Jos. Parker, D. D.; The Book of Job and the Song of Solomon, by Talmid; Cambridge Bible, Book of Job, by A. B. Davidson, D. D., LL. D. (2) *Psalms*. Commentary on the Book of Psalms, by J. G. Murphy, LL. D.; The Treasury of David, by C. H. Spurgeon; Notes Critical and Philological on the Hebrew Psalms, by W. R. Burgess, M. A.; An Introduction to the Study and Use of the Psalms, by J. F. Thrupp, M. A.; The Life of David as Reflected in his Psalms, Alex. McClaren, D. D.; The Book of Psalms, by T. K. Cheyne, D. D.; The Psalms, with Introductions and Critical Notes, by A. C. Jennings, M. A., and W. H. Lowe, M. A.; The Psalms in History and Biography, by Jno. Ker, D. D.; Biblical Commentary on the Psalms, by F. Delitzsch, D. D.; The Psalmist and the Scientist, by Geo. Matheson, D. D.; The Book of Psalms—a New Translation with Commentary, by T. K. Cheyne, D. D.; Studies on the Book of Psalms, by Jno. Forbes, D. D., LL. D.; The Psalter, by A. Barry, D. D.; Notes on the Seven Penitential Psalms, by Rev. A. G. Mortimer; People's

Bible, the Psalter, by Jos. Parker, D. D.; The Witness of the Psalms to Christ and Christianity, by W. Alexander, D. D.; The Psalms Chronologically Arranged, by "Four Friends"; Cambridge Bible, The Book of Psalms, by A. F. Kirkpatrick, B. D.; The Origin and Religious Contents of the Psalter, by T. K. Cheyne, D. D.; The Psalms, by Jno. DeWitt, D. D., LL. D. (3) *Proverbs*. Original Notes on the Book of Proverbs, by S. C. Malan, D. D.; Expositor's Bible, The Book of Proverbs, by R. F. Horton, M. A. (4) *Ecclesiastes*. Cambridge Bible, Ecclesiastes, by E. H. Plumptre, D. D.; The Book of Koheleth, by C. H. H. Wright, D. D.; Lectures on Ecclesiastes, by G. G. Bradley, D. D.; Lectures on Ecclesiastes, by S. Cox, D. D.; The People's Bible, vol. 14. (5) *The Song of Songs*. The Song of Solomon Rendered into English Verse, by Jas. Pratt, D. D.; The Song of Solomon Translated, etc., by W. C. Daland, A. M.; The Song of Solomon compared with Other Parts of Scripture; The Song of Solomon, by Rev. M. Rainsford. This conspectus shows nearly all the special books upon these subjects which have been published in England during the last ten years. They are of very uneven value, and many of them one does not care for. Especially fine and useful are the volumes referred to in the Cambridge Bible and Expositor's Bible Series, and on the Psalms the works by Maclaren and Delitzsch. For homiletic purposes The People's Bible is excellent. Much of the latest, freshest and best literature on these portions of Scripture gets no representation in these lists, however, as it is in the form of articles contributed to current religious periodicals.