

Men of the Bible Series. *Abraham's* (1) life is pleasantly told by Mr. Deane in this useful little volume. He has collected all the information available about "the Father of the Faithful," and has fairly well grappled with the difficulties that hang to the Scriptural account of the patriarch. In considering the sacrifice of Isaac, Mr. Deane notices the opinion of those who hold that this was merely an instance of the child-sacrifice common in those ancient times; he refers to the views of Bishop Horsley and Bishop Warburton, who suppose that it was in this way Abraham was vouchsafed an insight into the doctrine of atonement, and "saw the day of Christ;" nor does he omit the opinions of Kuenen and of the German neologians, who have said that the first-born always was sacrificed among the Israelites until the Passover in Egypt put a stop to the practice; and then Mr. Deane holds to the opinion that it was given and intended by God as a trial of Abraham's faith. The whole life is very readable, and there is a capital summary of this famous man's characteristics, both in his personal capacity and as progenitor of God's chosen people, and of all others who imitate his faith.

David (2) is another volume by the same author, who begins by saying that outside Holy Scripture there is no reliable information about the Royal Psalmist. However, he makes the best use of the information contained in the Scriptures, and has wrought them up into a very interesting account. Such books ought to send their readers with a renewed zest to the study of the Bible.

Daniel (3) is a very interesting study, in which Mr. Deane sets before us in a concise and readable form the account of the life and times of that prophet. He makes good use of the labours of Professor Sayce and others in the regions of Assyriology, and brings before his readers a large amount of modern knowledge on this ancient subject. Mr. Deane points out that the first six chapters of the book are historical, the last six prophetic, and recognises the same hand in both parts. His explanations of the prophecies are entirely in support of the ordinarily received view. But he expresses his difficulties with regard to the ten kingdoms and the little horn, and does not attempt to put them aside. It is a very good book.

(1) *Abraham*. His Life and Times. By Rev. W. J. Deane, M.A. London: Nisbet & Co. 1888. Price 2s. 6d.

(2) *David*. His Life and Times. By Rev. W. J. Deane, M.A. London: Nisbet & Co. 1888. Price 2s. 6d.

(3) *Daniel*. His Life and Times. By H. Deane, B.D. London: Nisbet & Co. Price 2s. 6d.