

But while the Old Testament is the great battle-ground at present between the Higher Criticism and the defenders of traditionalism, the warfare concerning the authenticity of some of the New Testament writings has by no means ceased. Though the critics of the destructive school have been forced to retreat from positions they had assumed, and pronounced impregnable, they have not yet abandoned the assault. They stubbornly refuse to surrender, although it is becoming more apparant as the struggle is prolonged that their weapons are broken in their hands. Even yet the authenticity of the writings ascribed to the Apostle John is keenly contested, and the fourth gospel is acknowledged by conservative critics to be the great question of modern criticism. Both the assault and the defence are conducted with great ability and learning. The names of Hilgenfeld, Weizsacker, Pfliederer, and Abbott on the one hand, and of Godet, Weiss, Zahn, Westcott, Sanday and Gloag on the other, are a guarantee that such is the case. The last mentioned writer, who, in addition to the labours of a large parish in the town of Galashiels, has found time to publish several works connected with New Testament studies, has laid scholars under fresh obligation by issuing a new book, entitled "An introduction to the Johannine Writings.*" This volume is characterized by all the excellences that marked his previous publications,—a clear and attractive style, a thorough mastery of the subject under discussion, a frank appreciation of an opponent's point of view, and a fairness in conducting the argument which challenges the reader's admiration. To reach the truth is seen to be the author's aim, and every step in the process of investigation is taken only after careful consideration of facts. A few years ago he published an Introduction to the Catholic Epistles, in which he discussed questions connected with the Epistles of John, but, as he says in the preface to the present volume, he considered a brief discussion of them necessary to its completeness. Anyone who desires to get a clear understanding of the Johannine problem as it now stands cannot do better than read this valuable contribution to the subject. Its perusal will assure him that it is the work of a master. Whether he accepts the conclusions reached or not, he must admit the ability and candour of the author.

Dr. Gloag very properly begins the task he has undertaken by

* Introduction to the Johannine Writings. By Paton, J. Gloag, D.D. Minister of Galashiels, Scotland. London: James Nisbet & Co. 1871.