

JUNE 1889.

The Theological Monthly

ISAIAH AND THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY.¹

THE Prophet Isaiah is, after Moses, perhaps the grandest figure in the Old Testament. We have to thank books like this of Mr. Smith's for setting him before us in the vividness of his human personality, amidst all the striking lights which recent discovery has cast on his environment. Increasingly is the need felt of bringing home to men's minds the fact that the Bible is a book of present-day interest—that it deals not only with far-off times and past events, but has

A BURDEN AND MESSAGE

for the age in which we ourselves live. We must try to see the great men of the Bible in the setting of their own times—to feel how terribly real and earnest was the work they had to do in the midst of their own surroundings—how their true greatness lay in the fact that they invariably took the right measure of each historical situation as it arose, saw with God-illuminated vision to the root of the moral, social, and political evils which confronted them, and laid bare the laws which, not in Israel only, but everywhere and in all times, infallibly determine the salvation or ruin of a people. It is because so little regard is paid to the genuinely historical interest in the Bible that

¹ *The Book of Isaiah.* By the Rev. Geo. Adam Smith, M.A. In Two Vols. Vol. I. Isaiah i.—xxxix. (Expositor's Bible Series). London: Hodder & Stoughton.