

Editorial Reviews of Books and Periodicals.

None Like It: A Plea for the Old Sword. By JOSEPH PARKER, author of "*Ecce Deus*," "*The People's Bible*," etc. Fleming H. Revell Company, New York, Chicago and Toronto. 12mo, pp. 271. Price \$1.25.

Dr. Parker is too well known as a writer to need any formal introduction to the readers of the REVIEW. The characteristics of his style are strongly marked, and they stand out prominently on every page of this work. He writes with the confidence of one who has no doubt that he has a thorough knowledge of the subject which he treats, or that he is thoroughly competent to discuss it. And considering that he has made the Bible his life-study, and written so many clever things founded upon it, the popular verdict will probably be that this confidence is not ill-founded, and this view will be, no doubt, strengthened in the minds of many by the reading of this eloquent and, popularly speaking, really clever book. But Dr. Parker's study of the Bible has been from the standpoint of a preacher rather than that of a critic; and hence he does not seem to be capable of putting himself in the position of the men whose alleged errors he has undertaken to refute so as to really understand them, not to say as to appreciate the value and importance of the service which they are rendering to the cause of truth by their critical labors.

The object of the book is, primarily, to refute certain opinions held and expressed by Mr. Horton and Prof. Bennett, but they are only taken as types of the entire school of thinkers to whom they belong. The scourge of small cords which he applies to them is intended to reach the backs of the whole tribe of modern Biblical critics. To the high personal character and worth of those gentlemen, Dr. Parker frankly and gracefully bears the most emphatic testimony. He holds them to be "brethren, not enemies; believers, not infidels," and admits that "their conception may some day prove itself to be right." In this respect Dr. Parker's spirit is in striking contrast with that of but too many of those who regard themselves as specially set for the defence of the truth in dealing with those whom they are not able to understand, and whose work they are not able to appreciate. Of Prof. Bennett, he tells us "he has won a very high reputation as a professor of Old Testament literature and criticism, and that he is intensely evangelical in his love to Christ and his belief in the spiritual uses of the Bible," and if it had occurred to him, no doubt he would have given an equally flattering certificate of character to Mr. Horton. Among the great preachers of the city of London there is probably not one—not even excepting Dr. Parker himself—who presents the essential truths of the Gospel to his congregation with greater clearness and force, or who is doing more to confirm the faith of people perplexed with doubts and difficulties, than the accomplished author of "*Verbum Dei*." He is not only an able preacher, but a scholar and thinker, capable of ministering to a congregation largely composed of scholarly and thoughtful people, in a way that but few are.

The opening chapter of this book is devoted to the vindication of the application of the phrase, "The Word of God," as it is commonly used among evangelical Christians, to designate the sacred books of the Old and