

particular description of it is needed at present. The learned author and the publishers are, however, to be congratulated upon the rapidity with which their arduous undertaking is approaching completion. The two volumes on the New Testament have already been some years before the public; and we have now six volumes on the Old Testament. Volume I. deals with that part of the inspired record which extends from the Creator to Exodus, and Vol. II. completes the Pentateuch. The third volume, which has already been noticed, deals with Israel under Joshua, the Judges, Saul, David and Solomon. Volumes IV. and V. are devoted to the Psalms; and Volume VI. to Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon.

It is only necessary to observe, in addition to what has been said, that the promise which was given in the character of the earlier volumes is amply fulfilled in that of those which have been most lately published. And we feel confident in saying that when it is completed, it will be, for general purposes, one of the very best commentaries on the whole Bible extant. Of course, the Biblical student, whose aim is to attain a profound and critical knowledge of the sacred text, will have to avail himself of the help of specialists, some of whom have bestowed the labor of a life-time to a single book, or, at most, a limited part of the Word of God. But even for such, this great work will be found to have great value; for often he will find the result of the critical labors of more than one of these specialists brought to bear in the elucidation of some difficult passage. The very fact that the "Bible Work" claims to be nothing more than a compilation, has enabled Dr. Butler to avail himself of the result of the studies and investigations of scholars and thinkers to an extent which would have been impossible had he written a commentary himself.

IN the very forefront of our magazines and reviews is *The Forum*—this place alike from the timeliness of its articles and the ability of its contributors to write on the articles assigned them. This is one of the few magazines that chooses its own subjects and then pays "specialists" liberally to write articles on the picked topics. Hence you will always find in its numbers practical discussions of the current thought of the hour, no matter what the subject may be. The May number is a good example of the high standard always maintained. Especially timely are the articles on "The Late Silver Craze, and the Present Danger," under three headings: "The Blight of our Commerce," by the Hon. Michael D. Harter; "The Threat of the Present Coinage Law," by Senator Wm. F. Vilas; and "The Loss of Southern Statesmanship," by J. C. Hemphill, editor of the *Charleston News*. Mr. D. R. Wilkie, general manager of the Imperial Bank of Canada, contributes an able paper on "The Advantages of the Canadian Bank System," in which he suggests (1) that the bank note circulation of the United States be limited to the paid-up capital of the banks, and in case of insolvency, bear interest at five per cent. per annum until date of redemption, and in the meantime be a first charge upon the assets of the bank and upon the double liability of shareholders, and be further secured; (2) that there be a bank note circulation fund deposited with the Government of five per cent. in gold of the total issues, to be contributed by each bank in proportion to its authorized issue, said fund to be used to redeem promptly the notes of any insolvent bank, the funds to be replenished as occasions require by calls upon the contributing banks; and (3) by the deposit with the Government of valuable securities to the extent of ninety-five per cent. of the authorized issue. Such plans we heartily endorse and commend to the banking community at large, of which Mr. Wilkie is a distinguished member. *The Forum* Co., Union Square, New York. Fifty cents per copy, \$5.00 per year.