

Philemon. 8vo, pp. xl.-565., New York: Scribner & Sons. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$4.00.

We have already expressed our high appreciation of the admirable critical apparatus which Dr. Vincent has placed in the hands of Biblical students in the earlier volumes of this excellent series of "Word Studies." The success of those volumes has been so marked as to demand the re-issue in the second edition of the studies of the synoptical Gospels, the Acts and the Epistles of James, Peter and Jude. The purpose of these studies is to give the very mind of the Spirit, by a critical examination of the words of the text, with the aid of all the light which most recent philological investigation can focus upon it. This is the only way in which the Scriptures can be intelligently studied and their meaning ascertained.

Dr. Vincent's many years' experience as Baldwin Professor of Sacred Literature in the Union Theological Seminary, New York, has given him the ripened ability to perform this task in a masterly manner. Many of these studies are well-nigh exhaustive of the subject. He devotes, for instance, five pages to the word "righteousness" in Romans i. 17. His criticism is not entirely textual; there is, for instance, a comprehensive note of twenty pages on St. Paul's argument in Romans ix., x., and xi. Of this epistle he says, "It must be grasped entire, no portion of the New Testament lends itself to more dangerous distortions of truth through fragmentary use." An introduction of forty pages gives a preliminary conspectus of the scope of the epistles.

Dr. Vincent notes certain words which seem to have a fascination for the writer, as if they gathered into themselves the significance of whole masses of thought. "Sometimes," he says, "Paul dwells on them caressingly as 'the God of all comfort Who comforteth us that we may be comforted with the comfort wherewith we are comforted.'" Speaking of Second Corinthians,

he says, "It is surcharged with passionate emotion. No one of St. Paul's epistles is so intensely personal, here only he reveals two of those great spiritual experiences which belong to the Christian's inmost personal life, crises which are secrets between a man and his God. One of these—the thorn in the flesh—is a crisis of agony; the other—the rapture into the third heaven—a crisis of ecstasy." In this epistle "ecstatic thanksgiving, cutting irony, self-assertion and self abnegation, commendation, warning and authority, paradox, apology, all meet and cross and seethe, yet out of the swirling eddies rise, like rocks, grand Christian principles and inspiring hopes."

Speaking of the Epistle to the Ephesians, he says, "The writing of Paul's equals this in liturgical majesty of its movement; Romans has the ever-deepening flow of a stately river; Second Corinthians, the rush of a rapid; Ephesians is the solemn swell of a calm sea."

From these extracts may be seen with what poetic insight the author enters into the spirit of the Pauline epistles. No less conspicuous is the critical acumen and dialectic skill with which he expounds their meaning.

*In Scripture Lands: New Views of Sacred Places.* BY EDWARD L. WILSON. With 150 illustrations from original photographs by the author. 8vo, pp. xvi.-386. New York: Chas. Scribner & Son. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$3.75.

The lands of the Bible have a perennial interest to every reader of the Word of God. Especially is this true of

"Those holy fields  
Over whose acres walked those  
blessed feet,  
Which eighteen hundred years ago  
were nailed  
For our advantage to the bitter  
cross."

Many Bible illustrations are either idealized by the artist or hackneyed by frequent repetition. Mr. Wilson's