



AN APRIL SONG.

ARTHUR'S heart with gladness glows again,
Gone is all wintry gloom,
The sun peeps through my lattice pane
And fills my little room
With life divine, and bids me fly
My books and pens awhile,
To wander forth beneath a sky
That wears an April smile.

Old loves at every step I meet,
Sweet fragrance fills the air,
Such songs of praise the birds repeat
As move my soul to prayer.
E'en primrose-clusters, on the banks,
And violets nestling low,
To Him uplift a look of thanks,
From whom all blessings flow.

The hyacinth hangs her languid head
And waits the gentle May,
Now drawing near, with noiseless tread,
To kiss her tears away
The fields with daisies are besprent
As white as flakes of snow,
And from the whispering woods are sent
Joy-murmurs soft and low.

Looks into Books.

ECCLESIASTES, AND THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON. (*The Modern Readers Bible.*)—Edited, with Introductions and Notes, by Professor Richard G. Moulton Ph.D. Small 4 to, pp. xxxvii + 202. New York: MacMillan & Co., 1896. Price, 50 cents.

This suggestive little book, the third to appear in the "Wisdom" section of this Series, cannot be perused without interest and profit. As an appreciation of the two writings with which it deals, it is simply admirable: the aim of the editor,—to reproduce these ancient documents in modern literary form, their contents being regarded simply as a part of the World's Literature without reference to questions of religious or historical criticism,—has been rarely well achieved. The re-arrangement of the matter of these treatises here so happily effected, contributes immensely to illuminate their meaning.

For the student of theology however as well as for the student of Literature, this modest little volume has its message. One may adopt or reject Dr Moulton's opinion, based upon considerations which are summarized in the Introduction, that "it becomes necessary to dismiss altogether the Solomonic authorship of ECCLESIASTES as a misunderstanding, coming down to us by tradition from an uncritical age" (p. xiii); but no reader will fail to acknowledge his indebtedness to an interpreter who has so

clearly set forth the real *motif* of this Scripture. For surely nowhere are we more evidently taught that, notwithstanding all the countless perplexities which environ the soul, there are abundant reasons which justify "immovable faith in God and duty" (p. xxi). The Professor moreover is equally successful in expounding the doctrine of joy and good cheer, which this book unquestionably contains but which many wholly miss when they scan its pregnant pages: for, as he happily phrases it, "one duty of life is happiness, and nothing in religion can be higher than praise" (p. xxii).

Touching the apocryphal WISDOM OF SOLOMON, the trace of a master's hand reveals itself everywhere in the divisions and analyses of the Text which are here supplied to us. He who would read this uncanonical Book intelligently cannot do better than avail himself of Dr. Moulton's fruitful labors. The conjecture that the WISDOM OF SOLOMON is a veiled answer to ECCLESIASTES is patently weighed, and reasons are advanced why this view ought to be entertained and adopted.

By all means, let this little Book be read, and also the companion volumes which have preceded it and which are to follow it. The "History" and "Prophecy" Series, announced for early publication, will be greeted with a special welcome by many. It may be added that these brief Manuals, besides being exceedingly tasteful in appearance, are very convenient in size, and are supplied with ample indices.

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