

*The Pulpit Commentary* (1) on St. Luke's Gospel is fully up to the high level of its predecessors. It has a scholarly introduction, in which the authenticity and genuineness of the work are fully considered and clearly established. Its history is traced up to the latter part of the first century, and a catena of proof is furnished which ought to satisfy even the most exigent. Mr. Heber Evans has written a work to prove that St. Paul was the author of St. Luke as well as the Acts of the Apostles; the writer of the introduction to the Commentary under consideration does not go so far as that, but he allows that the Gospel (and by inference the Acts too) was written under the guidance of St. Paul. The especial features and the particular teaching of the Gospel of St. Luke are well stated. We are told that it is especially the Gospel of Hope, and that there is no real difference between the fundamental doctrines taught in this Gospel and those laid down in the first, second, and fourth. St. Luke's characteristics as a physician are considered, and the introduction concludes with a short account of St. Luke's life gathered from other sources than the New Testament. The critical part of the Commentary is plain, good, and sufficient; such difficulties as the Gospel contains are fairly grappled with. The genealogy in the third chapter is accounted for as being that of Mary, while that in St. Matthew's Gospel is the genealogy of Joseph; the temptation is shown to be a spiritual onslaught of the adversary, which may be as real as a bodily one; and the great characteristic feature in St. Luke's Gospel, distinguishing it especially from the other two synoptical Gospels—the events in the public ministry of Jesus dwelt on in chaps. x.-xx.—is carefully gone into. The author inclines to the belief that this section, oftentimes spoken of as the journeyings towards Jerusalem, records events which happened shortly before the close of our Lord's public life; filling up, roughly speaking, the last six or seven months of His earthly career; and he thinks that as in the earlier chapters there is high probability that the Virgin Mother furnished the specific information which St. Luke gives, so here there is little doubt that St. Paul and Luke in their researches during the composition of the third Gospel met with men and women who had been with Jesus in that last journey, and were eye-witnesses of what is recorded. The Homiletic portion of the Commentary is very suggestive, and many a good sermon may be constructed from the heads and hints here given. Altogether the Commentary is worthy of high praise, and any preacher or teacher of the Gospel, or indeed any one who desires to read the Scriptures with understanding, will be greatly assisted by studying this well-arranged and valuable work.

(1) *The Pulpit Commentary*, on the Gospel according to St. Luke. Edited by Very Rev. H. D. M. Spence, D.D., and the Rev. Joseph Exell, M.A. Two vols. Price 10s 6d. each. London: Kegan Paul, Trench & Co. 1889.