

*Figurative Language of the Bible* (3), a striking work by the Rev. James Neil, on one of the most generally neglected, least known, and most important branches of Bible study. It will be welcomed by those who were so much interested in listening to his lectures given before great crowds last winter in Exeter Hall, and at the first of which the Lord High Chancellor presided, and pronounced it "very interesting" and "most important." In the Bible there are hundreds of figures of speech which, through not being recognised as such, but, taken literally, on the one hand raise doubts as to its perfect accuracy, and on the other seem to favour superstition. If the Bible did not abound in figures, it would lack one of the most valuable evidences of its Eastern origin. Mr. Neil has pointed this out on page 2: "The Bible," he says, "on its human side, and as to the whole letter of it, is an Eastern book. It was written in the East, about events which happened in the East, by Eastern penmen, and for Eastern readers," therefore, both in "thought and language, it must speak as men speak in the East." Now Easterns can scarcely speak without using highly-figurative language. Much in this work is set in the fresh light of Mr. Neil's discoveries in Palestine. The following figures are fully explained and illustrated in a manner which makes some obscure passages really radiant—their obscurity completely vanishing in the light of this neglected science—*Simile* or Comparison, *Metaphor* or Transfer, *Hypocatastasis* or Implication, *Metonymy* or Change of Name, *Hendiadys* or One by means of two, *Ellipsis* or Omission, *Enallagé* or Exchange. Under one or other of these Mr. Neil sets forth the evident meaning of texts long misapplied and made to contradict some other portion of Scripture, or which have been explained away to mean nothing at all. A very beautiful *Simile* is dealt with in Ps. cxxxii. 1, 2. A powerful *Hypocatastasis* tells how "puppies" (*κυνάρια*), "under the table, eat of the children's crumbs" (Mark vii. 28), which full-grown dogs may never do. *Hendiadys* is shown to correct errors, touching the nature of the New Birth and the nature of Worship; and the calm, clear light of tropical language, which Mr. Neil turns on these subjects, and upon the nature and need of Communion, and the nature of Absolution, is of the utmost value to the Protestant cause.

(3) *Figurative Language of the Bible*. By James Neil, M.A. Messrs. Woodford, Fawcett & Co., Dorset Works, Salisbury Square, London. 1888. Price 1s.