

Looks into Books.

THE HIGHER CRITICISM OF THE PENTATEUCH.—By William Henry Green, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Oriental New Testament Literature in Princeton Theological Seminary. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1895. \$1.50.

If any man in America is well-fitted to deal with this subject, Professor Green is. Equipped for the task by natural gifts, to these the diligent studies of a life-time have been added. An immense range of solid learning has been condensed into the compass of this volume of 178 pages, learning without show, however, Dr. Green has combined the deductive with the inductive method in this treatise. The first part of the volume is occupied with demonstrating that if Moses undertook to write a history of the foundation and growth of the Jewish dispensation, he could not have presented the subject more forcibly or successfully than is done in the Pentateuch. That is to say, *prima facie*, it is worthy of Moses. The second chapter deals specially with this point,—the five books are built upon a plan, while the first chapter shows how all the rest of the Old Testament opines that those books and Joshua are what has been always claimed for them—the product of the Mosaic age. It is in the third and fourth chapters, however, that the titanic strength of the author's scholarship specially reveals itself—the portion in which he seeks to establish the point that Moses was the author of the Pentateuch—and that in which he first analyzes and then demolishes the theories of the successive authors who have striven to prove that the books of Moses are only a patchwork, made up by a succession of editors, who pieced together what records and traditions of the past they had to their hands. Professor Green lets the so-called "Higher Critics" destroy each other, by showing that no two of them are agreed. Of course it is easy enough to perceive that the author is on the side of orthodoxy. As he himself says, every one who proceeds to study this question is likely to be influenced in his conclusions by the subjective state of the critic himself. Dr. Green began his professional career with his faith firm in the credibility of the Holy Scriptures, but he is conspicuously calm and fair in his treatment of the views of those who differ from him. He begins this volume with maintaining that there is a genuine "Higher Criticism," whose work should be welcomed by all that love the truth. There is nothing more reasonable than that Christians should be satisfied as to who the writers of the different portions of the Bible were, and that they should be made acquainted with the circumstances under which and the design with which every part was composed. Any one who desires to grasp this important subject will find great aid in this treatise, which deals with the problems of criticism in a fashion to be helpful to the most learned, and yet brings them level to the comprehension of the ordinary mind.

THE VICTORIOUS LIFE—The Post-Conference Addresses Delivered at East Northfield, Mass., August 17-25, 1895, By Rev. H. W. Webb-Peploe, Prebendary of St. Paul's Cathedral, London. Edited by Delavan L. Pierson, 8vo., p.p. 208. New York: The Baker and Taylor Company.

The addresses in this volume were delivered last summer in Northfield. In them the "Victorious Life" is considered under the following heads: "The Spirit and the Believer," "The Second Coming of Christ," "What God Hath Cleansed," "The Prepared Messenger," "The Way of Blessing," "How to Meet Temptation," "The Servant of God," "The Faithful Lord," "Stand Fast," "The Daily Portion." No one who reads these addresses can fail to remark three things: that the author is a thorough master of the Scriptures, that he has a keen and subtle power of analysis, and that he has made a special study of Old Testament prophecy. The richest exposition of Scripture marks his addresses, and striking illustrations are used whenever needed to illuminate a truth or doctrine.

The spiritual life of the Christian is built up with the strong meat of the Gospel, and nowhere have we seen a more stirring presentation of this life. We commend the volume most heartily, with the exception of the second paper, on "The Second Coming of Christ," in this alone the author, it seems to us, indulges in fanciful interpretations. The book is handsomely bound, and the presswork is of the best.

ECCLESIASTICUS, edited with an introduction and notes, by Richard G. Moulton, M.A., Ph. D., Professor of Literature in English, in the University of Chicago. New York: MacMillan & Co., 1896. 50 cents.

This is part of the Modern Readers' Bible, a series of works from the sacred Scriptures presented in modern literary form. If anything could ever popularize such a work as Ecclesiasticus it would be some such arrangement as this which breaks it up into its component parts as a collection of sonnets, maxims and short essays, partly in prose and partly in poetry. It adopts the new Revised Version of the Apocrypha throughout and apart from a few brief notes, relies upon typographical devices for suggesting the structure and the meaning. Of course, in some cases there is room for difference of opinion as to whether the editor has adopted the best arrangement, but an introduction is given in which the main principles of it are justified.

THE ETUDE—Theodore Pressuro, 1758 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The Etude has been incorporated with the Musical World and maintains its old make-up, which leads us to think of it as partly a Musical Review of Reviews, and the addition of pieces of music, as for instance in the January issue, five instrumental pieces, by N. Von Wilm, Jadassohn, Baptiste, etc. Subscribers surely cannot complain of little to read in such a goodly supply of charming long and short articles by such as Louis C. Elson, Emil Liebling, etc.

THE UPPER ROOM—By Rev. John Watson, (Ian Maclaren author of "Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush," "The Days of Auld Lang Syne," etc. 50c. Fleming H. Revell Co. Toronto.

This little book is beautifully gotten up. It consists of seven meditations on choice passages from the Gospels. These chapters are characterized by the same beauty of expression, tender pathos and wonderful insight into human character, which have made Ian Maclaren famous.

EDEN LOST AND WON; Studies of the Early History and Final Destiny of Man as taught in Nature and Revelation by Sir J. William Dawson. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1895.

This volume is a collection of papers which recently appeared in the Expositor, restating in somewhat briefer form many of the lines of thought in the author's "Modern Science in Bible Lands" and in some other of his well-known works. The distinguished writer, however, keeps himself well abreast of the newest discoveries in archaeology, and imparts a constant freshness to his discussions by his quick insight into their significance. One may not always accept his suggestions, but they at least make interesting reading, and the lucidity of his style gives his works a singular charm which is as conspicuous in the latest as in any previous one.

THE Presbyterian Quarterly of January maintains the high standard of this excellent theological magazine, and contains able articles in all the various departments of theology, as well as capable reviews of current literature. The first place is given to a most drastic criticism of Gerhart's Institutes of the Christian Religion by Dr. Webb, under the heading of the New Christology. The remaining articles are on the Authenticity of Isaiah, xxiv. xxvii. Christian Sociology, The Office of the Ruling Elder, Paul's Summary of the Gospel, Sidney Laurier vs Robert Browning. Richmond, Va. \$3.00 per annum.

THE Presbyterian and Reformed Review, January, 1896, both in original articles and book reviews is well up to date. It contains articles on the Beginning of the New Testament Canon, Recent phases of Christian Apologetics, Naturalism, Beginning of the American Presbyterian Church, The Plan of Reason in Theology, The Holiness Code and Ezekiel. Perhaps the most interesting, though not the best book review is that of Driver's Deuteronomy, by Principal Douglass, of Glasgow. Philadelphia, Pa. \$3.00 per annum.

SOME CURRENT QUESTIONS by the Rev. Dr. Jackson, of Knox church, Galt, is the somewhat general title of a small collection of sermons and public addresses, published by request in a neat little souvenir volume, 4 x 3 inches, containing 212 pages. Dr. Jackson is a vigorous speaker and these addresses will be read with interest by many outside the circle of his personal friends.