

Book Notices.

Hours with the Bible; or, the Scriptures in the Light of Modern Discovery and Knowledge. By CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D. Six volumes, bound in three. New York: James Pott & Co., and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price \$4.50 per set.

Canadian readers follow with special interest the literary career of the Rev. Dr. Geikie from the fact that he was for some years an honoured resident of the city of Toronto. Few men living have laid students of the Bible under greater obligation than has he by his "Life and Words of Christ," and by the admirable series of volumes under review. A glance at the list of authorities used shows that he has made himself master of the most valuable literature on Bible themes in English, French and German. But this lore he has fused in the crucible of his own thought and stamped with the image of his own mind. We know not where the Bible student will find in such pleasing style so much valuable assistance for the better understanding of the sacred books. Many of the great commentaries are much harder to understand than the text they attempt to explain. Dr. Geikie, on the contrary, makes plain to the simplest mind the discoveries of recent science and criticism, and throws new light upon the sacred page. The purpose of the volumes is well expressed in the author's own words: "My aim in this new undertaking, which involves almost more labour than my 'Life and Words of Christ,' has been to bring all I can gather from every available source to bear on the illustration of the Scriptures. I should like to supply what Dr. Arnold used to long for—'a people's hand-book to the Bible'—not a dry series of papers, but a pleasant, attractive illumination of its pages by the varied lights of modern research and discovery."

In this endeavour, Dr. Geikie has been singularly successful; and the result is in these handsome volumes, the best popular apparatus we know for the study of the sacred word.

The specialty of the present edition is that the six volumes of the original edition, averaging over 500 pages each, are here printed from the original plates with all the wood engravings, and neatly bound, for just half the original price. This is not a surreptitious and pirated edition on thin paper from poor plates, but one in which the author's rights are recognized. We heartily commend the book to Sunday-school teachers, ministers, and indeed to all the students of the sacred word. It covers the entire range of the Old Testament period, from the Creation to Malachi.

Old Testament Characters. By CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D. With 71 illustrations. New York: Jas. Pott & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. xii.—484. Price \$1.50.

This is in some sense a companion volume or condensed epitome of some prominent portions of the six volumes of "Hours with the Bible." It possesses more individual history and personal interest. It is not a mere abstract of the larger work, but is an entirely independent composition. The wonderful march of Bible personages from Noah to Nehemiah passes before us, and Dr. Geikie finds ample scope for the employment of his graphic pen, his spiritual insight, his practical applications. It will be admirable Sunday reading for either old or young.

The Bride of the Nile. By GEORGE EBERS, Author of "The Egyptian Princess," etc. From the German by CLARA BELL. 2 vols. New York: William Gottsberger. Toronto: Williamson & Co.

Ebers is probably the greatest living Egyptologist and archæolo-