

The Watchman says: "From the very beginning of his career Dr. Talmage had detractors, but whatever could be said against him the fact remained that he uniformly and under the most diverse conditions attracted and held immense audiences. He was a man whom people liked to hear and read. There was a magnetism about his public discourses, a hearty good cheer and unconventionality of phrase and manner that attracted and interested. We at least are not disposed to minimize these qualities. And, though his character and methods have for many years irresistibly reminded us of the late Phineas T. Barnum, we wish that many more preachers who are far his superiors in learning and fibre of character, had a good deal more of his imagination and fire and enthusiasm, and power to draw people of all classes to the sanctuary." The Watchman remarks upon the comparative lack of results from Dr. Talmage's ministry, and concludes that, on the whole, he was greater as a lecturer than as a preacher.

The Hastings Dictionary of the Bible.*

Whatever opinions we may hold as to the character of modern criticism as applied to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament and whatever may be the final results of that criticism, it is certain that, thus far at least, its influence has not been in the direction of destroying or impairing interest in those Scriptures. On the contrary there has never been a time when the Bible was so generally studied and with so deep an interest as at present.

At the present time two works of a monumental character and covering the same general field as *Encyclopædia* of Biblical knowledge are being issued. Of the *Encyclopædia Biblica* a work embodying immense learning and research (of which two volumes have now appeared and a third we believe is about being issued) notice has already been taken in these columns. The other work alluded to is the Hastings' *Dictionary of the Bible*. In several respects these works are quite similar in character. Necessarily they cover much the same ground, and they are constructed on the same general plan.

There is however this important distinction between the two works,—the *Encyclopædia Biblica* is strongly dominated by the advanced criticism of the day and many of its articles represent the extreme positions of that criticism. The Hastings Dictionary occupies much more conservative ground. While modern Biblical criticism and its fruits are by no means ignored there is no haste to accept radical conclusions, and the more extreme views of the critics are either explicitly or by implication rejected. For this reason, and because in point of scholarship and ability it is probably fully equal to the *Encyclopædia Biblica* and distinctly superior to any other work of the kind which has appeared in the English language, the Hastings Dictionary will doubtless be wisely preferred by Bible students generally, will probably stand forth for some time to come as the work *par excellence* in its particular field and will be judged indispensable to every well-furnished library.

This work may be described as an encyclopedia dictionary of the Old and New Testaments, together with the Old Testament Apocrypha, according to the Authorized and Revised English Versions and with constant reference to the original tongues. In no other so convenient form can the student obtain such scope and fulness of information combined with accuracy and authoritativeness of interpretation. Articles are given on the names of all Persons and Places, on the Antiquities and Archaeology of the Holy Scriptures, on their Ethnology, Geology and Natural History, on Biblical Theology and Ethics, and even on the obsolete or archaic words which sometimes darken the significance of the English versions. These articles, of which there are about fifteen thousand in all, range from mere dictionary definitions, to critical monographs of fifteen or twenty thousand words on such subjects as the Chronology of the Old Testament, Assyria, Babylonia, Eschatology, Isaiah, the Hexateuch, the Logos, Jesus Christ, Prophecy, and the like. The introductions to the different Books of the Bible constitute a very valuable feature of the work.

As a rule the aim has been to present the necessary facts concisely and to avoid speculative generalities along with the personal opinions which have not yet won general acceptance; and the careful editing has given a strong tone of dignified conservatism to the new matter which figures so prominently throughout the volumes. This scrupulous restraint and accuracy of statement is still further guaranteed by the fact that in the case of all except the very short and comparatively unimportant articles, the names of the authors are appended to their writings, and the most casual inspection

of their signatures will show the unique standard adhered to from beginning to end. Among the names found in the department of special Old and New Testament articles are: Prof. Sanday, of Oxford; Canon Taylor; Prof. Thayer, (lately deceased,) of Cambridge, Mass.; Prof. Beecher, of Auburn, N. Y.; Prof. Francis Brown, of New York; Prof. Batten, of Philadelphia; Rev. R. Charles, of Oxford; Prof. A. B. Davidson, (lately deceased,) of Edinburgh; Principal Chase, of Cambridge; Prof. Curtis, of Yale; President Harper, of Chicago; Prof. Lock, of Oxford; Prof. McCurdy, of Toronto; Prof. Peake, of Manchester; Prof. Porter, of Yale; Prof. Price, of Chicago; Dr. A. Robertson, of Durham; Prof. Ryle, of Cambridge; Prof. Salmond, of Aberdeen; Prof. Strack, of Berlin; and Bishop Westcott, of Durham. In the Theological articles a similar breadth and eminence of scholarship are represented. The articles relating to the Geography of Palestine, and the Historical Articles, are for the most part by eminent specialists. As a guarantee of accuracy, we are told that all the proof sheets have passed through the hands of three distinguished scholars—Prof. Davidson, Canon Driver and Prof. Swete,—in addition to the editorial supervision of Dr. Hastings and his assistant editor, and no possible effort has been spared by which the chances of error could be minimized.

The earlier volumes of the Hastings Dictionary have now been some time before the public, and the work has received the most cordial endorsement and praise from scholars possessing recognized ability to express an opinion as to its merits. Dr. Robertson Nicoll, in the *British Weekly*, says: "We have here all that the student can desire, a work of remarkable fullness, well up-to-date, and yet at the same time conservative in its general tendency, almost faultlessly accurate, and produced by the publishers in a most excellent and convenient style. We can thoroughly recommend it to our readers as a book which should fully satisfy their anticipation." Principal Salmond in the *Critical Review* speaks of it as "A timely, trusty, and most valuable guide. . . . It represents the best type of scholarship. . . . No English Dictionary of the Bible can compare with the new one in the department of Biblical Theology." In reviewing Vol. I. *The London Times* said: "If the other volumes come up to the standard of the first, this Dictionary seems likely to take its place as the standard authority for biblical students of the present generation." The *London Speaker* says: "There has been no Dictionary of the Bible produced in any modern language up till now that can, on the whole, be so unreservedly commended as this, for it is remarkable that as much care has been taken with small articles as with large." We very confidently commend to pastors and other Bible students the Hastings Dictionary of the Bible as a work which in spirit, scope and thoroughness will very adequately meet their needs, and one which is not likely to be superseded for many years to come.

Our Twentieth Century Fund.

H. F. ADAMS.

THE FIRST TEN THOUSAND.

For sixty days my pen has been silent, but not my voice. In this time I have delivered sixty addresses and received pledges for sixty hundred dollars. Over rough roads, through mud a foot deep, through rain and snow, I have fought my way to fulfill my appointments. Some I had to postpone till roads are better. Yet in all this touring I have not taken one cold, and my throat seems stronger than ever. A great joy came to my heart when I covered the tenth thousand, and the assurance that the victorious end will be achieved. Now let all doubts be gone and a triumphant optimism reign throughout our churches.

THE WORKERS.

While I have been the conspicuous agent in this work, I wish to honor those noble pastors who made this result possible. I have learned that some of our pastors are of fine quality, for they prepared their people for my coming, co-operated with me on their fields, and followed up the work after I left. I shall keep my eye on those brethren, for I expect great things from such men, with breadth of vision, power of leadership, and of unselfish purpose. On the other hand the tenth thousand would have been reached before but for the indifference of some pastors to this great movement. They neither prepared the people for my coming, nor did they seem to care whether I succeeded or failed.

ARE MARITIME BAPTISTS LIBERAL?

It is not time to give a list of the churches and their subscriptions, but when it does come we will do so. There will be some great surprises in that day, that will forever silence the doubt as to the liberality of Maritime Baptists. I have been amazed by the wonderful responses of our people, and know now, as never before, that they are a loyal and liberal people. The responses of our New Brunswick churches are simply phenomenal and rank them among the noblest of the noble for a living interest in Home and Foreign Missions. WHEN? when they are informed, instructed and roused to a sense of the greatness of their opportunity and responsibility.

WHY A DEPLETED MISSION TREASURY?

I have made it my business to enquire if pastors have presented our Denominational Works to their churches, and where it was done regularly, my work was easy; where not done, I had hard work and little fruit. That there is no need for an empty missionary treasury my first three months canvas has abundantly proved. Only let our pastors inform themselves on the true condition of the world, and get their people to see it from the viewpoint of Calvary, and an enthusiastic interest will be created. This will translate itself into beneficent forms

of Christian endeavor, that will enlighten those in darkness, and by reflection, will give strength and beauty to an otherwise narrow and dwarfed Christian character.

SPASMODICAL VERSUS EDUCATION.

Pitiful pleading from missionary boards, and screaming appeals from missionaries can never do the work of the pastors. No more than an occasional banquet can take the place of regular meals. If our pastors would take in more missionary literature, and give their people a monthly sermon on the vast work of the church of Christ and relate the glorious triumphs that occasionally forecast the reign of Immanuel from the rivers unto the ends of the earth, they would witness a new order of things among their people. For the church must grow by exercise, and she shrivels through its lack. "The church that is not a missionary church, will one day be a missing church."

A SNARE OF THE EVIL ONE.

Some pastors seem fearful that to ask their churches to give to missions means to endanger their own salary. Illustrations of the fallacy of this idea abound among our churches. And especially so in this canvas. Pastors whose churches have given liberally to this fund are invariably those who have been trained to lift their eyes above the horizon of their own circle, and see a thousand millions of heathen waiting for the light of the gospel. And these pastors receive their salaries in full. But ministers who are afraid to preach on missions for the reason assigned, they and their churches dry up together. One woman said to me this year: "Our minister has been here two years, and has not preached once on missions." I did not get one red cent from that church.

DR. O. P. GIFFORD'S COW.

This brilliant Buffalo preacher tells the following, illustrating this point. A young Presbyterian minister got married, set up housekeeping, and among his daily needs bought a quart of milk every day. His congregation desiring to make him a useful present that would furnish milk, cream and butter, proposed a cow. He was consulted and consented to accept the gift. This noble cow had the possibility of yielding eight to twelve quarts of milk daily, but the minister thought one quart was enough, so he drew just one quart daily, no more, no less. After a while a neighbor being short of milk, ran in to ask if the pastor could spare a little. He replied "No, and I am sorry to say that we cannot get enough for ourselves. We began by drawing a quart every day and now she will not give that." Soon after the cow died up altogether. Of course you smile at the pastor's stupidity, for had he milked her daily till she was dry, instead of a diminishing quart of milk, he would have had milk, cream and butter in rich and ever-increasing abundance.

What is true of cows is true of churches. The less our churches give for missions, the less they will give for salaries, until they dry up. Pastors work up your church member's benevolence and they will work up your salaries.

THE UNWISDOM OF ALLOTMENT.

My canvas is proving that the most unwise step ever taken was to allot a proportion of this fund to churches. This is a great disaster, and has crippled many churches by stifling individual gifts. Of course this plan was a complete success in the raising of a million dollars each by both the Presbyterians and Methodists of Canada. Because they perfected an organization of pastors, elders, Sunday Schools, and Endeavor Societies, and churches were visited by paid agents to see that they did their work. The allotment plan is all right in itself. So is a plough, but both need a force in front to lead, and a hand behind to guide. For eighteen months we had neither and so our plan fell through. I know a few churches are working on the allotment plan, but as so many are not there will be a great deficit. I have sent to every pastor in N. S. cards enquiring what is being done, and the answers so far reveal a very unpromising state of things in most of the churches to whom allotments were made.

I am glad that no allotments were made in New Brunswick, as I have a free path unhampered by any such limitations. When I get through with my canvas in New Brunswick I will have a little more to say on this. Just now comparisons between the sums pledged by churches to whom allotments have been made, and churches not so allotted might injure my work. But two churches that I will not name to whom no allotments were made have pledged the first a town church \$1,708; and the second a country field \$465. I can name another town church fully as able that has been allotted \$475; and another country field fully as capable that has been allotted \$150. Together not one third the other two.

PATIENCE AND PERSEVERENCE.

Now, my brothers in the ministry, if you and your churches are working out your allotment all right, keep at it and complete your task. But if you are not and cannot, be patient, and hold I will be with you by and by and give you some help. But don't lose heart, and keep on preparing your people for this work, by regular sermons on the onward march of the Kingdom of Christ.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ARMY.

In a few days every S. S. Superintendent will receive a packet of envelopes, one for every scholar and officer in the school. We want that this Twentieth Century Fund canvas shall accomplish more than mere money raising. We design to educate our S. S. scholars in the great work of world-wide evangelization. To the end that in days of fuller growth the habit formed in youth shall abide, namely systematic beneficence and a permanent interest in the salvation of the heathen. I plead with my brother workers in the Sabbath School to heed the circular I am sending to them, and make one great effort to complete this Forward Movement in Missions,

*A DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE. Dealing with Language, Literature and Contents, including the Biblical Theology. Edited by James Hastings, M. A., D. D., with the Assistance of John A. Selbie, M. A., and (chiefly in the revision of proofs) of A. R. Davidson, D. D., L. B. D.; & R. Driver, D. D., Litt. D.; H. B. Swete, D. D., Litt. D.; In four Imperial Octavo Volumes of about 900 pages each, with maps and illustrations. Sold only by subscription. Price, bound in cloth, \$5.00 per volume; in Half Morocco, \$5.00 per volume. Delivered free of all charges. Charles Scribner's Sons, publishers, New York.