

through once at least. I should recommend you to get through it in the next twelve months after leaving College. Begin at the beginning, and traverse the goodly land from Dan to Beersheba. You will acquire a vast store if you read with your note-book close at hand."

Next in order, Mr. Spurgeon ranks "that prince among men, JOHN CALVIN. These 45 goodly volumes are worth their weight in gold. Scant purses may debar you from their purchase, but if it be possible procure them. Of all commentators I believe John Calvin to be the most candid. He is not always what moderns would call Calvinistic. He was no trimmer and pruner of texts. He gave their meaning as far as he knew it. He laboured, in fact, to declare, not his own mind upon the Spirit's words, but the mind of the Spirit as couched in those words." Of MATTHEW POOLE, he says, "If I must have only one commentary, and had read Matthew Henry, as I have, I do not know but what I would choose Poole: he is very prudent and judicious, not so witty and pithy as Henry but more an expositor. He is profoundly learned." JOHN TRAPP is characterized as incomparably sententious and suggestive. "Trapp is my especial companion and treasure. Trapp is salt, pepper, mustard, vinegar, and all the other condiments; I can read him when I am too weary for anything else." A very distinguished place is given to DR. GILL'S Exposition on the Old Testament. "For good, sound, massive, sober sense in commenting, who can exceed Gill? No man since his day has at all equalled him in the matter of Rabbinical learning." Next to Gill Mr. Spurgeon ranks ADAM CLARKE among "the chief of Expositors—a prince of commentators." THOMAS SCOTT is commended as being thoroughly sound and judicious, but "mere milk and water" as compared with Matthew Henry. "ALBERT BARNES, placed alongside of the great masters is a lesser light, but no minister can afford to be without it. KITTO is highly commended for family use. BENGE'S Gnomon of the New Testament is "the scholar's delight." ALFORD'S Greek Testament is considered an invaluable aid to the critical study of the text of the New Testament. THE CRITICAL COMMENTARY, by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown is mentioned in very high terms—"we consult it continually, and with growing interest." This "portable commentary" may be had, unabridged, for \$3. With LANGE, Mr. Spurgeon is somewhat disappointed. "It is costly, and, if you had it, you would not turn to it for spiritual food." Of its kind, however, it is admitted to be unequalled. Mr. Spurgeon enumerates sixty-five commentaries on the whole Bible and upwards of a thousand on detached portions of the Scripture.

Mr. Spurgeon's comments on "Commenting" are characteristic of himself and very much to the point. "Avoid all pedantry. As a rule,

those who know the least Greek are the most sure to air their rag of learning in the pulpit. They miss no chance of saying,—"The Greek is so-and-so." The whole process of interpretation should be carried on *in the study*; you are to give your congregation the results. *Never strain passages when expounding.* Be thoroughly honest with the Word. It is the Lord's own Word, be careful not to pervert it in the smallest degree. Many daub the text with their own glosses, and laying on their own conceits. There are enough of these plasterers abroad, let us leave the evil trade to them and follow an honest calling. *Do not be carried away with new meanings.* Plymouth brethren delight to fish up some hitherto undiscovered tadpole of interpretation, and cry it round the town as a rare dainty; let us be content with more ordinary and more wholesome fishery. Other and wiser men have expounded before us, and everything undiscovered by them it were well to put to test and trial before we boast too loudly of the treasure trove. *Do not needlessly amend our authorised version.* It is faulty in many places, but still it is a grand work taking it for all and all, and it is unwise to be making every old lady distrust the only Bible she can get at, or what is more likely, mistrust you for falling out with her cherished treasure. Aim to be good readers, and be the more anxious about it because few men are so, and all preachers ought to be so. It is as good as a sermon to hear our best men read the Scriptures. Never open the Bible in the pulpit to read the chapter for the first time, but go to the familiar page after many rehearsals. You will be doubly useful if in addition to this you "*give the sense.*" Commentaries, expositions, interpretations, are all mere scaffolding; the Holy Ghost himself must edify you and help you to build up the Church of the living God."

Our New Hebrides Mission.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER OF DR. STEEL,
SYDNEY, N.S.W.

SYDNEY, 30th January, 1879.

THE Rev. W. Wall and wife sailed for England on the 7th. The Rev. T. Neilson, wife and family, are at Melbourne, and leave for England in the end of February. Mr. Chiniquy has been lecturing in this city and throughout the Colony since his arrival in October, and has everywhere received a welcome. Many good collections have been got. He has now gone to Melbourne. The young men who were studying in Melbourne with a view to the mission, have withdrawn just as they were about to be licensed. We were willing to take one of them, as we have failed to