

world of hills affected their notions about the sea. As they could never get a port, they came to hate the ocean, till at last they brought themselves to think one of the charms of heaven would be that there would be no sea there. How limited the human sympathies, or acquaintance with the great world, must have been, in a race whose horizon of thought and interest was bounded by the strip of mountains to which they were shut up! To "go down" from these heights to the sea, and make use of the ships which they saw specking the waters with their white sails, was well enough for the heathen, or for those who for gain turned their backs on their native land, but, beyond the shore, the Jew knew of nothing, contemptuously despising alike the literature and everything belonging to any of the great peoples who made up humanity.

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### III.—THE STUDY OF THE APOCRYPHA BY THE PREACHER.

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THE recent appearance of the Revised Version of the Apocrypha has deepened the interest roused seven years ago by the publication in the "Speaker's Commentary" of the Apocrypha. It was edited by Dr. Wace and had a general introduction of great value by Dr. Salmon. The Revised Version supplements the efficient aid to an intelligent view of the deuterocanonical books rendered by the "Commentary," which of course followed the version of 1611. The names of Bishop Westcott, Dr. Hort, and Dr. Moulton are a sufficient guaranty of the scholarly fidelity and accuracy of the new version. "Their patient toil was continued over more than ten years, from March, 1881, to the summer of 1892. All the work was carefully revised twice, and the Book of Wisdom three times." Some exceptions may be taken to their (the revisers') work on the text of Ecclesiasticus.\* But the clergy are now in possession of such aids for the study of the Apocrypha as will fully meet all but the most critical demands.

The question recurs, however, Is it worth while? Will it repay the minister to give a somewhat careful study of this remarkable collection of writings not inspired, but on the border line of inspiration, writings which it seems had some influence on the New Testament writings themselves?† We think it will, and shall point out in this article a few reasons why it will. Want of space prevents all consideration of the interesting history of the Apocrypha, and of its position to the Roman Catholic, the Anglican, and the Non-Conformist churches. Readers of *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* will find all this in the article on the "Apocrypha" in Smith's "Bible Dictionary," or in

\* Vide London Quarterly Review, April, 1896, p. 2.

† Ibid, p. 17.