

desire to be instructed can now find reasonable and consistent interpretations.

Having all this library of modern commentaries, one resents being distracted by the appearance of additional works in the same department. It is true, "there is always room at the top;" but new commentaries do not always appear at the top. A new commentary can only do one degree better, with the risk of doing many degrees worse, what has been done before. If a man has ideas he may doubtless let them overflow into a commentary, although it must be owned that is not the place where one goes in search of ideas. Then each new commentary is provocative of more, advancing more foolish opinions that must be exploded, and new mistakes in interpretation that must be exposed. Justifiable however and commendable are commentaries written for special objects, such as the *Cambridge Bible for Schools*, Clark's *Handbooks for Bible classes*, and the more ambitious *Hand-Kommentar* by Holtzmann and his coadjutors, of which the first parts have just appeared. These may give us little that is new, but even the industry that re-arranges and makes more portable scattered information, deserves well of the student. But it seems to me that those who are able to do something more than merely echo and re-arrange, might be better employed than in writing commentaries. Dr. Field, in his *Otium Norvicense*, has shown us how much light may yet be shed on particular words and phrases by the scholar who will patiently read through a period of Greek literature, and who, instead of attempting to say something new or striking on every verse in a book, will confine himself to those few verses on which he really can shed light. This is the work which may most profitably be done at present in this department—most profitably, I mean, for the advancement of New Testament studies, but certainly not most profitably for the unremunerated scholar, who must spend years of silence and hard reading in order to produce at last a few pages of which the crowd will take no heed, but which all scholars will prize as only original work is prized. From Dr. Hatch's *Concordance to the LXX.* much is expected, and whoever can follow the example so perfectly set by Bishop Lightfoot, and give us interesting and adequate introductions to the separate books, will earn the intelligent gratitude of all students of the New Testament.