

greater interest than the preceding ones. It records the history of the people of Israel from the great reformation under Josiah to the period of the Exile; it traces the influence of Egypt, Persia and Babylonia on national character and national morals, and describes the developments of Hebrew literature; it frankly accepts the theory of the gradual development of moral and religious ideals, and gives, with a conservative bias, the results of a new criticism of the sacred books. It will be an addition of great value to the library of every preacher and teacher. The valuable indexes of the whole work greatly enhance its worth. Though it was no part of his original design, we would be glad if Professor McCurdy would continue his studies throughout the stirring period of the Maccabees and later history of the people of Israel.

“Comments on the Old Testament. Vol. VIII.—Ezekiel and Daniel.” By Camden M. Coburn, D.D. New York: Eaton & Mains. Cincinnati: Jennings & Pye. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 415. Price, \$2.00.

This comprehensive commentary, projected and in large part executed by the late Dr. Whedon, is now approaching completion. In this volume two very important books receive full and admirable treatment. The introduction to the Book of Daniel comprises ninety pages, in which the results of latest scholarship are given. The new archaeological discoveries furnish corroboration of many of its historical statements which have previously been questioned. “The tendency,” says our author, “among even rationalistic critics seems to be toward a more respectful and even reverent treatment of this prophecy.”

“Upon no other Old Testament book did the faith of the primitive Christians take its hold.” Few subjects are more frequently depicted in the catacombs of Rome than that of Daniel in the lions’ den and the three Hebrew children in the fiery furnace. “No one, even the most radical critic, denies that we can find the true Messianic prophecy anywhere; we can find it here.” We strongly commend this commentary as the results of the latest scholarship on these important books. The author pays a graceful tribute to the collaboration of his wife in preparing the manuscript for the press.

“Christian Instruction in the Public Schools of Ontario.” By James Middlemiss, D.D. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 239. Price, \$1.00.

We are justly proud of the educational system of this province. It has won the commendation of many experts who have travelled far and seen much of the best educational methods of the age. But it has, in our judgment, one serious defect—the lack of definite provision for Christian instruction and the study of that Book which has supreme claim to our regard, not only as the greatest classic of all the ages, but as the authoritative expression of the mind and will of God. Our Roman Catholic friends consistently emphasize the importance of religious instruction, but the jarring jealousies among Protestants have prevented that unity of action which can alone secure success. That great man, Dr. Ryerson, the founder of our public school system, prepared a manual of Christian instruction that commanded the approval of all the Catholic and Protestant Churches, with a single exception; that exception prevented its adoption as part of our system. Even the excellent selection of passages for school readings caused a crusade of criticism, not Catholic but Protestant. Dr. Middlemiss, with marked candour, fairness and ability, points out the disadvantages of our system, and the importance of some more efficient way of training our young people in Christian ethics and morality.

“Studies in Christian Character, Work and Experience.” By Rev. W. L. Watkinson. London: Charles H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 248.

No visitor from the mother Methodism of Great Britain to the daughter Methodism of Canada made a profounder impression than the author of this book. In spiritual insight, in intellectual vivacity, in occasional quaintness of expression, that distinguished writer and preacher has unique gifts. This collection of brief papers is strongly marked by these characteristics. A single passage in the chapter on Dry-rot in Character will indicate what we mean:

“So must we keep ourselves from whatever would infect, and evermore steep our moral faculties and life in the antiseptic influences of truth and grace. We must saturate our understanding with the blessed truths of the New Tes-