

its ordinary pulpit uses. Passing over all Jewish literature on the Psalms and all attempts to assign author or time to each, content to take the Psalter as it now stands, finally edited for the use of the Hebrew Church, the writer proceeds to consider certain points which may be of special interest to us in these days:

"We find in the Psalter a book of lyrics, mainly devotional, handed down to us from an antiquity to which Pascal is as the hour which has just struck, and Thomas à Kempis as yesterday; we recognize it as most human in tone and thought and experience; but the tones and the thoughts are not of one, and this perplexes us. We put out our hand as to a friend, and it is not grasped, but rather touched here and there, as by various members of a crowd, none of whom we can recognize, to none of whom we can affix a name, or can ever assign a definite shape. Is the voice that moves us that of David, that strange mixture of affection and fierceness, of boundless passion and boundless penitence? What says the latest and one of the ablest writers on the question? 'Only a very small number of the Psalms can reasonably be ascribed to David.' Is the voice that of Asaph, the temple singer, who seems—could we but separate his Psalms from the rest—to have been oppressed with a skepticism as profound as that of Pascal, and to have worked his way back to faith? But who was Asaph, and what is he but a name? One man, or two, or more? The sacred lyrics of the Hebrew people then—that is how we are to think of them. And first of their outward structure." The writer passes from the form to the substance of these poems, and illustrates his several points by citations from the Psalms, using Mr. Cheyne's new rendering, and closes by pointing out the great religious lesson of the Psalter taken as a whole.

*The Nineteenth Century* (Jan.) "Will Russia Conquer India?" by Armenius Vambéry. Coming from so distinguished a source, this exceedingly able and well-posted paper cannot fail to make a profound impression. The writer first describes, as concisely as possible, the course of the Russian conquests in Central Asia, and then addresses himself to the question whether the policy of Russia has already reached its final end, or whether, drawn on by circumstances, it will push further south, and not pause until it shall have reached the briny waters of the Indian Ocean, and extended the gigantic possessions of the Russian Empire from the shores of the Arctic Ocean to Cape Komorin. Many considerations are urged which go to show that this is Vambéry's opinion. "If the State of Russia, whilst raising itself from the modest position of the Grand Duchy of Moscow to the exalted one of the autocratic empire over more than half of Asia, was able to swallow and safely digest the most varied and heterogeneous ethnic elements, who will dare make the assertion that Russia will in future cease her activity in this direction, and will not add anew the Djemshidis,

Hezars, Parsivans, Afghans, Behludjes, and Hindostanis to the already existing ethnic kaleidoscope? I rather think that an assertion to the contrary, based upon the assumption of Russia's moderation and abstemiousness and the already too large extent of her possessions, would, in the present case, be all the more unjustifiable, as, without referring to the law of nature and the elementary conditions of the Russian policy of state, of which I have spoken above, it is, under the present circumstances, a question of certain political schemes in which Russia is now too far embarked to be able either to stand still or to recede without having accomplished her object." The events which have transpired in Afghanistan since this paper was published, and the present attitude of Russia and England, tend certainly to confirm the conclusions of this sagacious writer.

*Edinburgh Review* (Jan.) "Recent Discoveries in the Roman Forum." No less than five new works have appeared in London and Leipzig on Rome during the last two or three years, and they are made the basis of this elaborate and highly interesting article, which gives a very intelligent *resumé* of modern excavations and discoveries in the Eternal City. The zealous researches of Signori Baccelli and Lanciani, although sorely impeded by the extortionate prices demanded by private owners and the harpy-like propensities of the workmen whom they employ, enable the writer to reconstruct descriptively the aspect of the Forum as it stood when Cicero declaimed from its Rostra, and before the great displacements made by Julius Cæsar to obtain an area for his famous basilica, greatly enlarged afterwards by Augustus. The history of the Forum is in a measure the history of ancient Rome. No passage of history is so rich in massacres as the last age of the republic, no spot so deeply steeped in human butcheries as the Forum. It is as if all the scattered lightning of the proscription lists, wherever they might strike, converged hither at last. Thus the Lacus Servilius, near the corner of the Tuscan Vicus, became the morgue (*spoliarium*) of the victims of Sulla. Here the gladiatorial exhibitions were witnessed by the populace of the city. Here were the Roman Tribunals. It became in time crowded with statuary, a mere Valhalla, where "the dead crowded out the living, and could no longer hold the increasing collection. The *triumviri capitales*, whose tribunal was at the Mænicus Column, the Pretor himself, who held court (both of them *sub-Jove*) at the lower end of the Forum, were elbowed out of their chairs by the bronze and marble, and at last a sweep was made by authority of all save those erected by express decree of S.P.Q.R." Here also was the Arch of Fabius, and various other Arches, and the Temples of Castor, Cæsar, etc.; every face of the Forum, indeed, was crowned with public buildings. The last discovery made, "The Cloisters of the Vestals," is a very notable find.