

*The Ancient Prophet and the Modern Preacher.

By this book on the prophets Professor Jordan has rendered the Church a very conspicuous service. There is something tragic in the circumstance that that part of the Old Testament which, in many ways, is most central and vital is the part which is most difficult to understand, and most frequently neglected. Certain texts and passages which have a more direct bearing on New Testament revelation have been discussed and commented upon again and again, to the comparative or total neglect of other texts and passages whose words are words of life and power. To any one whose conception of prophecy has been limited to the customary selection of verses, this book will come as a revelation; for it shows him how large and varied, how noble and ever modern a thing Hebrew prophecy is.

The general neglect of the prophetic part of the Old Testament of which we have just spoken is very intelligible; for much of it is very hard reading. Much of Hosea for example, and Micah, is practically unintelligible to the Hebrew scholar, and the ignorance of the laymen may well be excused. Often the text is difficult; sometimes the events which are alluded to, are unknown; and to many things we have for ever lost the key. But when every deduction of this kind has been made, there are large tracts of prophecy which are not nearly so familiar as they should be; and it is just here that Professor Jordan's book renders a unique service. For he relates from the prophets characteristic words and scenes, and by concentrating our attention upon these he makes us see the prophets with our own eyes, he makes us feel the needs and perplexities which they had to confront, and he shows us the power, relevance and originality of their message. The prophets, who to most of us are little more than names, will become men of flesh and blood to any one who gives this book his careful attention. And to do so will be a pleasant as well as a profitable task; for the book is admirably written, with both insight and power. It is interesting from beginning to end, and has the power not only to instruct us, but to awaken within us a spirit akin to the prophets own. Not that Professor Jordan preaches at us; he never does this. But he interprets the prophetic messages with such a sweet persuasiveness that the preacher who is losing heart would go back to his work the stronger for knowing this book, and with the happy consciousness of standing in his humbler measure in the great prophetic succession.

It is essentially a wise book. The author sees things steadily. He knows what the people need, and he knows how great a thing the prophet has to offer. He powerfully shews how vital a thing was the religion for which the prophets pled, not a thing apart from life but covering its every activity; and we are reminded that the great things of religion are the same yesterday, today and forever. The service of God will also be the service of man; and though the former in which the religious impulse expresses itself may vary from age to age, religion in its substance, remains the same. And so it happens that the book, in presenting "prophetic ideas and ideals," is also a

fine presentation of the ideas that ought to govern the mind of the man of today, and of the ideals that ought to determine his hopes and his conduct. The preacher will learn from this book, as from few books of its kind, just where to place the emphasis. He will remember that "it is his business to incarnate and vocalize the eternal truth that lies behind all texts and dogmas" (p. 536), and that his preaching is to be teaching "revolving round and radiating from a certain centre, that central point being the act of heralding the King, calling men to the Cross, beseeching them to be reconciled to God and declaring forgiveness to penitent souls," (p. 354.)

The style of the book is chaste and noble. The writer of this review has read much of it many times, and every time he has been struck by some new beauty of cadence or felicity of expression. It is earnestly to be hoped that every minister who rests his preaching upon the exposition of Scripture, should give much time to the earnest study of this book, written by one to whom preaching is as familiar a field as scholarship. It is fitted to make the Bible a more real book not only to the preacher but to all who are interested in the religious life, by leading its readers into the deep and abiding things of prophecy.

[Dr. Jordan's book was published almost a year ago and has been noticed before in our columns; after being favourably received, on both sides of the Atlantic it has passed into a second edition. We are glad therefore to be in a position to furnish another review written by a gentleman specially interested in Old Testament duties.]

Literary Notes.

The Bibelat (Sept.: T. B. Mosher, Portland, Maine 5c.) gives us this month Virgil in English Verse: an Essay by J. W. Mac-kail. This brief Essay will give even to the uninitiated, a hint of the wonderful charm and power of the great Latin poet, while to scholars it will be welcome as a discussion, by a competent person of the great art of translation. The Author tells us that to speak of Virgil as the most translated and the most untranslatable of poets is not wonderful as it is only another way of saying that more than any other poet he kindles in his readers the thirst after expression, the desire of repayment. The translations perish but the poet remains. But it is in human nature that translations should continue to be made, since in no other way can the desire come so near being satisfied of saying what we think of Virgil, for a translation is in a sense the sum of the translator's criticism and appreciation of his author; he says in it, in his own words what effect original has produced on him. For the perfect translation two qualities would be required: perfect apprehension of the thing translated, and perfect power of putting this apprehension into words; and beyond these, two qualities nothing else. For the authors views on the best translations of Virgil we must refer our readers to the essay.

To the Editor.

SIR.—You are, of course, aware that the "Christian Endeavor" lately spoke very strongly against Editors publishing articles relating to certain public sins, without condemning them. You published among "sparks from other anvils," the remarks of your contemporary which I have now specially in view. I read his article with pleasure, for I believed him to be "the right man in the right place." I consider such articles

as he condemns, fitted to do great harm to society. Many more hold the same views about the subject, that I do. I believe that an editor has full control of his paper and, therefore, is responsible for what appears in it.

I was, therefore, I need not say, delighted when I learned that a minister of our Church—a prominent one too—had been placed in the editorial chair of the "Globe." To some of my friends, as well as myself, I said: "Now, we shall have a perfectly clean paper in the 'Globe.'" There will be, in it, no detailed accounts of horse races, prize fights, and other such things as only degrade a newspaper." My friends expressed the same views.

No wonder then, that I was astonished—yes, greatly so—when I saw in the "Globe," a few days ago, an account of a fight between Corbett and Jeffries, two famous professional pugilists. It takes up nearly two columns of the paper in small type. It has not one word in it, in condemnation of this infamous act.

Now, He who knows all things, knows that I would greatly rejoice if the editor would prove that he could not prevent [that article from appearing in his paper, the "Globe," that he wished to do so, but had to yield to another. If, however, he could have kept it out, I must strongly condemn his taking it in, giving it so much space, and not saying a word in condemnation of the fight. Prize fighting is one of the Devil's amusements.

T. FENWICK.

Woodbridge, Ont., Aug. 29.

Muskoka's Popularity.

The following voluntary testimonial of the Muskoka region and Royal Muskoka Hotel was received at the Grand Trunk General Offices recently from one of the most prominent doctors in New York City, who was sojourning for a few weeks in that district: "I take pleasure in recommending the "Muskoka" region as a health resort of the first class. Its altitude, dry atmospheric conditions, and water supply free from infection make it particularly beneficial.

"The Royal Muskoka Hotel, a hotel perfect in all its appointments, adds materially to the comfort of the tourist."

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*Prophetic Ideas and Ideals: a Series of Short Studies in the Prophetic Literature of the Hebrew People, by W. G. Jordan, B.A., D.D., Professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Literature in Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. (Fleming H. Revell Company, \$100.)