

study of the Bible. It places within one's reach the facilities of arriving at as complete a knowledge as modern learning will supply the conditions of time and place under which the sacred narrative was written. This work is characterized by Dr. Geikie's well-known lucid style, with copious illustrations from a wide range of reading, historical and poetical. There are also a number of graphic illustrations of sacred sites and scenes, ancient monuments, reliefs—everything to elucidate the text. Each volume has its own index of topics and texts. The volumes range from about five to nearly six hundred pages.

No writer has done more than Dr. Geikie in his "Hours with the Bible," "The Life of Christ," and his "Holy Land and the Bible," to popularize the study of the Word of God. With these books in his possession every preacher and teacher will be equipped with, we judge, the best modern apparatus for the study of the sacred history of our world for the first four thousand years of its history.

This is not a work of textual comment. The learned author does not trouble his readers with philological details. He gives the result rather than the process of the best critical study. The two earlier volumes cover the ground of the Sunday-school lessons for the current half-year, and will be of special interest to all Sunday-school teachers. These may possibly be procured separately. The mechanical execution of these volumes is every way admirable—the paper good, the print clear and legible and the binding substantial.

The people of Toronto naturally feel a pride that one, who for some years lived among us and greatly promoted the intellectual life of our country, and some of whose kinsfolk occupy prominent positions in public life among us, should have become world-famous for his contributions to the sacred literature of the age.

*The Praises of Israel: an Introduction to the Study of the Psalms.*

By W. T. DAVISON, M.A., D.D.,  
Tutor in Systematic Theology,

Handsworth College, Birmingham.  
London: Charles H. Kelly. Toronto: William Briggs.

This small volume is a *multum in parvo* on a great subject. The very condensation of statement and conclusions excludes much nice critical discussion, the results rather than the processes of criticism being given.

We have heard of a Scotch divine who used sometimes to say, "This is a very difficult passage, let us look it squarely in the face—and pass on." So does not Professor Davison. He frankly meets difficulties and seeks their solution. The questions of compilation, age and authorship are fairly met. The theology of the Psalms is discussed in four chapters, and the witness of the Psalms to Christ in two more. The Professor has no doubt as to the Messianic character of several of these Psalms.

"A true hymn-book," says our author, "is not made, but grows." "The real hymn-book, with its roots struck deep in the life and affections of a spiritual community will itself exhibit the life and growth of an organism." Such in a special degree is this book of Psalms. It is a Bible within a Bible. "The Psalms," said the late Dean Church, "are a pillar of fire, and light the history of the early world." "That the light of the Psalter may be seen more clearly," says our author, "in order that He may be seen more clearly of whose celestial glory it is but a single earthly ray, is the object of the following chapters."

The study of this book will unquestionably lead to a more intelligent appreciation of that wondrous collection of sacred hymns of the old Hebrew world. "But the Psalter," says Dr. Davison, "is its own best commentary, and nothing is more refreshing than to turn from reading *about* the Psalms, to ponder the book itself. If the readers of this little volume lay it down with any added zest for drinking at the Fountain-head, its end will be abundantly answered." The dedication of this book "*Conjugi meæ delectissima*" gives a tender vein of sentiment to a scholarly and admirable production.