

discoveries have for the most part been already worked up into expositions of the New Testament. If a man cannot ascertain Paul's meaning with aids already existing, it is to be feared no forthcoming light will greatly help him. It is sufficient merely to name the scholars who, during the past generation, have devoted their exceptional gifts and acquirements, to recognize our wealth in this department. The reputation of Germany for thorough investigation and scientific work has been maintained by Lücke, Bleek, Hofmann, Philippi, Holtzmann, Weiss, and many others. Meyer, perhaps, still stands at the head for a well-grounded decisiveness. On each clause he pronounces clearly and firmly, exhibiting at the same time the grounds on which he proceeds, and the opinions from which he wishes his own to be differentiated. His English rivals mostly labor under the disadvantage of being fragmentary. Thus, the late Canon Evans, a more original scholar than Meyer, less dependent on grammars and lexical helps, and trusting more to his own exact reading and extraordinary aptitude for language, has left a commentary only on one book, and it, for many readers, buried in the Speaker's Commentary. The late Dean Alford has the merit of leading the way in the modern style of exposition, and of mingling sound sense with the somewhat wooden preciseness of greater scholars. Bishop Ellicott has carried his grammatical microscope over a large number of the Epistles of Paul, and has settled, beyond appeal, many points which before had been under discussion; presenting his results in a clean-cut and finished form without the waste of a word, which of itself lends to all his work a promise of permanence. From his familiarity with Greek, Dr. Jowett has contributed many suggestions, while his philosophical bent and training, and his knowledge of ancient forms of thought, have enabled him to shed quite fresh light on the writings of Paul. Add to these the names of Stanley, Gifford, Waite, Westcott, Lightfoot, Rendall, Beet and Edwards, and it becomes apparent that, in the present state of scholarship, few gleanings can be left for ordinary workers, and that the student has now sufficient guidance to the meaning of Scripture. Nothing, of course, can prevent men from reading the wrong books, or it may be, even secure that they read any books at all; but the sensible majority, or minority, who sincerely