

contents of this Bible history, with page references. These books will form an apparatus for the study of the Scriptures such as we know not where else can be found.

*The Higher Critics Criticised.* A Study of the Pentateuch for Popular Reading, being an Enquiry into the Age of the so-called Books of Moses, with an Introductory Examination of Dr. Kuenen's "Religion of Israel." By RUFUS P. STEBBINS, D.D., with Preliminary Chapters on the Higher Criticism, and an Appendix concerning the Wonderful Law, by H. L. Hastings. Boston: H. L. Hastings. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 450. Price, \$1.50.

This title describes very fully the nature of this volume. Mr. Hastings, the publisher and author of about half the volume, has rendered invaluable service to the Church of Christ by his manful defence of the truth and zealous evangelism in the city of Boston. Dr. Kuenen is one of the most destructive of the so-called higher critics. He affirms that not one of the Psalms is from David's hand, although many of the eminent Hebrew scholars believe that he wrote from twenty to eighty of them. Kuenen is equally

reckless in his conclusions as to the authorship of the Pentateuch. Dr. Stebbins, like William Spiers, whose book we reviewed last month, traverses these conclusions and vigorously maintains the conservative and orthodox point of view.

Mr. Hastings' treatment of the same subject is more popular in its character and is a vigorous defence of the "impregnable rock of Holy Scripture"—a refutation of many attacks upon its veracity, and an exposure of the shallow criticism on "the mistakes of Moses" by showing the mistakes of the critics and the historic corroboration of the world's great law-giver.

*The Story of Bessie Costrell.* By MRS. HUMPHREY WARD. New York: Macmillan & Co., Toronto: Toronto News Company.

This is rather a disappointing book. We expect something much better from the author of "Marcella" and "David Grieve." This is a sombre not to say gloomy narrative. It describes the vulgar theft of money from a squalid miser by his feather-headed niece. Its moral, if it has any, is its illustration of the benumbed influence of the drink habit on the conscience.

## OUR PROGRAMME FOR 1896.

WE think that a glance at the announcement of the 43rd and 44th volumes of the *MAGAZINE* will indicate that it is the best we think we have ever made. The splendidly illustrated articles on "Britain's Keys of Empire," "Around the World with the Union Jack," and "The Greater Britain of the Southern Seas," with several papers on our own great Dominion, will give it a patriotic character that should appeal to the patronage of every loyal Canadian. The articles on "Every Day Life in Bible Lands" will throw much light on many passages of Holy Scripture. Its stories of the heroism and romance of missions, its character-studies of the men and women who have moulded history, its sketches of social and moral reform, and its papers on Popular Science will furnish instructive reading to all classes.

A feature of great attractiveness will be its admirable serial stories. One of these

will be read with a special interest, "The Hand on the Helm," a tale of Irish life, of smugglers and Methodists, of true love and its trials, of Irish brogue, Irish humour, Irish pathos, and Irish piety. It will be illustrated with a score of engravings. "The Elder's Sin" describes the heroic character of the Covenanters of Scotland. "The Man Trap" is a strongly written temperance story, by the author of "Lost in London." "The Trials of Philip Strong," and "The New Socialism," by the author of "Philip Meyer's Scheme," are also powerfully written stories. The six chapters of "Hiram Golf's Religion; or, Shoemaker by the Grace of God," will inspire to braver doing and holier living. These stories purchased in book form would cost several times the price of the *MAGAZINE* for the entire year. We trust that each reader will renew promptly and endeavour to secure an additional subscription.