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Great Britain's Hand in China. The condition of affairs in the East seemed for a few days last week to be decidedly and immediately dangerous to international peace, but the firmness of Great Britain, backed by her naval strength in Chinese waters and the probability of a coalition with Japan seems to have had a wholesome effect upon the aggressive tendency of Russia and Germany, and the prospect of the Chinese Empire being divided up among nations of Europe seems much less imminent. The British Government has intimated to China that any concessions made to Russia at Port Arthur or to Germany at Kiao-Chau must apply also to other nations. It is not to be supposed that to the Chinese government this word from Britain was unwelcome, probably it was not unexpected. It means evidently that Great Britain will not consent to any scheme for parceling out China among the nations. It is her purpose to keep the Chinese Empire intact. It cannot be pretended that in this the British Government is actuated by any chivalrous spirit to protect China from those that would swallow her up. What England would not do for love of Armenia or for Greece she is not likely to do for China. The motive of Britain in coming to the aid of China is a mercenary one. Her immense commerce with China—which far exceeds that of all other nations put together—is at stake, and for commercial supremacy, if for nothing else, John Bull is prepared to demonstrate to the nations that Britannia rules the wave. A loan of \$80,000,000, which China requires, and which Russia it appears has failed to secure for her, is likely to be obtained in England through the guarantee of the British Government. As security, the Chinese Government, it is understood, agrees to place the land tax of the Empire under British control. But if Britain's interest in China is a mercenary one, her spirit is not the aggressive and narrowly selfish spirit of the other nations. Russia, Germany and France desire to extend their dominion over China for the sake of aggrandizement and that they may control its trade in their own interests and to the exclusion or disadvantage of others. Great Britain, on the other hand, does not want to add to her burdens of administration by becoming responsible for the government of China or any part of it. What she desires is that the country be freely opened to the commerce of the world, and she is quite willing to meet all other nations in friendly rivalry and on equal terms in all the markets of the world. It is this fact that, at such junctures as the present, secures to England the support of nations not immediately concerned in the dispute. The United States, for example, which has a very considerable trade with China, is not slow to perceive that its interest lies strongly in supporting Britain's policy in regard to China rather than that of Russia and Germany, and it is gratifying to note that the recognition of this fact is promoting in the Republic a friendlier feeling toward Great Britain.

By late despatches from Berlin it appears that Germany has obtained from China a cession of Kiao-Chau Bay for a term of fifty years. The Reichsanzeiger, a Berlin newspaper, says that the ceded

territory comprises the whole of the inner basin of Kiao-Chau Bay, so far as the high water line, the larger headlands situated south and north of the entrance of the bay, to the point where they are bounded by mountain ranges, and also the islands situated within and in front of the bay. This territory is said to comprise an area of several square miles bounded by a larger zone around the bay, which will also be sufficiently under the control of Germany to secure the safety of the water supply at Kiao-Chau. Commenting upon the Reichsanzeiger's despatch, the London Times says that to the world at large, "the material fact is that Germany by physical force has obtained a naval station. This is the fact that must guide other powers in determining their own policy." The talk of a lease, the Times regards as a mere saving of appearances. "There is no doubt that both Germany and China are aware that it is a practical cession in full sovereignty. It provides a further argument in favor of an English guaranteed Chinese loan." The Daily News of London says "The great point for Lord Salisbury to consider is the possibility of Germany claiming the right to erect a tariff wall against other powers." Commenting with satisfaction upon the opinions of New York papers sympathizing with the British policy in China, the News says: "Such expressions of opinion may be taken as the bread of our free trade policy cast upon the waters and returning to us in international influence after many days."

The World's Gold Crop. The product of the world's gold fields for 1897 will aggregate, it is stated, about \$240,000,000, which is an increase as compared with the preceding year of about 20 per cent. The gold product of the United States for 1896 was \$53,000,000; for 1897 it will approximate \$61,500,000, an increase of \$8,400,000. The product of Africa for 1896 was \$44,400,000 and the returns received indicate for 1897 an increase of \$13,600,000, making the output for the \$58,000,000. Australasia in 1896 produced \$45,200,000 of gold, for the year just closed it is expected the product will be not less than \$51,000,000, an increase of \$6,800,000. Mexico will add about \$10,000,000, an increase of \$1,000,000 over her output in 1896. Canada's product for 1897 is estimated at \$7,500,000, an increase of \$4,700,000 over the previous year. India's product for 1897 is set down at \$7,500,000, an increase of \$1,400,000. Russia's gold product for 1896 was \$21,550,000, for 1897 it is expected to approximate \$25,000,000.

Book Notices.

An Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament. By S. R. Driver, D. D., New York; Charles Scribner's Sons. Price \$2.50 net.

The sixth edition of this work, revised and enlarged, has been issued as one of the volumes of the International Theological Library. Of Canon Driver's book in an earlier edition Dr. Philip Schaff said: "It is the most scholarly and critical work in the English language on the literature of the Old Testament, and fully up to the present state of research in Germany." Its standpoint is that of the higher criticism, so called, though the author is not disposed to follow the German critics in their most radical conclusions. His English readers, however, are not likely to find fault with him on that account. In his treatment of the Old Testament, the author does not concern himself with the theology of the book or the value of its religious teaching, but deals with it as literature, analyzing the contents of the different books and discussing the questions of authorship, date of composition, etc. In harmony with the views of the radical school of critics to which he belongs, the author of course rejects the traditional view as to the authorship and composition of the Hexateuch, or first six books of the Old Testament. There is to him sufficient evidence

for recognizing in these writings, as they have come down to us, the hands of several writers and redactors, whose work has been woven together by a final redactor or editor to produce the present Hexateuch. This theory also places the date of the composition of these Scriptures, both as to their final form and as to writings from which they are supposedly derived, at a much later period than the commonly received view. In the preface to this latest edition of his work, Canon Driver strongly opposes the contention of conservative scholars that the more recent results of archaeological research go to disprove the conclusions of the advanced critics as to the composition of the Hexateuch. It is unnecessary to say that the biblical scholarship of the world is by no means as yet altogether with Dr. Driver and his school of critics. Eminent scholars still contend for the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch and the substantial homogeneity of the book, while others who admit the evidence of composite structure in some parts of these Scriptures—especially in Genesis—stop very far short of carrying the theory of composite authorship to the length that Canon Driver does. This book will be of little value to anyone who is not willing or able to give much patient study to the subject with which it deals. There is probably no other single book, however, from which the English student can gain so good an idea of the processes and results of the radical, higher criticism as applied to the Old Testament Scriptures. Those who read Canon Driver should read also, on the other side, such books as "The Veracity of the Hexateuch," by Dr. Bartlett, recently noticed in these columns; Dr. Behrend's "The Old Testament under Fire," and the work of Dr. Green of Princeton.

A History of Christianity in the Apostolic Age. By Arthur C. McGiffert, Ph. D., D. D. New York; Charles Scribner's Sons. Price \$2.50 net.

Dr. McGiffert's book on the Apostolic Age deals with subjects of great interest and forms one of the most notable recent contributions to biblical literature. It is one of the series of volumes being issued as the International Theological Library. The book bears unmistakable witness to the distinguished ability and careful scholarship of its author. The sources for the history of the Apostolic age are found chiefly, of course, in the writings of the New Testament, and largely in the book known as the Acts of the Apostles. The standpoint of the author in regard to these sources may be described as semi-conservative, but at the same time he exercises a good deal more freedom in the use of them than will be generally approved. Prof. McGiffert indeed refuses to follow the more radical critics in regarding the Acts as unhistorical or as a product of a comparatively late date written with a distinctly theological and irenic purpose. The book in the main he regards as trustworthy history written with a sincerely historical purpose, but he has felt at liberty to suppose that occasionally the author of Acts has misapprehended facts or general conditions and that these misapprehensions are reflected in his writings. As to the date and authorship of the Acts, it is not quite easy to understand what Prof. McGiffert holds, for (as Prof. Shailer Mathews has pointed out in an extended and valuable review of the book in the Biblical World for November) while Luke is habitually named as the author of Acts, yet it is held (p. 433) that there is internal evidence that it could not have been written by a disciple of Paul. Prof. Mathews controverts Prof. McGiffert's conclusions on this point and contends that the evidence strongly supports the theory of the Lukan authorship. The work is divided into six chapters with the following titles: The Origin of Christianity; Primitive Jewish Christianity; The Christianity of Paul; The Work of Paul; The Christianity of the Church at Large; The Developing Church. Chapter III, on The Christianity of Paul, is one of great interest, especially the exposition of the Apostle's doctrine respecting "the flesh" and "the spirit." The discussion, farther on, of Paul's relations with the Judaizing party in the church will also strongly attract the attention of the student. Prof. McGiffert holds, against most previous writers on the subject, that the epistle to the Galatians was addressed not to Christians in North Galatia, but to those of the cities of Antioch, Iconium, Lystra and Derbe, in the southern portion of the Roman Province of Galatia, and weighty arguments are presented in support of this contention. As a result of this theory also, it is held that the letter to the Galatians is chronologically the first of Paul's epistles. Students of the Apostolic age will find in Prof. McGiffert's book a scholarly, fresh, vigorous and independent discussion of the important subjects with which it deals. To pastors, especially to studious men and those of matured convictions, the book is to be commended. They will not be likely to endorse all the author's positions, but they will find his discussions very helpful in enabling them to obtain a more intelligent idea of the men and movements that went to the making of the Apostolic age.