

pendous task of writing, by the aid of history and prophecy as found in the Bible and of the history found outside the Bible, especially in the recent archeological investigations, to construct an up-to-date history of Israel and the heathen nations that constituted its environment. Of course, much of the work is necessarily tentative, since scientific Egyptology and Assyriology are yet in their infancy; but nevertheless the work, while largely avoiding mere speculations, throws immense light on both Israel and its environment. We called attention to volume I. in January, 1896. That brought the story down to the fall of Samaria. The present volume ends with the downfall of Nineveh. No one who aims to be a Bible scholar should be without the book.

LIFE AFTER DEATH, AND THE FUTURE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. By Bishop Lars Nielsen Dahle, Knight of St. Olaf. Translated from the Norse by the Rev. John Beveridge, M. A., B.D. Edinburgh: F. and T. Clark, 1896. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. Price, \$3.50.

This is a monograph worthy to be placed in the minister's library by the side of that other monograph, noticed by us not long since, Prof. Salmond's "Christian Doctrine of Immortality." Bishop Dahle, long missionary bishop of Madagascar and now bishop in charge of the entire missionary work of the Norwegian Church, is a famous preacher, a profound scholar and thinker, and a most prolific writer. In the present work his rule has been "to accept no guide except Holy Writ." His task is to present the outlook of Christian hope into the future. The scope of his work is shown by the divisions under which he treats his subject:

- "1. The future of the individual, from and including death, until Christ's final advent.
- "2. The future of God's kingdom on earth until Christ's final advent.
- "3. The Lord's final advent and its results to the individual, to the Church universal, and to the whole creation."

The writer combines clear thinking and clear statement to a very remarkable degree, and the translator has succeeded in retaining these qualities in his rendering. Contrast his definition of life with that familiar one of Herbert Spencer which he quotes: "Simpler, and probably more approximately correct, is it to say that life is that force in an organism which places all other forces working in it in serviceable relation to its growth and preservation."

The book is a handsome octavo of 465 pages, printed so as to make its reading a delight.

THE MOSAIC AUTHORSHIP OF THE PENTATEUCH. Defended against the Views and Arguments of Voltaire, Faine, Colenso, Reuss, Graf, Kuenen, and Wellhausen. By D. McDill, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Apologetics in the Theological Seminary, Xenia, Ohio. Dayton, Ohio: W. J. Shuey, 1896.

This is a very thorough work of its kind, containing, as seen from the contents, a detailed treatment of the skeptical views and arguments considered. Part I. is "Preliminary," presenting "The Points in Dispute," and "History of the Discussion." Part II., under "Objections Considered," takes up "Objections in General," "Claimed Improprieties," "Claimed Anachronisms," "Claimed Allotopisms," "Claimed Contradictions," "Claimed Difficulties," "Imaginings," and "Plurality of Authors." Part III. treats of "Internal Evidence," and Part IV. of "External Evidence."

HELPFUL DATA IN CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL REVIEW (Richmond, Va.) for November has an article by Rev. T. J. Packard on "The Higher Criticism," in which the author examines and compares "the two theories of the Old Testament Scriptures which are now contending for supremacy in the theological world," viz.: the generally accepted view which has been held by Christians all along, and the newly promulgated theory of Graf, Kuenen, and Wellhausen. The article is discriminating, clear, and able, and will be helpful.

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York) gives, in the October number, a summary view of "The Constantinian Massacre," and in the November number, by Mr. E. J. Dillon, on "Russia and Europe," a masterly survey and forecast of European policy regarding Turkey. Mr. Dillon emphasizes the fact that the hegemony of Europe has clearly passed from Germany to her northeastern neighbor.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York City) for October, 1896, is unusually rich in contents. The opening article, on "Napoleon III.," exhibits the story of the Second Empire as "the story of a crime" as well as the story of a misfortune. "Amidst the many changes through which France has passed since the Revolution, she has experienced nothing so disastrous as the Second Empire. . . . It crushed out all that was best and purest in French politics; it substituted, for what it destroyed, a policy of corruption." It is at

once a scathing criticism and a luminous summary of the career of the third Napoleon. The most notable article, however, for the ministerial reader is that entitled, "The Duke of Argyll on the Philosophy of Belief." The reader will find this an excellent summary, a judicious criticism, and a careful estimate of the three great works of Argyll—"The Reign of Law," "The Unity of Nature," and "The Philosophy of Belief; or, Law in Christian Theology"—noticed in the December number of **THE HOMILETIC REVIEW**.

THE INSTITUTIONAL CHURCH: A Candid Critique. By R. Q. Mallard, D.D. Dr. Mallard, of New Orleans, is editor of *The Southwestern Presbyterian* and Moderator of the Southern Presbyterian General Assembly. In the July number of *The Presbyterian Quarterly*, published at Richmond, Va., he discusses the institutional church from a conservative standpoint. The objections often made against it and that need to be guarded against, are put clearly and strongly. The editors of **THE HOMILETIC REVIEW** are preparing for a comprehensive discussion of this subject in a "Symposium."

THE REVIEW OF REVIEWS for December, 1896, in addition to a vast array of other interesting matter, has an article by President Walter E. Hervey, of the Teachers' College, New York, to which ministers will be particularly attracted, whether they agree with it or not. Its subject is, "The Sunday-Schools: Their Shortcomings and Their Great Opportunity."