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AND

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### THE DRAMA OF RUTH

From a General Reader's Point of View

An Independent Appreciation: By D. A. Chalmers.

In these days of press haste, and abbreviated, and often perfunctory reviews and news reports, it is refreshing to find members of the staff of any of the Dailies or other frequent publications, giving evidence in a notice that they really find time to more than scan the literary works which they commend. That remark is made in no disparagement to press workers, but rather with some knowledge of, and sympathy for the lot of the hard-pressed pressman.

To do justice to such a work as Professor Macnaghten's "Ruth", one needs to be able to read it without haste. To the general reader who thus reads it, if in addition he has some imagination and the capacity of appreciating the picturesque portrayal of characters true to the human life of all times, the drama should prove a source of genuine mental and spiritual uplifting.

The story is set in an era when, in ordinary conditions, life seems to us now to have been more tranquil—touched indeed with an Acadian repose; though it may be that that seeming is in some measure due to the fact that "the past will always win a glory from its being far."

There is no need for any special knowledge of Biblical or Hebrew history in order to ensure anyone having a living interest in literature and life enjoying the perusal of "Ruth." (Of course, it goes without saying, that one can hardly have any "interest" in literature without being acquainted with the Bible, and we know that many literary men, like Ruskin, owed more than much in their literary style and success to intimate acquaintance with that Book of books).

In the drama the simple story of how the thoughtful daughter-in-law declined to leave the widowed mother to make the sad journey to her old homeland alone, and of what followed, is told in a way which involves not only the introduction of not a few other characters of interest, but which leads to the expression of a beautiful religious faith in various passages, some of which are none the less noteworthy in that they, though the spontaneous and jeweled work of the author, have an added worth in their suggestion of passages of scripture or portions of the writings of some of the world's front-rank writers in English "for all time."

That all thinkers and writers are peculiarly, though it may be unconsciously, "the heirs of the ages," is evidenced in the writings of the world's proved