

The Theological Monthly

THE BOOK OF ENOCH.¹

HISTORY AND CONTENTS.

IN the Epistle of St. Jude the following passage occurs (vers. 14, 15): "And to these also, Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied, saying, Behold, the Lord came with ten thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their works of ungodliness which they have ungodly wrought, and of all the hard things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him." The question immediately arises, Is the Apostle quoting from some writing extant in his day, or citing merely a prophecy, preserved by tradition? The language does not help to a solution of the inquiry, Enoch προεφήτευσεν . . . λέγων. This might be said equally of an actual quotation or of a traditional report. But when it was discovered that the Fathers and other early writers often referred to a writing of Enoch and quoted sentences therefrom, it was obvious that they were acquainted with some document which bore the patriarch's name, and which was extensively known in early Christian centuries.² Thus, in the Epistle of Barnabas (as it

¹ In compiling this account, I have availed myself of Bishop Laurence's translation of the Book of Enoch, Dillman's *Das Buch Henoch*, Drummond's *The Jewish Messiah*, The Cyclopædias, English and German, and the able Dissertation in Dr. Gloag's *Introduction to the Catholic Epistles*. I have also used Ewald's *Abhandlung über d. Äthiop. Buches Henoch Entstehung*, and Koestlin's *über die Entstehung d. Buches Henoch*, in Baur and Zeller's *Theolog. Jahrbuch*, 1856, Heft. 2 and 3.

² The quotations are to be found in Fabricius, *Codex Pseudepigr. Vet. Test.* i. 161 ff.