

THE BOOK PAGE

"That is a good book which is opened with expectation and closed with profit."

"What books will be helpful to me for this Quarter's Lessons?" is an inquiry from many sides.

We answer with a brief list, some new, some older, all readable and useful and all within reach as to price. It is taken for granted that such commentaries as Matthew Henry (never excelled for its keen, pungent common sense, and its truly evangelical spirit), Brown and Fausset, etc., are well known. The more critical works are not named. Most of our readers are too busy to go through them. They are looking for the result of critical study in brief compass rather than the processes by which that result may have been reached.

The Books of Scripture from which the lessons are taken are: Hosea (one lesson), Daniel (four lessons), Ezekiel (three lessons), Ezra (two lessons), and Haggai and Zechariah (one lesson each).

THE OLD TESTAMENT AND ITS CONTENTS, by Professor Robertson in The Guild Text Books (Paper, 25c.; cloth, 40c.; Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto), gives a remarkably clear and concise account of the authorship, contents, etc., of the different books.

GEIKIE'S HOURS WITH THE BIBLE is older, but contains a well-informed and readable running commentary. Vol. VI., "From the Exile to Malachi," embraces the whole period of the Lessons. (In cheap form, John B. Alden, New York.)

Professor George Adam Smith's THE BOOK OF THE TWELVE PROPHETS (2 vols., \$1 each; Hodder & Stoughton, London) takes in all except Daniel. Hosea is found in Vol. I., the rest in Vol. II. Critical, but easily followed.

FARRAR'S MINOR PROPHETS, in "Men of the Bible Series" (75c., Fleming H. Revell Co.) covers the same ground. Our readers will not likely agree with either of the two last-named writers in all points. Pusey's well-known book on Daniel gives the older view.

HOSEA in the Cambridge Bible for Schools and Colleges (\$1) may also be consulted.

For the lessons in Daniel, Deane's DANIEL, His Life and Times, in the "Men of the Bible" Series (75c.) is brief, but satisfying.

DANIEL, THE BELOVED, by Rev. Dr. Wm. M. Taylor (\$1.50, Harper & Bros.), is now old, but is excellently instructive and practical.

Professor A. B. Davidson's EZEKIEL in the Cambridge Bible (\$1.50) is very full, and Skinner's EZEKIEL, in the Expositor Bible Series (\$1), is a strong book.

EZRA AND NEHEMIAH, by Rev. H. E. Ryle in the Cambridge Bible (\$1.75), and EZRA AND NEHEMIAH, Their Lives and Times, by Professor Rawlinson in the "Men of the Bible" Series (75c.), will be found quite sufficient, the one in the way of commentary, the other, as its title indicates, of a wider scope.

Archdeacon Perowne covers HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI in one volume in the "Men of the Bible" Series (90c.), and Professor Marcus Dods, in T. & T. Clark's Handbooks for Bible Classes (70c.), deals with the same writers.

SAYCE'S FRESH LIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS (\$1, Fleming H. Revell Company), with its numerous illustrations and its array of facts from recent excavations and discoveries, should be at hand, and two volumes noticed in THE TEACHERS MONTHLY in January, and from the same publishers, may be again mentioned as particularly valuable to those to whom maps and diagrams are useful, THE HOLY LAND IN GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY, by Townsend McCoun (\$1 per volume).

THE CRUISE OF THE CACHELOT. Round the World After Sperm Whales. By Frank T. Bullen, First Mate. (Pp. 379. Paper, 75c.; cloth, \$1.25. Toronto: William Briggs.) A fine sea story. Rudyard Kipling certifies it as "immense," which is high praise from such a quarter. The author knows the *cachetot*, or sperm whale, intimately in his native haunts and in all his varying moods, and will hold the interest of every boy, and every man who has not forgotten what it is to be a boy, from the start to the end of his long chase round the world after this monster of the deep.

BORDER LINES IN THE FIELD OF DOUBTFUL PRACTICES. By H. Clay Trumbull. (Fleming H. Revell Company, Toronto; pp. 199, price, 75c.)

"Many a line in morals is like a mathematical line; it has length, but neither breadth nor thickness. As a matter of fact, such a line is not always easily perceived." How to see such lines clearly and to keep on the right side of them is the problem discussed, and discussed, on the whole, calmly, kindly, and wisely; for the author, the well-known editor of the *Sunday School Times*, is a man of wide experience and earnest spirit. The questions are the old ones, doubtful practices and amusements, but what the writer has to say is so good and so well said, and withal so beautifully printed—for the book is a very pretty one—that young people will read it with both interest and profit.