

the part of *some person, or persons*, and if the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews may be credited (ch. ii. 14) another potentate possesses "the power of death." One might have expected a gentleman who habitually "pledges his reputation as a scholar" to have enlightened us as to the value of the present taken by the leprous captain of the Syrian host to the king of Israel, but as he failed to do so, the writer has had the satisfaction of obtaining it from a trustworthy source ; the sum amounted to 152,485 dollars in our money. The morning sermon was based on 2 Cor. iii. 8 ; it gave evidence of descriptive power on the part of the preacher, was spiced with some homely hits, and enlivened by a couple of sensational narratives. We were dismissed with an exhortation to "meditate on what makes for peace and salvation." One of the first statements that escaped the Dr.'s lips in the evening service, though propounded with characteristic confidence, was of itself sufficient to deprive any ordinary hearer of faith in the illuminating power of the preacher. We were informed that when Isaiah (ch. xliv. 4) declares "they shall spring up as among the grass, as oleanders by the water-courses," he was predicting the development of Christian sects ; these organizations were, moreover, notwithstanding the four-fold prayer "that they all may be one" (John xvii. 11, 21, 22, 23) represented as eminently beneficial in their operation. It so happens that the portion (Isa. xliv. 1-4) read by the Dr. is one which is linked with other portions relating to *Israel* in a remarkable manner. There are fourteen occurrences of the word "servant" in Isaiah; seven of these relate to *Israel*, and seven to Christ. The seven which relate to *Israel* may be seen at chs. xli. 8, 9 ; xliv. 1, 2, 21 ; xlvi. 4 ; lxv. 8. Those relating to Christ may be seen at chs. xlvi. 1, 19 ; xliii. 10 ; xlix. 3, 5, 6 ; liii. 13. By the Dr.'s practice of answering from the pulpit such letters as he selects for the purpose, he introduces a crowd of subjects which, in the judgment of the writer, ministers to the confusion of the service ; we rambled from future punishment amongst the preacher's favourites, the Rephaim and Nephilim, supposed to be found among antediluvian remains ; thence to an Egyptian priest, whose spirit was supposed to have been transmitted to the Bond-St. pulpit ; thence to the Hebrew word for

"my young bullock"—*egli*—which was supposed to be related to John Bull. From thence we passed to the advertised subject of the pulpit essay—Prophesy in Relation to Queen Victoria. As the writer has subsequently become possessed of a book relating to this subject, of which Dr. Wild is the author, he will reserve his comments thereon for a future occasion.

#### HIRSCHFELDER'S PEOPLE'S COMMENTARY.

Incomparably more valuable, in its way, will be the Biblical Commentary of Professor Hirschfelder, now in course of preparation, than any commentary in the English language. It will not supersede the legitimate, but practically lost function of the Church, that of "rightly dividing the Word of God," but it will, without doubt, give a faithful translation of the Hebrew, in the multitudinous passages which are now mutilated or obscured.

It will thus contribute to impress Biblical students with the fact that the Old Testament is, on the one hand, the embryo of the New, and that it is intended by the Almighty to instruct his people with regard to "his ways" in relation to "The Jew, the Gentile, and the Church of God." Professor Hirschfelder is pre-eminently qualified to elucidate portions which are presumed by ignorant persons to be spurious or contradictory, as they will remember who have read his reply to Bishop Colenso. The author will give to the Church, in this invaluable work, the result of many years' research ; Pagan writers, and ancient monumental inscriptions will be laid under contribution to enrich it. A complete history of the literature of the Jews, from the earliest times, will constitute an introduction to it, and the writer promises to give his readers by these means, an insight of the Israelites' acquaintance with the sciences, and to show that many difficult passages can be elucidated by such means. In the prospectus which announces the forthcoming work, Professor H. states that hot mineral baths were employed in healing disease as early as the time of Moses, and that their importance is indicated by the circumstance of the name of the discoverer being recorded in Gen. xxxvi. 24. "This was that Anah who found the hot springs in the wilderness," not "that found the mules in the wilderness," as in the English version ; the author will shew that the Hebrews, Greeks, and Romans resorted to these springs. For the benefit of Hebrew scholars, quotations from the original language will be frequent. This work will be published in monthly parts, at 10 cents per number, including postage ; as the author will not publish until a thousand subscribers have been secured, intending subscribers will do well to send their name and address to Professor Hirschfelder, 565 Sherbourne St., Toronto. It is requested that no money may be sent with the name, as the publication will not be issued until an adequate number of subscribers has been obtained.

Subscribers can withdraw their names, on giving one month's notice, but although the author modestly and considerately extends this privilege to them, we cannot pay them so bad a compliment as to suppose they will avail themselves of so questionable a course.