

Sacred Idyls. A metrical version of Solomon's Song, with appropriate explanations. By PROF. JAMES STRONG. Hunt & Eaton, New York. Cranston & Stowe, Cincinnati. Wm. Briggs, Toronto. Cloth, gilt, \$1.50.

The turning of this most ancient dramatic composition into English verse, and reproducing the spirit in the phraseology and thought of modern times, is itself an exposition of the Canticles, which surpasses many of the labored commentaries that have been written upon it. The author accepts the Solomonic authorship, that it was written on the marriage of that monarch to the Egyptian princess. The forty-fifth Psalm he regards as a key to the imagery and many allusions of the poem, and views it as a description of the week's wedding festivities. He has treated the book from a Christian point of view, and conceives the song as belonging "to the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament, and is therefore *proleptical* in its application to the final espousal of the Redeemer and His Church." It does seem that Professor Strong has caught both the spirit and the idea of the poem; and while rising above the objective basis of mere secular history, he has not been carried away in fancy by a subjective view of it. Its elucidation is so clear and enchanting that one reads it with the interest and fascination of a perusal of Longfellow's "Evangeline." In an appendix he critically elucidates the scope and style, authenticity and canonicity of the book, and vindicates his exposition and interpretation. The style of binding makes this a book for the drawing-room, and its style certainly fits it for the casual reader as well as the critical student. It should be found on the table in all our homes.

The Gospel of St. Matthew. By J. MONRO GIBSON, M.A., D.D. Cloth 8vo, 450 pp. Willard Tract Depository, Toronto. Price \$2.

This is the last volume of the *Expositor's Bible*, which is being edited by Rev. W. Robertson Nicol, M.A., LL.D., Editor of the *Expositor*. Already during the past three years expositions have been issued on Genesis, Exodus, 1st and 2nd Samuel, Judges, Ruth, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Mark, the Epistles and Revelation of John, Hebrews, Colossians, 1 Corinthians and the pastoral epistles. Critical, doctrinal, homiletical and exegetical commentaries are all necessary and useful, but none can be really more helpful to the preacher and teacher than the expository. If the volume before us is a sample of the "*Expositor's Bible*," we would pronounce it the best series, as an aid to expository preaching, yet issued. The author of "The Ages before Moses," "The Mosaic Era," etc., has, in his exposition of Matthew, taken up the Gospel under the following subjects: The Coming of the Christ, His Reception, His Herald, His Baptism, His Temptation, Beginning of His Galilean Ministry, The Gospel of the Kingdom, The Signs of the Kingdom, The King's Ambassadors, The Shadow of the Cross, The Parables of the Kingdom, The Crisis in Galilee, The New Departure, Last Words at Capernaum, Last Days in Perseæ, To Jerusalem, Conflict in the Temple, The Prophecy on the Mount, The Great Atonement Day, The