

There is no doubt that, judged from the standpoint of New Testament Christianity, non-resistance is absolutely impossible and utterly wrong.

The Religion of the Trenches.

It is particularly interesting from time to time to notice indications of what religion is doing in connection with this war, and the view held in so many quarters that the religion of the trenches is proving to be in many ways different from that of the churches calls for the most serious consideration on the part of those who keep their eye on the future. There is scarcely a religious newspaper that does not touch on this subject, and one of them puts the matter in these words:—

In the face of peril it falls back upon the simplicities and verities of the faith. Soldiers, sailors, and colliers have everywhere the same simple directness and spiritual intensity. They have no use for subtleties and trimmings. Chaplains within reach of the firing-line are surprised to find how much of their ordinary equipment they can spare. Men do not argue about prayer in the presence of death; they pray. They do not philosophize about faith; they believe. They do not criticize the Word of God; they receive it. These things are manifest in the letters we read through our love and tears. One young officer, writing to his mother, said he could not answer for any men but his own, but when the command came, that in ten minutes they were to be ready to advance, every man in his Company knelt down to pray.

Assuming all this to be true of the men in general, it will be a welcome day when peace dawns and the men come back with the same "simple directness and spiritual intensity." This will be found to be most in harmony with that true Christianity of the New Testament which finds, rejoices in, and lives for Christ as Saviour, Friend and Lord.

A Great Bible Help

By the Rev. W. H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.

Of the making of Bible Dictionaries there does not seem to be any end. It is not so very long ago that the only available work of the kind was the original form of "Smith's Dictionary of the Bible." But since then volumes have been issued with remarkable frequency. The most important have been "Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible" and the "Encyclopaedia Biblica," edited by the late Dr. Cheyne, together with the new revised, but, unfortunately, incomplete, edition of Smith. Then came four or five dictionaries in one volume, each representing different aspects of critical and theological thought. The latest aspirant for public favour has just been issued, entitled "The International Standard Bible Encyclopaedia," which in size and character is, of course, comparable only with Hastings' and the Encyclopaedia Biblica. It extends to five volumes, though a good deal of the last is occupied by a splendid sevenfold index. The choice of a thinner paper has enabled the publishers to present this new Dictionary in thinner volumes, though without any reduction of type or the loss of mechanical conveniences. About two hundred contributions provide the substance of this work and the features of typography, illustrations, divisions of subjects and system of abbreviations makes the volumes decidedly attractive. There are thirty-two full-page illustrations, a large number of smaller ones and sixteen clear and helpful maps.

It is sometimes said that Biblical Scholarship is all on one side and that those who stand for conservatism in Biblical Criticism are unable to support their position by adequate learning.

It will be impossible to make this allegation any longer in the face of these scholarly and yet conservative volumes. It has not really been true in the past, but constant reiteration has tended to make some people believe it, like the man in "Alice" who said, "What I tell you three times is true." During the last few years there has been a growing tendency towards reaction from current critical views, especially of the Old Testament, a reaction based on a more accurate and a more historical scholarship. This process is likely to be helped considerably by the war, because, instead of our scholars in the future being infected by what has been rightly called "the microbe of Germany," they will be made independent of Germany, whence up to the present all serious Biblical Criticism has come. It has long been a significant reflection on British and American scholarship that not a single, novel, critical position has been introduced, except as a reproduction or modification of something German. Those who read an article in the "Quarterly Review" a few years ago from the pen of Principal (now Sir) George Adam Smith will see how true it is that there has been a decided halt in the progress of Old Testament criticism. Eighteen or twenty years ago Dr. Smith said everything was thought to be tolerably well settled, but now apparently it is mostly all unsettled again. Even Wellhausen has admitted that some recent criticism has made a "sore point" in his well-known theory. And now comes this admirable Encyclopaedia to continue, and it may be hoped, complete the reaction and put scholarship again on right lines.

One great value of the present work is that it is decidedly less technical and more suitable to ordinary Bible students and readers than former ones of the kind. While its attitude is "reasonably conservative," it will be found to be specially adapted both to Clergy and Laity who wish to know the latest and best that scholarship can say and in a form which they can understand and appreciate. The Encyclopaedia has a remarkably wide scope and nothing seems to be wanting, for not only does it embrace the Bible and the Apocrypha, together with all related subjects, but it has aimed at including everything, great or small, that may throw light on the meaning and message of the Word of God.

Most of the work has been done by American scholars, but a large number of articles come from other parts of the world, so that it may truly be called "international." The Editor-in-Chief is the late Dr. Orr, who passed away during the preparation of this work for the press. Many subjects are by him and those who have learned to value his splendid work in other connections will be particularly glad to have still more from his pen. Among the articles by him, which cannot now be specified, the largest and most important is the one on "Jesus Christ," which constitutes a fine treatment, an education in itself, and at once scholarly and true to the "old paths." There is no "reduced Christianity" here. A number of Old Testament articles are by that fine scholar, the late Professor W. J. Beecher, whose loss a few years ago was very great. Dr. A. T. Robertson, of Louisville, is responsible for several articles of the first order, and those who know his monumental Grammar of the Greek Testament will have no need of further introduction. It is also decidedly interesting to see the name of Professor James Robertson of Glasgow, whose book "The Early Religion of Israel" has never been met by the Wellhausen school. Pastor W. Moller, whose well-known book in its English form, "Are the Critics Right," has done such effective service, is well represented in the six articles from his pen. The Bishop of Durham is responsible for ten articles, including a truly illuminating one on the Epistle to the Romans. The Dean of Canterbury, Dr. Wace, writes one article on

"Miracles." Another Anglican, who is very welcome for his adequate scholarship, is Dr. St. Clair Tisdall, who writes on several important topics. Some of the most valuable articles are by Dr. Warfield, of Princeton, and those who wish to know the best that can be said on such subjects as "Godhead Inspiration," "Presence of Christ," "Revelation," "Trinity," will be glad to read these fine presentations. It is refreshing to see the Chalcedon Formula championed with such ability.

One feature of special value is the presentation of various views on subjects where there are marked differences of opinion, like Baptism, the Lord's Supper, Episcopacy, Criticism, etc. This is as it should be, and will prove of great help to young students. In passing, it may be added that a second treatment of Evolution might well have been given in order to show the other side, and especially because so much modern Biblical Criticism is really dominated by an erroneous view of Evolution.

It is interesting to see the unity of Isaiah championed and also the pastoral Epistles, Daniel, Chronicles and the Apocalypse. Archaeology finds emphasis in valuable articles by Dr. Kyle, Dr. Sayce and several more, while the Geography and Natural History of Palestine are largely in the hands of that fine and thoughtful writer, the late Col. Conder. There are also numerous aspects of theological discussion as well as topics on the Bible proper. Out of very many such attention may be specially called to the valuable treatment of "Sinlessness" by the Bishop of Durham.

Space prevents anything like an adequate notice of this monumental work. It is simple truth to say that it will prove indispensable to all serious students of the Bible, and it ought to be studied with the greatest possible care. The price of the book is really moderate, considering the magnificent provision made on all things related to the Bible. In cloth binding, it costs \$30.00; in three-quarter morocco, marble edges, \$37.50; while in full morocco, gilt edges, \$47.50. Congregations should think of this work as a present for their Clergy, if only because the use of it would soon be repaid in the finer quality of preaching and teaching. The work can only be obtained direct from the publishers, The Howard-Severance Company, 205 West Monroe Street, Chicago; and while we should like to be able to call attention to other important and valuable articles, we hope we have said more than enough to send our readers to this work which will remain for many a day a testimony to the essential truth and perpetual vitality of the Book of Books.

"Stillness and Rest"

"Their strength is to sit still," Isa. xxx., 7.

"Sit still and wait," O anxious one!
Known are thy needs
To thy Redeemer, strong to save
Thy cause He pleads.

"Be still and rest," O weary one!
Thy God is near;
Hope thou in Him, and He will give
Rest from thy fear.

"Be still and know," O troubled one!
Thy God am I;
Who knows My name and loveth Me
Is set on high.

"Stand still and see," O fighting one!
Bid thy fears cease;
Look to the Lord, He fights for thee.
And sends thee peace.

Rest and wait patiently for God,
He works for thee;
In quietness and confidence
Thy strength shall be.

"Rest and be still," for God doth reign,
And He is love;
He guides thee, and will safely lead
To rest above.



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