

Talks about Books.

THERE is no end to the books about the Holy Land. In the time of Ritter's Comparative Geography of Palestine, the bibliography was vast, but Rohricht, in his *Bibliotheca Geographica Palestinæ*, refers to over 3,500 books on the subject. Even our own church has furnished Mr. Burnfield's scholarly *Voices from the Orient*, Sir W. Dawson's *Egypt and Syria*, and Mr. Mortimer Clark's *Letters*, not yet collected into a volume. I have read a great many such books by Robinson, Thompson, Osborn, DeSauley, Burton, Lamartine, Roberts, Porter, Finn, Palmer, and many others, but have found none more interesting, or less tiresome to read, than the book now before me, Mr. E. L. Wilson's "*In Scripture Lands*." First of all, Mr. Wilson's range of travel is great, extending from the Karnak and Luxor, which mark the site of ancient Thebes in Egypt, all along the Nile Valley, through the land of Goshen, the Sinaitic Peninsula, Edom with its capital Petra, and thence, through Palestine proper, up to Damascus in Syria. The whole course was not only gone over by Mr. Wilson in person, but was also illustrated by his wonderful camera, which furnished to the work no fewer than a hundred and fifty faithful pictures of places visited. The faithfulness of these illustrations is a very important feature in the book, and all who have so far reviewed it have regarded that as its chief merit. Probably Mr. Wilson, as an artist, would be disposed to do so himself. But it should not be lost sight of that the author, possessing the artist's soul, also possesses the artist's power of observation, an invaluable gift in one who seeks to make a scene live in the imagination of another, and is able graphically to set forth what he has beheld and experienced. Mr. Wilson is plainly a diligent student of the Scriptures, a thoroughly well informed man in general literature, and one whose avocations and pursuits have brought him into pleasant relations with many other eminent men, the mention of whose names in connection with that of the courageous explorer of hidden recesses, helps to light up the well written and most interesting pages of his book. Some of the most valuable parts of "*In Bible Lands*" are those which treat of the discovery of the mummy of the enslaver of Israel, of Arabia Petrea, of Petra, of Calvary, and of Nazareth. The description of Petra is unique, and lays the world under lasting obligation to the fearless traveller, whose courage dared and whose prudent foresight successfully achieved the arduous task of placing that world in possession of its scenes in faithful depiction. Mr. Wilson was no mere holiday seeker, as so many to whom we owe our knowledge of Palestinian sites have been, but an explorer, a worker and a hard worker on scientific and artistic principles. His work therefore, is calculated to excite more than the languid interest attaching to the ephemeral "*In Bible Lands*" is a handsome large octavo volume of nearly 400 pages, published by Messrs. Scribner of New York, and for sale, I believe, by Messrs. Drysdale & Co. and other booksellers in Montreal and elsewhere in Canada.

A graduate of our College, the Rev. D. G. Cameron of Strabane, sends me a volume of 218 pages, with frontispiece representing the subject of the narrative, published by Messrs. Griffin and Kidner of Hamilton. This is