

the entire approval of the Bishop of the Diocese, and so far as we are aware has gained the support of a large number of the clergy. A circular and programme of proceedings will shortly be forwarded to the clergy of the province, and in the meantime it is sufficient assurance of the future success of the school that we are in a position to announce such names as the Rev. Prof. Clark, the Rev. Algernon Crapsey, Rochester, N.Y.; the Rev. D. Williams, Stratford, Ont.; Rev. C. H. Brent, Boston, Mass., and the Rev. T. C. Street Macklem, as among those whose valuable services have been secured as lecturers. The location of the proposed school is itself an ideal one. Mr. MacKenzie's school is situated within a few hundred yards of the lake, and in direct communication with the well-known and beautiful summer resort of Stony Lake and adjacent waters. And while the main end and object of the undertaking is work during working hours, no pains will be spared to make the hours of recreation as pleasant as the hours of work may be profitable. Through various means of economy and kindly assistance, the Committee of Management hope to be in a position to offer all privileges of the school, with maintenance, for the ten days of its duration, for the very nominal fee of five dollars. Feeling the great benefit to be derived by the clergy from attendance at this school, their careful consideration is invited, and their kindly support is asked for. It is the first venture of the kind in Canada, and we hope that the efforts and enterprise of the management will not meet with disappointment at the hands of those whom it has endeavoured to assist.

#### MUST IT BE WAR?

This question will almost certainly be answered before these lines are read or printed. Every one who could see at all, has seen that war could be averted by nothing but a kind of miracle. Indeed the knot which has been tied before the world must be cut with the sword. Spain has said she will not surrender Cuba. The United States have for some time determined that Spain shall give up Cuba either voluntarily or by compulsion; and now they have uttered this determination by the mouth of Congress. It is said that such determination is now part of the law or constitution of the United States, whatever that may mean. We presume that it has become like the law of the Medes and Persians. That is one side. On the other hand, the Spaniards have declared loudly and fiercely that they will give up nothing of their possessions; and Cuba is the most important of them all. How any one, after that, can be sanguine of keeping the peace, passes our understanding. There seems no prospect whatever of either retiring from the position they have taken up. They must therefore fight it out. We have no intention of going into the merits of the case. It is said that Americans have gone about sowing sedition in the island of Cuba. We do not know whether this is or is not susceptible of proof. It is not quite easy to stir up sedition among a people who are well governed. But there are certain matters which belong to the region of ascertained fact. For

example, it is not merely Cuba that is in insurrection against the government of Spain. The Philippine Islands are in the same condition; so apparently is Porto or Puerto Rico; and these are their principal colonial possessions. The state of Cuba has become lamentable and intolerable. In 1804 the output of sugar was 1,100,000 tons, in 1807 it was only 150,000 tons. Of tobacco 50,000 bales in 1805, and 75,000 bales in 1817. It is said that more than half of the population of Cuba have perished in the insurrection, and there appears to be no doubt that the rebels have been treated in the most barbarous manner. To the Spaniards these methods may present themselves differently from what they do to others; but ultimately they must be judged by the mind and voice of the civilized world of the nineteenth century. We fear that no logic but the logic of facts will produce much change in the government of Spain. On one other point a few words may be said. There was a disagreement between the two houses of the American Congress as to the recognition of the revolutionary government of Cuba. Both were prepared to recognize the republic of Cuba, to declare its independence of Spain; the Senate was also willing to acknowledge the provincial government. This proposal was thrown out by the House of Representatives; and they were certainly in the right. If the revolutionary government were recognized by the States, then the action of the latter must, to a certain extent, be subject to the will of that government. For the sake of freeing Cuba the Americans may do what seems good to them in that island, so long as they are merely driving out the Spaniards. If they recognized the new government, they might be hampered at every turn. Such was the case of the British armies in Spain during the peninsular war with Napoleon. They could not take their own course as they could do in France. There was in Spain a regular government whom the British, indeed, were supporting, but whose action not infrequently embarrassed them. That could not be helped in Spain; there the government was. It is not the same in Cuba. It will be time enough to recognize a permanent government in Cuba, when the Spaniards are driven out, and the work of the Americans is done. These lines have become almost like ancient history in the last day or two. But the considerations brought forward are not less important, and therefore we let them stand.

#### REVIEWS.

A Dictionary of the Bible: dealing with its language, literature, and contents, including the Biblical Theology. Edited by Dr. James Hastings and others. In four volumes. Vol. 1. Price 28s. New York: Scribners; Edinburgh: Clark, 1898.

Here we have at last the first volume of the long-expected Dictionary of the Bible, which promises to be the best and most complete work of the kind published in the nineteenth century—that is to say, ever published—and which will hardly have a rival for many years and decades to come. We lose no time in bringing it to the notice of our readers, because a survey of the volume, made with some care, enables us to say at once that it is a work of surpassing excellence, which should at once find a place in every

clergyman's library. We know quite well what this means. The book is not a cheap one; but the three remaining volumes will be published at considerable intervals, so that it will not weigh very heavily even upon the owners of slender purses, and it will probably be found to be of more value to the Bible student and the preacher than all the other books he may buy in the course of a year put together. For this volume contains great masses of knowledge, of facts carefully collected, sifted, tested, so that the reader may be sure that he has not here any merely traditional material, handed down from generation to generation and taken for granted, but the results of careful and critical investigation, which will not have to be set aside by future students. Of course we speak here of the information given: as regards the opinions, probably by far the greater number are as near the truth as we are likely to be able to come; whilst doubtless there are others which will have to be reconsidered, but in any case the reader has here the means of forming his own judgments, since the articles are everywhere distinguished by an admirable candour. In order to give our readers a general notion of this great work, it may be convenient to institute a brief comparison with Smith's Dictionary, which up to this time has held the place of pre-eminence among works of this kind. As regards the amount of matter there will be no great difference. Four volumes completed on the same scale as the one before us will have a little more contents than the three volumes of Smith—about the same as Smith with the new edition of the first volume; and is quite large enough. On this point we may say at once that the articles which we have examined are admirable in their fullness and compactness, models of articles of this kind, perhaps more uniform in this respect than those in the volumes of Smith. As regards the principal subjects, both dictionaries are much the same; but the contents are very different. It is thirty-eight years since the first volume of the earlier dictionary appeared; and we could hardly adopt a surer method of ascertaining the strides made by biblical learning and criticism, than by comparing these two works. On this point there will of course be differences of opinions. The new dictionary adopts the results of the higher criticism to a certain extent. In referring to the Pentateuch we have references to what are now supposed to be the different sources of the book. Still the work is done in a conservative spirit, as far as we have observed, and it certainly does not represent the "highest" criticism. Provision is to be made for those who desire such a level in a new Bibliotheca Biblica, to be published under the editorship of Professor Cheyne. So far we have but touched upon the contents of the new dictionary. We shall certainly return to it again. We have advised the clergy to procure it. To the wealthier laity we would say, get two copies of the volumes as they appear—one for yourself and another for your clergyman.

Charles Dickens: a Critical Study. By Geo. Gissing. Price 2s. 6d. London: Blackie & Son; Toronto: Copp, Clark Co., 1898.

Charles Dickens died in 1870 at the comparatively early age of 58, and he lies buried in Westminster Abbey. He was probably the most popular English novelist of this century, or of any century, and his popularity has scarcely declined. Whatever may be his fate (in this respect), in the future, his work is a remarkable phenomenon in English literature and must always be studied by those who make pretensions to anything like a complete knowledge of that literature. Mr. Gissing's book will give valuable assistance in such a study. Beginning with Dickens' "Times," that is to say, the social conditions

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