

Book Notices.

The Holy Land and the Bible; A Book of Scripture Illustrations Gathered in Palestine. By CUNNINGHAM GEIKIE, D.D. With map of Palestine. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. viii-560. New York: James Pott & Co., Publishers. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$6.00.

We have read many books on Palestine, but we do not remember any that has equalled in fascinating interest and in permanent value these goodly volumes, the latest work of the accomplished author of "Hours with the Bible" and "Life of Christ." Dr. Geikie was admirably prepared by years of minute and careful study of the Scriptures, to derive the greatest possible benefit from the study of the land in which their chief scenes were laid. He possesses, moreover, in a remarkable degree, "the seeing eye"—the trained habit of observation, a keen insight, and a photographic fidelity in recording impressions which make his eyes more useful than their own to many who might look upon the same scenes. He is a master of descriptive style and gives a vivid picture without overcrowding with details. We have been struck with the pre-Raphaelite-like manner with which characteristic features are sketched—the peasants or beggars in their many-coloured garbs, the varied street scenes, the procession of mangey camels or tinkling mule trains, and the thousand things that go to make up the completeness of an oriental picture. But the chief value of the work is its countless illustrations of Scripture. The best commentary on the Book is the land in which it was written. The immemorial customs and unchanging wont of the orient flash a thousand side-lights on the sacred page that nothing else can give. We wish every preacher of the Gospel would study in person the fifth Gospel that the Holy Land itself presents. But the

next best thing is to follow in the foot-prints of so competent a guide as Dr. Geikie. He traversed the land throughout its length and breadth—from Beersheba to Dan and far beyond to Damascus and Baalbec and Beyroot. He travelled leisurely, he studied minutely, he recorded carefully. His studies are given in two noble volumes, clearly printed, well bound and with 38 pages of index. We purpose putting this book into competent hands for the more adequate treatment of some of the most striking aspects of modern Palestine.

Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew. By JOHN A. BROADUS, D.D., LL.D. 8vo, pp. ii-610. Philadelphia: American Baptist Publication Society. Price (in U.S.) \$2.25.

This is the initial volume of an extended Commentary on the New Testament, to be edited by Dr. Alvah Hovey. A volume on each of the Gospels, one on the Acts and one on the Revelation have already been published.

Dr. Broadus, the learned Principal of the Baptist Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky., has won a well-merited reputation as one of the most sound and lucid of modern commentators. In this volume he amply vindicates that reputation. The needs of the average Bible reader, of the Sunday-school teacher, of the preaching fraternity, have been kept in view in preparing this work. The expositions are eminently practical, and the homiletical department will be found exceedingly suggestive and helpful. This commentary does not profess to be undenominational. It is frankly and strongly Baptist in its discussion of all questions relating to baptism. But it is courteous, candid and fair to those adopting different expositions. "After all," says the learned author, "there are but