

CURRENT LITERATURE.

WE gladly welcome a new edition of *Dr. F. Delitzsch's Commentaries. Commentary on Genesis.* (1) Fifteen years have elapsed since the fourth edition was issued; and "the results of incessant labour subsequent to 1872 are deposited in this fifth edition." That it is a well of learning will be quite according to expectation; but though Dr. Delitzsch is perfectly acquainted with all that has been done or attempted in this field of Biblical research by Wellhausen, Kuenen, and Dillman, and appreciates their skill and their labours, he tells us that the spirit of the commentary remains unaltered since 1852. "I am not a believer in the 'Religion of the Times of Darwin.' I am a believer in two orders of things, and not merely in one, which the miraculous would drill holes in. I believe in the Easter announcement, and I accept its deductions." Further on he says, "I esteem the great fundamental facts of redemption as exalted far above the vicissitudes of scientific views and discoveries. . . . Those who, with the Church renovated at the Reformation, will confess that, *Primum toto pectore Prophetica et Apostolica scripta Veteris et Novi Testamenti ut limpidissimos purissimosque Israelis fontes recipimus et amplectimur*, will not make a boast of uttering depreciating, insolent, and contemptuous criticisms concerning the writers of the Bible. Their attitude towards Holy Scripture will be free, but not free-thinking; free, but not frivolous." And this will be especially the case with respect to Genesis—that fundamental book in the Book of books. For there is no book in the Old Testament which is of such cardinal importance as this first book of the Pentateuchal Torah, which corresponds with the first book of the *quadriforme evangelium*. Dr. Delitzsch maintains, "that the essence of Christianity has no direct relation to such questions as to whether Adam lived 930 years or not; whether the descent of one or other nation be ethnographically or linguistically verified; whether the chronological network of the antediluvian and postdiluvian history appears in presence of the Egyptian and Babylonico-Assyrian monuments to need extension; whether many narratives are but duplicates, *i.e.*, different legendary forms of one and the same occurrence. But if it were true that geology can follow back the age of the earth for myriads, nay, millions of years (Lyellism); and that man was, in the struggle for exist-