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The Expository Times Guild of Bible Study.

NEW DEPARTURE.

BEFORE stating our proposals for a new departure, let us thank the men who have contributed papers under our first scheme. We are perfectly well aware that the trifling inducement offered would of itself have been insufficient to draw out these papers, had not good-will towards the effort we were making to promote earnest Biblical study been the controlling motive. We hope that that good-will may still be on our side, but raised to higher power through increase in the numbers sharing it.

Another prefatory word of thanks is due to the many who communicated with us, at our invitation, anent the Book of Scripture to be studied. The valuable hints which have been sent regarding books and writers are already being acted upon. But as regards the special Book of the Bible for study, our correspondents will understand that, if the wishes of all were granted, we should commence at once with six in the Old Testament and ten in the New. The six Books chosen in the Old Testament are Genesis, Deuteronomy, 1 Samuel, Job, Psalms, and Isaiah, to which "the Minor Prophets" must be added. In the New, Matthew, Luke, John, Acts, Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Hebrews, 1 John, and Revelation—with a decided preference for Romans and Ephesians.

We have resolved to choose for systematic study—

GENESIS in the Old Testament (the early chapters), and
EPHESIANS in the New Testament.

We invite our readers—so many of them as discover the need and the opportunity—to study with us either of these Books or both of them. In the issue of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES for June 1891, two sets of examination papers will be published upon each of these books, four sets in all.

1. The first set of questions will take Dr. Dods' *Commentary on Genesis* as basis (Clark's *Handbooks for Bible Classes*, 2s. 6d.) up to page 27, together with such papers upon the early chapters of Genesis as appear in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES from the present issue (see Dr. Lumby's introductory paper) to the issue for May. No knowledge of Hebrew will be expected.

2. The second set of questions will take Delitzsch's *New Commentary on Genesis*, vol. i. (T. & T. Clark, 10s. 6d.) as basis, to the end of p. 204, including the Introduction, and such papers as appear in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, as stated above. An elementary knowledge of Hebrew will be counted upon.

3. The third set of questions will take Moule's *Commentary on Ephesians* (*Cambridge Bible for Colleges*, 2s. 6d.) or Agar Beet's *Ephesians* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1890, 7s. 6d.), including the Introductions and Appendices, together with such papers as appear on Ephesians in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES from the present to the issue for May. No knowledge of Greek will be expected.

4. The fourth set of questions will take as basis either Meyer's *Commentary on Ephesians*, with Introduction and Notes, or the same portion of Ellicott's *Commentary*. Some knowledge of Greek will be expected.

Any person may take Nos. 1 and 3, or 2 and 4, but not Nos. 1 and 2, or 3 and 4. The questions may be answered with the free use of these books and papers, or with the assistance of any other books at command. But it will be impossible to answer them well without careful study of the portions named.

For the best papers the Publishers will offer books of value, as formerly, those to Nos. 2 and 4 being of more value and of a higher class than those to Nos. 1 and 3.

But, in addition to these, we have proposals to make for more immediate practical work.

Books will be offered every month—

1. To Sunday School Teachers only, for the best Illustration (old or new) of any subject in each of the International Lessons for the next month.

2. To the Ministers and Members of some particular Church only, for the best Notes of a Sermon or an Address on any passage occurring in Genesis i.-xi.

3. To all and sundry, for the best exposition of some word, phrase, sentence, or passage occurring in the Epistle to the Ephesians.

Accordingly, we offer books—

1. To Sunday School Teachers only, for the best illustrations (as above) of the International Lessons for January 1891.

2. To the Clergy and Members of the Church of England only, for the best Notes of a Sermon or Address on any passage in Genesis (Chapters i.-xi.). The Notes must not occupy more than half a column of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES, this type. They should be after the nature of the "Methods of Treatment" in the *Great Text Commentary*, i.e. readable in themselves.

3. To all, for the best exposition of some word, phrase, sentence, or passage occurring in the Epistle to the Ephesians. No restriction as to length or manner of treatment will be made at present. The original Greek may be referred to or not as convenient.

The best papers will be published every month in THE EXPOSITORY TIMES; and when the writers see them there they may send to the Publishers for the book they select, out of a list which will be given. The number and value of the books will depend upon the success of this scheme of work. The writer's name and address should be given, but no names or initials will be published except of those whose papers are printed, and who do not express a desire to the contrary. The papers intended for January must be received by the Editor, Kinneff, Bervie, N.B., by the 5th day of December, and so on for every succeeding month.