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The British Institute for the Study of Hebrew and Greek.

ON the lines of President Harper's Institute in America, and at Dr. Harper's suggestion, Correspondence Classes have been established in this country for the study of the original languages of the Old and New Testaments. The movement is at present under the guidance of Dr. Maclaren of Manchester, and Professor J. T. Marshall, M.A., with whom other scholars and professors are associated.

The need for such classes may not be so great in this country as in America, but it is great enough and deeply enough felt, by men who have entered the ministry as well as others, to give such classes a wide and sincere welcome. We have been asked to co-operate, and have willingly accepted the invitation. It may be found possible in future to bring the Guild and these classes more closely together. Meantime their purposes are distinct. The Guild seeks to encourage the study of Scripture, whether in the original or in the English translation, as members find it convenient—these classes aim to promote a knowledge of the original itself. One step in the direction of co-operation may, however, be taken at once. We shall not promise an examination in June of the portions chosen for the Guild, but shall consider if these examinations may take its place.

The Correspondence Classes will be conducted in the following way:—

The student must first decide which course of study in Hebrew or in Greek, or in both, he intends to begin with. Four courses have been arranged for in Hebrew, and two in Greek. The first course in Hebrew comprises the study of

Grammar and of Genesis i.—iii. The second includes the critical study of Genesis iv.—viii., and selected passages of 1 Samuel, Ruth, and Jonah. The third covers Exodus i.—xxiv., and includes questions in archæology and exegesis. The fourth aims at the thorough mastery of the prophets Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi.

The books required for all the courses are Harper's *Introductory Hebrew Method and Manual* (D. Nutt, 6s.), and Harper's *Elements of Hebrew* (D. Nutt, 7s. 6d.).

In Greek, the first course comprises a knowledge of the Grammar and the study of John i.—iv. The text-book is Harper and Weidner's *Introductory New Testament Greek Method* (D. Nutt, 7s. 6d.). The second course includes the critical study of John v.—xxi., and the First Epistle of John.

Having chosen his course, the student will send his name and fee (21s. for each of Courses I. and II., and 25s. for each of the others) to Professor J. T. Marshall, M.A., Fallowfield, Manchester. His name will be enrolled, and he will receive the first sheet of printed questions, which will be his best guide to the nature of the study required. When he is in a position to answer these questions, he will send them to Professor Marshall. They will be corrected and explained by their proper examiner, and returned as speedily as possible, accompanied by another sheet of questions. There are forty such question sheets in each course.

Those are the main points, and will suffice for the present. With hearty recommendation, we refer our biblical students to Professor Marshall for his prospectus and advice.

Recent Literature in Biblical Archæology.

THE expression "Biblical Archæology" is, at present, employed in two senses. In its narrower and perhaps more scientific sense, it means a description of the life of the ancient people of Israel, as it is recorded in the Bible. It is in this sense that Keil uses the term in his *MANUAL OF BIBLICAL ARCHÆOLOGY* (T. & T. Clark. 8vo. 2 vols. 1887-88. 21s.). But Keil finds it necessary to describe the land of the people of

Israel as well as their life, and even to pass beyond them to other lands and other peoples, wherever they touched upon the nation of Israel. Accordingly the expression "Biblical Archæology" is used in a wide, somewhat indefinite, but quite intelligible sense, to include all literature that describes the people of Israel or their country, or any of the nations or countries with whom the Israelites came in contact, or from whom their life may receive illustration.

Books in Biblical Archæology, using the expression in this latter sense, have recently come in upon us like a flood. For travel and discovery and the criticism of the Old Testament have met together, though it cannot be said that they have kissed each other, and it has become a somewhat urgent necessity to make a discrimination among the literature which their most interesting meeting has called forth.

Two of the more recent books seek to cover the whole field. One of them has been briefly noticed already (RECENT EXPLORATIONS IN BIBLE LANDS. By the Rev. Thomas Nicol, B.D. Edinburgh: *Young*. Crown 8vo, pp. 76. 1892. 1s.). A better book for holding up one's first steps in Biblical Archæology could not be desired. It is as clear in its style as it is trustworthy in its statement; and it covers its ground within a hundred pages without haste or confusion. The other volume (BURIED CITIES AND BIBLE COUNTRIES. By George St. Clair, F.G.S. *Kegan Paul*. Crown 8vo, pp. 378. 1891. 5s.) has a narrower sweep, but it enters into much greater detail. Though less terse in expression, it is not less trustworthy in statement. There are more traces of personal enthusiasm in the subject, for Mr. Nicol found no space for the personal element. Then Mr. St. Clair's volume contains some exceedingly useful illustrations and several good maps; and it is itself something of a guide to the literature of the subject, since each chapter ends with a brief list of "Authorities and Sources."

Two other volumes should be mentioned in this place. The first is one of the earliest of the "By-paths of Bible Knowledge" series (FRESH LIGHT FROM THE ANCIENT MONUMENTS. By A. H. Sayce, LL.D. *Religious Tract Society*. Crown 8vo, pp. 160. Seventh edition. 1892. 3s.). Though getting old (for a year or two makes a book old in this striding subject) it is a true book, and can never be out of date. The second is the very latest in the same series, and it is written by the same author (THE RACES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT. Pp. 180. 1891. 3s.). The subject is new; much of the book is pioneer work; but it is the work of a strong arm, and it is enriched with fine reproductions of Mr. Flinders Petrie's excellent photographs.

EGYPT.

We have had our beginner's book for the whole subject: for Egypt, in particular, it is Budge's DWELLERS ON THE NILE (*R. T. S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 206. Third edition. 1891. 3s.). It is another of the "By-paths." We were glad to see it recommended the other day in this very aspect by an evidently high authority in the *Athenæum*. But it is a student's book.

The *reader's* book is the volume on Ancient Egypt in the "Story of the Nations" series (ANCIENT EGYPT. By George Rawlinson, M.A. *Fisher Unwin*. Crown 8vo, pp. xxi, 408. 1890. 5s.). Professor Rawlinson's book is written to be read. And with comfort it may indeed be read, for this is Professor Rawlinson's great gift. And perhaps the ordinary beginner will know as much at the end of it as when he has studied Mr. Wallis Budge. They are both well and pleasantly illustrated.

But the history of Egypt is not found in either of those pleasant books. It is found in Brugsch's EGYPT UNDER THE PHARAOHS (*John Murray*. 8vo, pp. xxviii, 469. New edition. 1891. 18s.). Old Brugsch in its two bulky volumes was our most thoroughgoing history of Egypt, and new Brugsch in one volume is better than the old. Where some of the old book has gone we know, for there were surmises and speculations which more digging has proved mistaken. But we cannot account for it all in that way, and we owe a debt of gratitude for the self-restraint that has pruned away the garrulity and left the history. It is an altogether delightful volume, well written, well printed, well bound. And again we say, it is *the* history of Egypt.

Yet a still more beautiful volume is that which follows. It is the new edition of Professor Piazza Smyth's OUR INHERITANCE IN THE GREAT PYRAMID (*Charles Burnet & Co.* 8vo, pp. xx, 452. 1890. 16s.). Into its special subject it is needless now to enter. The book has reached its fifth edition, and the point of it ought to be known to all who will find an interest in it. But this new edition is worthy of the most special commendation. Its twenty-five delicate plates, its 450 pages of clear printing, and its artistic and striking cover, will certainly commend it to all book-lovers; while its subject is here presented in the most accessible form in which we have yet received it.

Many travellers have ascended the Nile as well as Canon Bell (*A WINTER ON THE NILE*. *Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv, 336. Second edition. 1889. 6s.), and they have seen the things he saw, and their wisdom will die with them. But Canon Bell has remembered those who stay at home, and has generously divided the spoil. Much goodly spoil he has divided with them. But he has also made them feel that the joy of the battle is better than all the spoil that is gathered, and it cannot be carried home or shared with another.

The two remaining little books have been already mentioned in these pages. They are Tomkins' *LIFE AND TIMES OF JOSEPH*, and Flinders Petrie's *TEN YEARS' DIGGING IN EGYPT*. Both are published by the Religious Tract Society. Both are well illustrated. Both deal with Egypt; and both tell their story with a lover's enthusiasm.

And now, being on the way towards Palestine, this is the fitting place for Sir J. William Dawson's *EGYPT AND SYRIA* (*R. T. S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 211. Third edition. 1892. 3s.). It is a geologist's book. In the winter of 1883-84, Sir William Dawson travelled in Egypt and Palestine to examine the less known features of the geology. He had the equally clear intention of using his discoveries to illustrate and confirm the Old and New Testament Scriptures. And this little book is the pleasant result.

Here also may come *THE HITTITES*, by Professor Sayce (*R. T. S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 150. Second edition. 1890. 2s. 6d.). Though one of the latest written, and admirably written, it is perhaps the least abiding of all the series to which it belongs. For in this subject no one knows at present what a day may bring forth. One thing only is certain, that we are in the midst of discovery and speculation.

And here also shall come one of the most beautiful books in the present survey. It is a quarto of only 68 pages, and it costs a guinea. Moreover it is not worth a penny to the great majority of those even who find an interest in Biblical Archæology. Its title is *BIBLICAL FRAGMENTS FROM MOUNT SINAI*; its author, Professor J. Rendel Harris; and it is issued from the Cambridge University Press. Page after page it has nothing but fragments of almost untranslatable Greek. But they are precious fragments, wrought out with long-suffering ability from the MSS. of St.

Catherine's Convent, and now generously edited and generously printed for the few who will buy and cherish them. Yet there are compensations both to Professor Harris and to the Syndics of the University Press in the issue of such a volume as this, for they who do buy will most assuredly cherish.

PALESTINE.

In the "Handbooks for Bible Classes" there is a little book on *PALESTINE*, by Dr. Archibald Henderson (*T. & T. Clark*. Crown 8vo, pp. x, 221. 1885. 2s. 6d.). It is the only introduction to the whole subject yet published. The full title is "Palestine: its Historical Geography, with topographical Index and Maps," and that title sufficiently describes the method and aim of the work. In all these matters Dr. Henderson finds his element, and he cannot but write well and learnedly.

Portions of the land are covered in three little books. First, we have *RECENT DISCOVERIES ON THE TEMPLE HILL AT JERUSALEM*, by the Rev. J. King, M.A. (*R. T. S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 192. Fourth edition. 1891. 2s. 6d.). It tells in most interesting detail the fascinating story of the Temple Hill excavations. Then there is Mr. Callan's little volume in the "Primer" series, *THE STORY OF JERUSALEM* (*T. & T. Clark*. 12mo, pp. 96. 1891. 6d.), a marvellously complete history of that long-honoured and much-suffering city. And, lastly, Dr. Selah Merrill's *GALILEE IN THE TIME OF CHRIST*, another of the "By-paths" series (*R. T. S.* Crown 8vo, pp. 144. Third edition. 1891. 2s. 6d.), less entrancing, perhaps, but more reverent than the chapter in Hausrath; a useful and convenient handbook to the study of the Synoptic Gospels.

Of the "Travellers' Tales," four are selected. The most piquant and original is the *CRADLE OF CHRISTIANITY*, by the Rev. D. M. Ross, M.A. (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xv, 256. 1891. 5s.), which has already had its word of welcome here. More conventional is Canon Bell's *GLEANINGS FROM A TOUR IN PALESTINE AND THE EAST* (*Hodder & Stoughton*. Crown 8vo, pp. xii, 362. Second edition. 1889. 6s.). It is quite an old-fashioned book, with its unpretending woodcuts and scraps of well-known hymns; but it is up to date nevertheless.

IN CHRIST'S COUNTRY, by Samuel Home, LL.B. (London: *C. J. Clark*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 107. 1891. 2s. 6d.), is an exceedingly entertaining little volume. Mr. Home visited part only of "Christ's Country," and that part which, but for St. John's Gospel, we should have difficulty in calling Christ's. But wherever he went up and down Judæa he found delight and entertainment (the latter chiefly among the company he travelled with), and he freely gives us of what he so freely received. His chapters on Golgotha and the Sepulchre should be noted as contributions to the rapidly-growing literature of their subjects.

But if any book besides Bædeker is to be carried in our pocket when we go, let it be NOTES OF A PILGRIMAGE TO JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY LAND, by F. R. Oliphant, B.A. (*Blackwood*. Fcap. 8vo, pp. 161. 1891. 3s. 6d.). It is written for this very purpose, and it contains innumerable most practical details which Bædeker knows nothing of, and which, nevertheless, every traveller ought to know.

Four gift-books remain. They may be mentioned in the order of price; there is little else to distinguish them.

PALESTINE, HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE, by the Rev. W. L. Gage (*Warne*. 8vo, pp. 557. 7s. 6d.), is an American book, by a well-known Palestinian writer. It is printed upon heavy American paper, and it is illustrated with the dash and the effectiveness which American artists have found us so ready to appreciate.

THOSE HOLY FIELDS, by the Rev. Samuel Manning, LL.D. (*R. T. S. Imperial* 8vo, pp. 224. New edition. 1892. 8s.), differs but little in price or in character from the last. Its larger page gives it a more imposing appearance. It is thinner, however. Either volume should serve its purpose exceedingly well.

But a finer volume in all respects is Mr. Wilson's IN SCRIPTURE LANDS, also published by the Religious Tract Society (Crown 4to, pp. xvi, 384. 1891. 15s.). Author, artist, printer, and binder have all done their utmost upon it, as though they had destined it for the publishers' stand in some great exhibition.

Finally, the costliest, and yet it is marvellously cheap, is the imposing volume, entitled THE HOLY LAND AND THE BIBLE, written by Dr. Cunningham Geikie, illustrated by Mr. H. A. Harper, and published by *Messrs. Cassell* (4to, pp. xii, 948. 1891.

21s.). Thicker than the well-known illustrated edition of Farrar's *Life of Christ*, it is also more delicately illustrated, and everything has been done that publishing enterprise can devise to make it a choice and acceptable gift-book.

BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA.

The first volume to be noticed here has quite recently been issued. It is known by the title of LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT AND ASSYRIA, by G. Maspéro (*Chapman & Hall*. Crown 8vo. pp. xv, 376. 1892. 5s.). It is not a history either of Egypt or Assyria. For that we must still go to the author's *Ancient History of the Nations of the East*. It is a representation of the *life* of the ancient Egyptians and Assyrians at a particular period of their history. And the two are placed side by side, that their likeness and unlikeness may be seen at a glance and for ever remembered. The period chosen is that of Rameses II. in Egypt (14th century B.C.), and for Assyria that of Assurbanipal (7th century B.C.). Maspéro, one of the most distinguished French orientalisists of to-day, writes with a Frenchman's grace and lucidity, and the book is on the whole faithfully translated. It is also enriched with nearly two hundred woodcuts, which are not reproductions for the thousandth time of the things we know, but for the most part new. And we may reckon upon it that they are faithful and true, for on this the author has staked his great reputation. "These drawings," he says, "by M. Faucher-Gudin will teach you more than any long description. They have been executed with remarkable fidelity. It is the Egyptian and the Assyrian himself that they show us, and not those caricatures of Egyptians and Assyrians which are too often seen in our books."

Budge's BABYLONIAN LIFE AND HISTORY (*R. T. S.* Fcap. 8vo, pp. 160. Third edition. 1891. 3s.), and Sayce's ASSYRIA: ITS PRINCES, PRIESTS, AND PEOPLE (*R. T. S.* Fcap. 8vo, pp. 166. 3s.) are two further volumes of the well-known "By-paths of the Bible." They are not histories in the full sense any more than Professor Maspéro's book, but they are more nearly so. The life they depict is not taken from a single epoch; its development is traced throughout the history. As in all this series, the illustrations, though not numerous, are good, being for the most part careful reproductions of carefully taken photographs.

In the series of books entitled the "Story of the Nations," which is as ably conducted as it was most happily conceived, there are three volumes whose place is in the very front rank. They are written by one author—Zénaïde A. Ragozin—and they all belong to this part of our present survey. The first, under the title of *CHALDÆA* (*Fisher Unwin*. Crown 8vo, pp. 381. Third edition. 1891. 5s.), carries the history with which it deals from the earliest historical times down to the rise of the empire of Assyria. The second is named *ASSYRIA* (pp. 450. Third edition. 1891. 5s.). It contains the history of the Assyrian Empire from its rise to the fall of Nineveh. The third, known by the single name of *MEDIA* (pp. 447. Second edition. 1891), covers the period that remains from the fall of Nineveh down to the Persian War. The illustrations to these three volumes are numerous, they are judiciously chosen, and they are most creditably executed. But it is their letterpress that gives them their probably unique position. While the popular and untechnical character of the series is never forgotten, the scholarship is as exact and recent as if they were the severest scientific textbooks. They record a complete chapter of history, every page of which has the most direct and helpful relation to the Old Testament Scriptures. The hungry preacher who comes for an immediate morsel of fact or illustration will never be disappointed. The patient reader will find the most fruitful and abiding reward.

Then, finally here, a most faithful volume is Professor Sayce's Hibbert Lectures for 1887, on

THE RELIGION OF THE ANCIENT BABYLONIANS (*Williams & Norgate*. 8vo, pp. 558. Third edition. 1891). Whether as a contribution to our present subject, or to the growing study of Comparative Religion, for it is a contribution to both, it is capable and thorough, altogether worthy of Professor Sayce's great reputation. And the immediate Scripture references are, as one should expect from this author, numerous and telling.

PHŒNICIA.

"It shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment." One has to read the history of Phœnicia to know the point of that illustration, and the great need for toleration in that day. Two recent histories have been written, both by Professor Rawlinson. The one is popular and introductory. It belongs to the series which has just been named (*PHŒNICIA*. *Fisher Unwin*. Crown 8vo, pp. xviii, 356. 1889. 5s.). It is written with great ease and comfort. Here and there it even trembles on the brink of slovenliness. Like all the rest it is well and judiciously illustrated.

The larger work is serious and systematic, a capable history, and it is even profusely and most excellently illustrated (*THE HISTORY OF PHŒNICIA*. *Longmans*. 8vo, pp. xxii, 583. 1889. 24s.). Our interest in Phœnicia need not wait till the day of judgment. We search the Scriptures, for in them we, too, think we have eternal life, and Tyre and Sidon have a closer bearing on our search than hitherto we have acknowledged.

The Great Text Commentary.

THE GREAT TEXTS OF ST. MATTHEW.

MATT. xii. 36.

"And I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement" (R.V.).

EXPOSITION.

The Pharisees had said that He cast out devils by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. That

utterance, He tells them, reveals the venomous malignity of their hearts (vers. 33-35). But they might say: "It was nothing; we meant no evil; we merely threw out a supposition, as one way of accounting for the miracle we witnessed; if it will not stand, let it go; why make so much of it, and bear down with such severity for it?" Jesus replies: "It was not nothing, and at the great day will not be treated as nothing. Words, as the index of the heart, however idle they may seem, will be taken account of, whether good or bad, in esti-