

THE EXPOSITORY TIMES.

Notes of Recent Exposition.

No Programme is ever quite satisfactory. Some of the promises made may never see their accomplishment. On the other hand, it is true of every magazine, but the very name and purpose of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES make it true in an especial degree of this magazine, that many of the contributions are born of some occasion which arises, and cannot be promised before the occasion comes. For the most part, therefore, we shall endeavour to do our work without preliminary announcement. But it is reasonable that, before entering upon a new and greatly enlarged series, something should be said about the prospect that lies before us.

But, first of all, we must emphasise the statement that our aim is to be in constant touch with current literature and life. Some contributors, accordingly, recognising this, make no distinct promise beforehand, but hold themselves ready to be called upon as the necessity or the opportunity appears. Others undertake themselves to watch the occasion, and to send such articles and notes as may seem appropriate. Dr. Alexander Whyte, of Free St. George's, Edinburgh, will send an article before the end of the year; and Professor Margoliouth of Oxford will be a contributor to the issue for October. Canon Driver will also "contribute from time to time a note or short article." And amongst others who may be looked for sooner or later to render aid, not yet defined, are Principal Cave, Professor Vincent Stanton, Dr. W. Garden Blaikie, Dr. Herber Evans, Dr. Marshall Lang, Dr. W. P. Dickson, Professor

Adams, Professor Stewart, Dr. Clifford, Principal Edwards of Pontypool, Principal Gethin Davies, Professor Orr, Professor Laidlaw, Archdeacon Farrar, Principal Fairbairn, Dr. Hugh Macmillan, Canon Cheyne, Professor Sanday, and Dr. A. B. Davidson. We need not at present stay to enumerate the separate articles promised, or already in hand. Many of them are of exceptional interest, but they will appear in their order.

Professor Henry Jones, M.A., of University College, North Wales, has recently issued, through Messrs. Maclehose, a study of Robert Browning as a philosophical and religious teacher, which has been received with exceptional favour. Those who have read the book (those who have not may form some dim idea of its charm from the sentences we quote elsewhere) will be pleased to hear that Professor Jones will contribute a series of papers on Browning to THE EXPOSITORY TIMES. The first paper may be looked for in the issue for October. Thereafter every issue will contain some literary article. Miss Mary A. Woods, of Clifton College, will write on John Milton, of whom she has made a special study. And, later, we hope that the Rev. John Smith, M.A., Edinburgh, will say something of the value of the earlier English poets to the student and expositor of the Word.

Under the title of "My Most Useful Books" some scholars will contribute papers which will not only be good to read, but of immediate practical value, especially to younger men. Prin-

cial Harding has written the first of these papers, and it will appear very soon. The short articles on the "Literature of the Books of the Bible" will be continued. Principal Harding may be expected to send some of them, while others will be done by Professor Salmond, Dr. Agar Beet, Professor Banks, and other scholars.

Besides the contributions already referred to, the October issue will be enriched by an article on the University of Leipzig, by Professor Caspar René Gregory. This will be the first of a series of articles on the "Study of Theology at various Universities and Colleges at Home and Abroad." Leipzig has many great names, some of them, such as Delitzsch, familiar in our mouths as household words, whose work and influence will be touched upon, and Professor Gregory, the first foreigner, we believe, ever appointed in a German University to the chair of a *Professor Ordinarius*, has exceptional opportunities for the writing of an accurate narrative. The next article in the series will probably be on the Baptist Colleges, by a distinguished Baptist Professor of Theology.

Church History and Christian Ethics claim attention, but we shall not make any definite announcement yet.

In regard to Biblical Archæology, on the other hand, definite arrangements have been made of great importance. We have already spoken of Professor Sayce. Professor Whitehouse also, the translator of Schrader, who keeps himself abreast of the work that is being done over the whole field, will send us notes and criticisms frequently. Professor Ramsay and Professor Kennedy are engaged at present in the formation of a very valuable archæological library at Aberdeen, in connection with the Wilson Archæological Museum, and readers of THE EXPOSITORY TIMES may expect to share the stores of knowledge there at command.

But an engagement of far greater magnitude than any of these has been entered into with Mr. Theo. G. Pinches, of the British Museum. When the second edition of Dr. Schrader's *Cuneiform*

Inscriptions and the Old Testament was issued, students of the monuments were amazed and delighted at the great increase in its size over the first edition. And it has been a mine of wealth ever since to every preacher and student of Scripture who has been fortunate enough to possess it. But it is nearly ten years since that second edition was published. Few have any conception of what that means in such a science; the fresh gains being simply enormous. Moreover, although Schrader's method of taking up the Old Testament verse by verse from the beginning, and introducing all that bore upon its explanation or illustration, was the right one, he was not always successful, either in his translations or in his arrangement. Mr. Pinches has undertaken to go over the whole field again. He will incorporate the new material with Schrader's work; he will arrange it all more clearly; and in a much more readable form, he will contribute it in a series of papers to THE EXPOSITORY TIMES.

All this is certainly exposition. But it is time we had said something of what our prospects are in respect of the direct exegesis and exposition of the Word. Many of the most distinguished expositors have done us the honour to promise notes and articles, of which the subjects are not yet given, among whom we may name the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, the Rev. Walter Lock, Fellow of Keble College, and the Rev. G. H. Gwilliam, Fellow of Hertford College; Professors Marshall and Gould; Principal Douglas and Principal Simon; Dr. Plummer, Dr. Rawson Lumby, Prebendary Whitefoord, and Professor Young. Several of the books, both of the Old Testament and of the New, will receive special attention. The Lord Bishop of Worcester will write on Genesis. Prebendary Bassett, Professor Thomson, Manchester, and Mr. H. Deane, B.D., Oxford, will write on Isaiah. Mr. F. H. Woods will contribute an important study of the Sermon on the Mount. The Dean of Gloucester will send notes on St. Luke. Principal Reynolds will contribute notes upon the Acts and upon the Romans, and Principal M'Clellan will also write upon that Epistle. Finally, the Epistle to the Hebrews will receive the attention of Principal T. C. Edwards,

and others. Many separate papers of equal interest are definitely promised; among them an introductory study of St. John, by Professor Banks; four papers, by Dr. Agar Beet, on certain difficult passages in St. Paul; the Biblical Notion of Divine Covenants, by Professor Candlish, who will write later on the meaning of Life and Death in the Bible; and we must not forget Principal David Brown, who, himself one of the Revisers, will send a short series in his forcible style, under the title of "Some Gains in the Revised Version of the New Testament, and some the Reverse."

Manifestly this is no programme that can be exhausted in a few months. Our readers will accordingly draw the conclusion that we look forward with confidence to the result of the step that is now to be taken. But we wish always to bear it in mind that if we are to be successful we must deserve it. Therefore those lighter features, for which THE EXPOSITORY TIMES has been often most favourably spoken of, will henceforth take and hold their place.

1. The Notes of Recent Exposition will be the opening feature still, and will be enlarged.

2. The Great Text Commentary will appear every month, and a portion of the Index to Modern Sermons will be given in every issue.

3. The Guild will have an important place. Full particulars of the working of it will be given in next issue. But meantime we shall be glad to receive the names of those who wish to be enrolled. A large number have already been received, including many of the most eminent scholars in all the Churches. We are particularly desirous that laymen and also that ladies should enrol themselves, and shall reckon it a very great favour should our readers bring the special purpose of the Guild, as stated in last issue, under the notice of their friends. Already we have received the names of a considerable number of laymen and of several ladies. We hope shortly to publish the first list of members.

4. The Exposition of the International Lessons, which was omitted with the greatest reluctance (an omission of which there have been many complaints, one recent complainant, the principal of a large school, saying that "they were so short, forceful, fresh, and suggestive"), will reappear.

5. "Point and Illustration" has already returned, not again to be forgotten, we hope.

6. "Requests and Replies," through which so much quiet but effective work has already been done by eminent scholars, will be continued as a regular and important feature of the magazine.

7. Lastly, besides the special literary articles already spoken of, the literary parts of the magazine will be developed. The Surveys of Special Departments will be continued. Fresh notes of forthcoming books will be given. And, especially, an effort will be made every month to announce and briefly to indicate the character of at least all the important books likely to interest our readers, fuller reviews by specialists in many cases coming after.

In a few weeks we shall be in the heart of the publishing season, 1891-92. Already several books have reached us, and if we may judge the summer by its earliest swallows, this season is to be a distinct advance upon the last. Here they are: *The Apostolic Fathers*, by the late Bishop Lightfoot, the student's edition, completed and edited by the Rev. J. R. Harmer, M.A.; *The Origin of the Psalter*, by Canon Cheyne, being the Bampton Lectures for 1889; the first two volumes of an English translation of Professor Graetz's *History of the Jews*; also *Studia Biblica et Ecclesiastica*, volume iii.; *Sermons on the Old Testament*, by the late Canon Liddon; and a volume of *Sermons on Special Occasions*, by the late Bishop Lightfoot. Add to these Professor Jones' *Browning as a Philosophical and Religious Teacher*; a monograph on *S. Martin of Tours*, by H. H. Scullard, M.A., being the Hulsean Prize Essay for 1890; and an *Introduction to Cudworth's Treatise*, by W. R. Scott.

It is enough to mention the mere names of those books (and, to our regret, we can do no more this month), to show what the season is likely to bring forth. But those are not all we yet know of. There is at least one other which we count upon having to deal with next month along with those. Dr. Driver's *Introduction to the Literature of the Old Testament* is announced to appear in September.

In last month's issue the Rev. Charles Connor argued for the payment of the willing labourers in the vineyard according to their length of service. Those who entered at the eleventh hour received a penny, a day's wages for an hour's work, because they trusted the master and left it to his generosity. But all the others, except the first hired, who bargained and blundered, were of an equally trustful disposition, and worked much longer than an hour; and Mr. Connor gave several reasons for believing that they received more than a penny, in fact that they were paid at the rate of a penny an hour, according to the length of their service. Mr. W. T. Lynn, B.A., now writes to say that Mr. Connor's argument, "ingenious as it is," has failed to convince him. He thinks that if the third hour labourers had received so large a sum as this would imply, the bargaining labourers who got only their penny would have grumbled against them rather than against the eleventh hour labourers. That is to say, they would have been more struck with the disproportion in the sums than in the service. Mr. Lynn, to whom we have been indebted for scholarly notes more than once, says very properly that we are not entitled to draw anything out of a parable beyond the one especial lesson it is intended to illustrate. In the case of the labourers in the vineyard that lesson is, that it is the trustfulness not the amount of the service we render which God appreciates. The question of varying reward for trustful service, according to the length of it, does not come in. But it may be true for all that—this parable says nothing against it and other Scripture may assert it—that the longer service does receive the greater reward. "Many," not all, "that are first shall be last."

But now, does not Mr. Lynn himself find something in the parable beyond its one especial lesson when he says: "Why He sees fit to call some earlier, others later in life, is a matter beyond our cognisance, and of which He gives no account to us"? The earthly master did so, because it is to be supposed his vineyard was limited, and he needed only a certain number of men to work it. He therefore hired in the beginning of the day as

many as he really required, expecting that other masters would come round and hire the rest who were there. Then, out of great pity, he went out and hired others, and yet others, when he found that no other man had hired them. But is this the way with the divine Master? Is He limited to a selection because the work is too narrow for more? Has He not work enough for us all? Are not the labourers who are willing to be hired really too few for the great plenteousness of the harvest? If not, surely even the eleventh hour labourers are greatly to be pitied.

But in any case, whether they persisted in refusing the invitation or never received it, are they not greatly to be pitied? Standing all the day idle! "Doubtless," says Mr. Lynn, "many a service has been rendered before this special call has been given, many a cup of cold water has been given while outside the vineyard, which we are assured shall in no wise lose its reward." But even if they had the heart to render some such occasional hand's turn of work while waiting in the market-place, if they did not know to whom they rendered it, are they not greatly to be pitied? We think of their surprise and pleasure when the generous reward for their one hour's work was placed in their hand. Perhaps we think of the joy of the one hour's work itself. But what of the long day's waiting in the market-place, while others pass in to work and wages, having the wish to go perhaps without the will, or even the will to go without the call? Surely in either case they are greatly to be pitied.

Idlers all day about the market-place

They name us, and our dumb lips answer not,
Bearing the bitter while our sloth's disgrace,
And our dark tasking whereof none may wot.

Oh, the fair slopes where the grape-gatherers go!—
Not they the day's fierce heat and burden bear,
But we who on the market-stones drop slow
Our barren tears, while all the bright hours wear.

Lord of the Vineyard, whose dear word declares
Our one hour's labour as the day's shall be;
What coin divine can make our wage as theirs
Who had the morning joy of work for Thee?