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man in our country has done more for a faithful rendering into English of God's word than Dr. Conant.

CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN THEOLOGY. VOL. II*

The first volume of this "Annual Theological Review" appeared a year ago. This, the second volume, is, in many respects superior to its predecessor. The aim of the Professors of the Chicago Theological Seminary is "to furnish an annual digest of theological thought and investigation." They do not pretend to furnish exhaustive discussions of the subjects taken up; but rather to present for the information of general readers a statement of the questions at issue. Certainly there can be found nowhere a more commendable enterprise than that which has resulted in the issue of the "Annual Theological Review."

We are specially interested in that portion of the book written by Prof. S. Ives Curtiss. In Vol. I. the state of Old Testament studies in exegesis and introduction was considered. In this volume the field of Old Testament history is covered; while in Vol. III. the department of Old Testament Theology will be treated.

Old Testament History, says the writer, is not simply the vestibule to Church History. Nor on the other hand is it right to place in a separate department Old and New Testament history. So difficult are the questions which come up in both that they cannot well be combined. "None but Old Testament scholars are, in Germany, now considered competent to treat of Israel's history."

The department of the Old Testament is treated in five chapters: (1) Modern Treatment of Israel's History; (2) Place and time; (3) The Origin of the Nation; (4) The Training of the Nation; (5) Israel's Conquest of Canaan. The first chapter, being fundamental, is the most interesting of the five. Here, first, we are given a list of so-called *Critical Presuppositions*. Ultra-critics do their work on the presupposition (1) that "Israel's history in its origin is subject to the same laws as those of other nations of antiquity;" (2) that the events described in the early chapters of Genesis correspond and are similar in character to the stories of gods and heroes found in the early records of other nations; (3) that Israel's laws and institutions, like those of other nations, must have developed gradually; (4) that Oriental records must be interpreted according to the peculiarities of Oriental people.

A clear statement is made of the method adopted by these ultra-critics in the handling of the sources of information, the result of the employment of this method being to deny that Moses is the author of any part of the Pentateuch, to regard the Biblical order of the events as entirely wrong, and to endeavor to reconstruct everything on the basis of the critical discoveries *claimed* to have been made.

The character of Ewald, Wellhausen, Stade, Kuenen as historians is next discussed, and a brief presentation made of their several views. The chapter closes with Prof. Curtiss' *Criticisms on the Critical Method*, in which he asserts (1) that the mythical nature of the early Hebrew records is not to be inferred, after the analogy of the early records of other nations, because in them God is represented as an immediate factor; (2) that the Mosaic system did not grow up gradually, the claim that it did so grow up resting, he says, "upon two unproved assumptions:

* CURRENT DISCUSSIONS IN THEOLOGY. By the Professors of Chicago Theological Seminary. Vol. II. Chicago: F. H. Revell. Pp. 324. Price \$1.50.

(a) that the nation was without a supernatural beginning; (b) that it slowly emerged from barbarism;" (3) that in depending upon the internal evidence, these critics neglect external evidence; (4) that these critical theories "minimize epoch-making men"—there could be no Mosaism without a Moses; (5) that the time has by no means come, when the history of Israel may be reconstructed.

All will be interested in noting the strictly orthodox views with which Prof. Curtiss closes his work: "There are three things which we venture to maintain in closing: (1) that internal criticism cannot be decisive as to the beginning and course of Israel's history; (2) that further investigations and studies concerning the ancient people of civilization, such as the Egyptians, Assyrians, Phœnicians and Hittites, as well as respecting the Holy Land, will shed great light on Israel's history; (3) that the traditional construction of history, as interpreted by the present state of these studies, is far more probable, than that of some of the modern critics which ignores the Pentateuch and the Book of Joshua for the time which they claim to represent."

In this notice it has been the intention to give a general idea of the book, and not to criticize it. It would be a really difficult matter to find fault either with the idea of the book or its execution. In the small amount of space at their disposal the authors have condensed a large amount of most important information. One cannot think that there is a minister or an intelligent layman of any denomination, who ought not to read this most valuable and most timely book.

AMONG THE HOLY HILLS.*

This book traverses ground that has been repeatedly gone over by many able men, for it is an account of a journey from Jerusalem to Beirut by way of Samaria, Galilee, Damascus and Lebanon. The volume is not a learned treatise discussing questions of disputed sites and details of Scriptural geography. But, as Dr. Field says in the preface, he has tried to bring home a handful of wild flowers of Palestine, and he has certainly succeeded in giving his readers a most delightful bouquet.

He is decidedly a model traveler, observing closely the country, the people and their customs, while he readily uses the interesting features to photograph the whole scene most vividly and picturesquely before the reader's mind.

The account of the celebration of the Holy Week at Jerusalem, the chapter on the Samaritans at Nablous, and the description of the valley of Coele-Syria are excellent. One lays the book aside with regret, only wishing the journey might have lasted longer.

SACRED STREAMS.†

The design of this book is to provide Sunday reading for young people. The plan of the book is a good one, and its purpose and spirit admirable. Its value is very much weakened, however, by the way in which the author treats the Scripture narrative. In the description of the Garden of Eden his imagination has run wild, and he paints an impossible scene in such a vivid way as would

* **AMONG THE HOLY HILLS.** By Henry M. Field, D.D. Pp. 243. 5½x8¾. New York: C. Scribner's Sons. 1884. \$1.50.

† **SACRED STREAMS.** The ancient and modern history of the rivers of the Bible. By P. H. Gosse. Pp. 435. 5¼x7½. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1883.