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I. THE LATEST INFIDELITY.

A REPLY TO INGERSOLL'S POSITIONS.

THE phase of infidelity most current among those who do not profess to accept the gospel is marked by two qualities: It is aggressive, and it is extreme. It refuses to stop short of that last result, blank atheism, or, at least, blank agnosticism, from which even the skepticism of previous ages recoiled with abhorrence. This ultraism of the present adversaries is in one aspect very shocking; but in another it is promising. They are practically teaching the world that conclusion, on which James Mills justified his atheism, that when once a man's sense rejects the gospel theory, he finds no stopping place between that rejection and atheism; because, as Bishop Butler has forever established, every difficulty which besets the old gospel plan equally embarrasses the deistic plan. This disclosure is useful. Our atheists are teaching people that there is no decent middle ground for them to stand on; but the voice of nature and conscience never permits decent people to stand long on the ground of atheism. This outrages both head and heart too horribly. Were a son to insist, contrary to sufficient evidence of the fact, upon denying and discarding the very existence of his father, we see plainly enough how his position involves every phase of filial transgression, because it involves the absolute neglect of every filial duty. The position may involve, in the form of a sin of omission, the crime of parricide. The atheist discards the very existence of his heavenly Father; so, unless he has justified his denial by sound evidence, he includes in that

DAWSON'S MODERN SCIENCE IN BIBLE LANDS.

MODERN SCIENCE IN BIBLE LANDS. *By Sir J. W. Dawson, LL. D., F. R. S., F. G. S., Principal of McGill University, Montreal, and Author of "The Story of the Earth and Man," "Origin of the World," etc.* Pp. 606. New York: Harper & Brothers, Franklin Square. 1889.

This interesting and useful book is the outcome of a tour made through Italy, Egypt and Syria, by the learned and devout author, in 1883-'84. It is not, however, merely "notes of travel" from the pen of an expert geologist; it is rather a series of careful and compact discussions of such geological and archaeological topics as are presented in the lands where Bible narratives are laid. As may be expected, therefore, the sciences which are chiefly dealt with are geology and anthropology, with passing allusions to history and biblical criticism. Though it is the production of an able geologist who has given his lifetime to scientific studies, yet the book is written in such a pleasant, popular style that the ordinary reader may peruse it with intelligent interest and abiding profit.

The body of the work consists of nine chapters, the first three of which are somewhat introductory to the main subject of the treatise. The following brief outline will give some general idea of the scope and import of the book:

In Chapter I., which is termed "*Introductory*," several vital questions connected with the relations of science and religion are briefly discussed. The general lines of harmony, as presented in the author's work on "*The Origin of the World*," between Genesis and Geology are briefly but clearly presented. The reverent spirit of the author breathes through these introductory pages.

In Chapter II., there is an entertaining description of "*The Fire Belt of Southern Europe*." The basin of the Mediterranean Sea is described from the geological point of view, and its coast outline at the glacial era is indicated. Then thrilling descriptions are given of Vesuvius and its eruptions, and the geological conditions of the seismic disturbances of this region are set forth at length.

In Chapter III., "*The Haunts and Habits of Primitive Man*" is the subject of an exceedingly satisfactory chapter, which treats of some vital questions in anthropology. Some interesting cave-remains on the Sidonian shores of the Great Sea are described and compared with similar remains found in France and Belgium. Then various biological and geological data are given to settle the antiquity of the human race. As against Haeckel and others, who maintain that man has been many thousands of years on the earth, the conclusion is reached by our author that "the earliest certain indications of the presence of man in Europe, Asia or America, so far as yet known, belong to the modern period alone." For the facts of the so-called "stone age," for the foundation of the Niagara gorge, and the laying down of the Mississippi alluvial deposits, he concludes, and with good reasons given, that the biblical period is quite adequate.

With Chapter IV., "*Bible Lands*" proper are entered on, and "*Early Man in Genesis*" is first taken up. The topography of Eden is discussed with much ability and soberness. No attempt is made to locate it at the North Pole, nor to imagine a Lemurian continent to find it in. It is placed near the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates, two of the rivers of paradise, the others being the Karun (Pison), and the Kerkhah (Gihon), in the same locality. The Fall, the Deluge, the early condition of the race in civilization and religion are also treated of, and the follow-

ing general conclusions reached, at the close of a capital chapter: 1. "The Bible presents man as a distinct creature, made in the image of God." 2. "Man, according to Genesis, is the latest and culminating product of creation." 3. "The absolute date of the first appearance of man cannot, perhaps, be fixed within a few years, or a few centuries, either by the biblical chronology or by the science of the earth. Yet we are limited to two or three thousand years before the deluge, and about seven thousand years at most from the present time."

The Chapter on "Egyptian Stones and their Teaching" (V.) is a good presentation of the record of the wonderful early civilization of the ancient dwellers on the Nile, as inscribed "with an iron pen on the rock."

Chapter VI., on "Egypt and Israel," contains a detailed geological description of Lower Egypt and the Red Sea region, with some important historical expositions.

Chapter VII., dealing with the "Topography of the Exodus," is one of the best in the whole book, and full of interest throughout. The route taken by the Israelites in leaving Egypt is followed minutely step by step, and the chief points mentioned in the Bible are identified with care—Rameses, Succoth, Elham, Migdol, Pi-hahiroth, Baal, Zephon, Marah, Rephidim and Sinai are all looked at in turn.

In Chapter VIII, under the heading, "Palestine, its Structure and History," is found one of the best brief geological sketches of the Holy Land with which we are familiar. The description of the Dead Sea region is particularly fine, but we cannot enlarge upon it.

In the last Chapter (IX.) "The Resources and Prospects of Bible Lands" are treated in an impartial and sensible manner, and the conclusion stated that with proper cultivation and good government Bible lands would be far more productive than they are. The hope of the country and people is in the Gospel and the results of Missions.

There are several instructive appendices of a somewhat technical nature, and a number of useful maps, diagrams and illustrations. The letterpress and binding are excellent. On the whole, we commend the book most heartily as one which combines the results of careful scientific research with the spirit of a devout believer in the inspiration of the sacred Scriptures in a most satisfactory way. Moreover, the results of the scientific research are none the less valuable because the author of the book is an earnest Christian.

F. R. BEATTIE.

Theological Seminary, Columbia, S. C.

HUTSON'S FRENCH LITERATURE.

A HISTORY OF FRENCH LITERATURE. *By Charles Woodward Hutson, Adjunct Professor of Modern Languages in the University of South Carolina, Columbia.* 12mo. Cloth, pp. 353. \$1.10. New York: J. B. Alden. 1889.

In a charming preface to his exquisite edition of the Vicar of Wakefield, Mr. Austin Dobson endorses the sentiment: "When a new book comes out, read an old one." After reading Mr. Hutson's book, we felt an irresistible longing to know what Mr. Saintsbury had said on the same subject in his excellent History of French Literature. The comparison is not altogether flattering to the new book.

"How to write a good literature in any language," is a question that still awaits complete solution, but the question "when to write a literature" ought to be a comparatively easy one to answer. With Saintsbury already in the field, the answer