

conclusion is buttressed by solid arguments that appeal to a balanced mind, while the elements of doubt in the case are duly considered. For English readers who know Greek, Bigg has written the best commentary on Jude and Peter, but this new work of Maier will be appreciated by those who are able to handle clear and easy German. The book is admirably analyzed and has indices also.

A. T. ROBERTSON.

The Apocalypse of St. John. The Greek Text with Introduction, Notes and Indices.

By Henry Barclay Swete, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity, Cambridge, England. Macmillan and Co., London and New York. 1906. Pages 355 and CCXV.

At once this commentary supplants all others as the one great commentary on Revelation. The man and the subject have met, and, one may add, the hour. Ten years ago this commentary could not have been written by anybody, for then it was not possible to apply the new knowledge of Jewish apocalyptic literature and Roman provincial life and worship that we now possess. But Prof. Charles in *Apocalyptic* and Prof. Ramsay on *Asia Minor* have come before. Indeed Prof. Ramsay in his *Letters to the Seven Churches* had made a great contribution directly to the subject in hand.

Dr. Swete has written the best commentary on Mark in addition to his invaluable work on the Septuagint. He belongs to the great Cambridge group of scholars including Lightfoot, Westcott and Hort who undertook a commentary on the New Testament. Westcott on John's Gospel, Epistles, and on Hebrews still hold first place. We have just come into possession of Westcott's posthumous work on Ephesians. Lightfoot's Galatians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon, 1 and 2 Thess. are a treasure to the preacher. Dr. Hort was so given to critical and textual research, the most original scholar of the group, that he did not do his part of the commentary work, as indeed none of them did in full.

But Cambridge has put the whole world in its debt by these commentaries and the great work of Hort.

Dr. Swete's work is a worthy successor in this noble line. It is adequate and sane where most men are erratic and unsatisfactory. Dr. Swete holds to the Domitianic date against the Neronian view of the great Cambridge trio and on this point he is doubtless right. He inclines to the view that John the Apostle is the author, while admitting the possibility that John the Elder may be. He considers the book a unity though use may be made of previous material and the book has the method of Jewish Apocalyptic thought with the spirit of Christian prophecy. Dr. Swete thinks it possible for John also to be the author of the Gospel even with the late date of the Revelation, since he probably dictated the Gospel and had help in revising it also.

Dr. Swete sees in the Revelation a book in the spirit of Christ with the background of the Domitianic persecution impending as a revival of the Neronic horrors. Christianity is face to face with the great world struggle with Rome which city is forcing the worship of the Emperor upon Christians. Final victory is certain though the conflict will be fierce. In this death grapple is set forth the ever recurring battle between the Kingdom of Christ and the world.

Pictures and maps add to the interest and value of the volume. There is a brief discussion of the grammar of the Apocalypse and a complete vocabulary of the book. There are 215 pages of introductory matter. The critical notes are rich in allusion to the Jewish apocalypses, the Old Testament, Christian history and Roman affairs.

In a word, here is just the commentary that the scholarly pastor has long waited for. In the hands of Dr. Swete the book takes shape as a whole and one can use it with more effect now than ever and with more intelligence.

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