

Bible; and it is not likely that they would be willing to give time enough to learn the Bible story as we have it and at the same time pursue the minute study of the current critical analysis.

JOHN R. SAMPEY.

The Books of the Pentateuch. Their Origin, Contents and Significance. By Frederick Carl Eiselen, Professor of Old Testament Interpretation in Garrett Biblical Institute. New York and Cincinnati, 1916. The Methodist Book Concern. 351 pp. \$1.50 net.

Professor Eiselen is preparing an Introduction to the Old Testament, the first volume of which is the Pentateuch. He devotes four chapters to the consideration of arguments in favor of the Mosaic authorship of the Pentateuch. After a consideration of the arguments in detail, he concludes that the evidence is not sufficient to establish the theory that these five books came from the pen of Moses. He next devotes three chapters to the arguments which favor the composite character of the Pentateuch. Additional chapters deal with post-Mosaic elements of the Pentateuch and the Law Book of King Josiah. Three chapters take up the question of the chronological order of the Pentateuchal documents, and in two chapters the author points out ancient poetic and legal material which has been embodied in the documents. Dr. Eiselen accepts substantially the literary analysis of scholars like Wellhausen, Dillman, and Driver. In estimating the historical and religious value of the Pentateuch, he takes his place among the more conservative critics.

The chief feature of Prof. Eiselen's treatment which differentiates it from other recent Introductions is its combination of completeness and fullness of treatment with more popular language and style than is usual in books on Biblical Introduction. He also quotes more extensively from conservative writers, and shows a better appreciation of the arguments in favor of conservative positions than is usual on the part of authors who have espoused the modern critical views as to the composition of the Pentateuch. Prof. Eiselen's style, while not brilliant, is clear and pleasing. He knows how to put his case in such a way as to appeal to Christian preachers and teachers.

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