

those of Canon Rawlinson, on Exodus; C. J. Ball, on Chronicles; Professor Salmon, on Ecclesiastes. The introduction on the Book of Jonah sets aside the question of the nature of the narrative as of secondary importance since "the figure would be none the less striking, the character none the less instructive if it is the creation of fiction; and the incident, even if unhistorical, carries a well of profound scriptural truth." It gives up the question of authorship and date for lack of sufficient data, being doubtful whether the book was composed before the year 180 B. C. The introduction to Solomon's Song tends toward the dramatic theory which makes the poem celebrate the ennobling element in pure love. The authenticity and genuineness of the Book of Daniel are well defended. The Book of Esther is assigned to the reign of Artaxerxes Longimanus (464-425 B. C.) There is not space to touch on the views presented concerning the other books.

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**The Books of Chronicles.** By W. H. BENNETT, M.A., Professor of Old Testament Languages and Literature, Hackney and New Colleges. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son; Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co. Pp. xii. and 464. Price, \$1.50.

To galvanize genealogical tables and statistical rolls is a task which would tax a genius. This volume, in *The Expositor's Bible* series, sets out to do this very thing. Professor Bennett evidently cast his eye over the victim some time before he laid hold of it, to know just how he should lay it out. He quarters the volume into four books. Book I. is the introduction, elaborating the "date and authorship," "historical setting," "sources and mode of composition," and "the importance of Chronicles." He puts the date of the books between 332 B.C. and 166 B.C. for reasons (p. 4) which show the trend of the author's prepossessions. The historical setting is found down in post-exilic times while the temple, presumably, was emphasized, and its ritual firmly followed. "At this time," says the author, "the Deuteronomic school systematized and interpreted the records of the national history" (p. 9). Whence this piece of information? "The sources and mode of composition" is a fair treatment, though it makes some assertions which it would be extremely difficult for the writer to substantiate; *e. g.*, "This 'Book of Kings,' so often mentioned, is therefore neither a source nor authority of Chronicles. There is nothing to prove that the author was actually acquainted with the book" (p. 18). Professor Bennett apparently questions the authority of Chronicles unless we have other material from which we can prove the antiquity of the sources from which it is derived (p. 24). Book II. lines up a series of questions, such as names, heredity, statistics, family traditions, etc., under the general topic, "genealogies." Book III. examines "Messianic and other types." The characters of David and Solomon are weighed in the balances, and found wanting in Kings, but level the balances in Chronicles. The

prophets, priests and even Satan receive their dues in the course of this book, though "the chronicler had never seen a prophet" (p. 241).

Book IV. interprets the history from 2 Chron. 10 to the end of that book in ten chapters. It must be said for Professor Bennett, that he enlivens his characters, and so pictures the scenes as to make to pass before us the panorama of the kingdom of Judah, from the division of the kingdom down to the fall of Jerusalem. Though somewhat speculative as to the times of the chronicler, he has given us a genuine contribution to the material on Chronicles.

PRICE.

**How to Read the Prophets.** Being the prophecies arranged chronologically in their historical settings with explanations, map, and glossary. By Rev. BUCHANAN BLAKE, B.D. Part. III. Jeremiah. Pages 1-288. Price \$1.50. Imported by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

There have been previously published two other volumes, one dealing with the smaller pre-exilian prophets and the other with Isaiah. The idea of this book is most excellent and the execution of the idea is very satisfactory. The first division of the book contains an arrangement of Jeremiah's prophecies in chronological order, the poetical portions being printed in blank verse with carefully selected captions for the various sections. The more obscure verses are indicated in black type and receive brief explanation in the appendix. The second division includes a presentation of the ideas of Jeremiah in their historical setting, the material being arranged in chapters to correspond with the text which makes up the contents of division one. These supplementary chapters explain the material of division one. Perhaps, nowhere, not even in Cheyne's "Jeremiah and His Times," will the ordinary reader find a better presentation of the work of Jeremiah, a prophet whose utterances have received far too little attention from the average student of the Old Testament. One could suggest no better book than this to put in the hands of Bible classes for the study of Jeremiah. The chapter in division three, or Jeremiah's Religious Conceptions, though brief is very suggestive. "A true patriot, animated with deepest feelings for suffering, he was obliged to separate himself so entirely from all the temporary forms of truth and patriotism, and to attach himself all the more firmly to the truth that abides and the city that continues, whose architect and builder is God. He believed in Providence: God was for him no absentee deity. God would vindicate himself and finally triumph over every opposing power. With such beliefs, no wonder that Jeremiah lived and died as he did." Mr. Blake has not gone far enough. There remains yet to be published that presentation of the prophets which will make them live in these modern days as they certainly lived in ancient times. What will be the characteristic of this presentation? Perhaps at another time we may have the time and space to consider the answer to this question.

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