

The Book of the Prophet Isaiah. A new English translation, printed in colors exhibiting the composite structure of the Book, with explanatory notes and pictorial illustrations. By the Rev. T. K. CHEYNE, M. A., D. D., Oriel Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at Oxford, and formerly Fellow of Balliol College, Canon of Rochester. 4to, pp. xii, 215. New York : Dodd, Mead & Co. 1898. \$2.50.

The general plan of the "Polychrome Bible," of which this volume is a part, was described in the notice of Professor Moore's "Judges" in

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the NEW WORLD for March of the present year. The assignment of the Book of Isaiah to Canon Cheyne was natural and appropriate; his long-continued and able work on this Book is familiar to all students of the Old Testament, and this new translation is a record of his latest conclusions respecting its text and composition. In both those points "Isaiah," as is well known, presents many perplexing problems. It has been much worked over by scribes and editors; in the process of copying many errors of text have crept in, and the editors, after the manner of ancient editors, have so supplemented the original that the Book has come to be an anthology without statement of the date and authorship of many of its parts. The critical problem is how to distinguish these parts; the literary problem is how to represent to the eye the differences of origin. Dr. Cheyne's general method is to mark simply by colors the additions which are merely expansions of the original (as in ch. iii., where vv. 2, 3, 6, 7 are left in place, but are colored blue to indicate that they are editorial insertions), and to print separately such passages as are judged to be independent discourses (thus ii. 2-4 stands by itself as "messianic appendix" to a body of earlier prophecies). In this way he retains, so far as seems to him possible, the unity of each discourse as it stands in the Masoretic text; but, as he attempts to give a chronological arrangement, he has found it necessary to depart widely from the traditional order of chapters in the first half, chs. i.-xxxix. (in chs. xl.-lxvi. there is little change of order). The question of arrangement is a perplexing one, but the plan he adopts is good. He first endeavors to reconstruct the genuine Book of the prophecies of the Isaiah of Hezekiah's time, inserting, however, therein all discourses meant by the editors to be supplements of the original; thus the post-Exilic pieces iv. 2-6, ix. 1-7, ii. 2-4, xi. 1-16 are placed respectively next after iv. 1, viii. 22, i. 31, x. 34, and xxxii., xxxiii. follow xxxi. as general appendices; thus the work of the editors is clearly exhibited. Next Dr. Cheyne puts the historical narrative, xxxvi.-xxxix., which is obviously not by Isaiah, but gives the historical setting of the latest Isaianic prophecies. Certain passages, moreover (xv., xvi., xxi. 11-17), he holds, contain Isaianic fragments, and these passages are given together as the third general group. Here he takes leave of Isaiah ben-Amos, and collects the prophecies relating to the capture of Babylon by Cyrus (B. C. 539), composed by unknown writers toward the close of the Exile; these are xxi. 1-10, xiii., xiv. 1-23, xl.-xlviii, with the appendix, xlix.-lv., in which the passages on the Servant of Yahweh are distinguished by a peculiar color. The last division embraces the prophecies composed after the fall of Babylon, most of them in the period from B. C. 450 (Ezra and Nehemiah) to B. C. 330 (not long after the invasion of Palestine by Artaxerxes Ochus), one (xix. 16-25) possibly falling in the Greek period (about B. C. 275); in this division are placed certain passages (as lxi. 1-4 a) which are supposed to be written in imitation of the

prophecies on the Servant, and also the difficult semi-apocalyptic section xxiv.-xxvii. This general arrangement (in which the dates agree substantially with those of Duhm) has much to commend it: it recognizes the new tone of religious universality in xlix.-lv., the ritualistic contentions reflected in lvi. 1-8, and the gloom of the historical situation depicted in xxiv.-xxvii. Dr. Cheyne, of course, does not regard this arrangement as final, any more than he regards all his changes of text as certainly correct; but he thinks that some rearrangement and some textual emendations are necessary, and he here gives the results of his mature reflection. The general reader may at first find the fragmentary look of parts of the Book perplexing; but when he remembers that the arrangement in the English Revised Version often obscures the sense, and that the discourses of the prophets were generally brief and independent, he will probably find his literary as well as his moral and religious enjoyment of the Book not diminished but heightened by an arrangement which endeavors to indicate the historical setting and the precise meaning of every passage.

The greater part of the Book is printed stichometrically. The English has been subjected to careful revision (with the assistance of Dr. Furness), with the double purpose of securing accuracy of expression and giving the translation good literary form. At the end (pp. 214, 215) is a table showing on what page any chapter or verse of the Authorized Version, or the note on any passage, is to be found. There is also a table of corrigenda, from which the reader would do well to make the corrections indicated. There are a few errata not noted in this table, but none that affect the sense or materially embarrass the reader. In such a notice as this it is impossible to attempt a detailed criticism of the emendations of text and the translation. In many cases the ground of an emendation is evident from the connection, in other cases is explained in the notes; in certain passages, as, for example, in ch. liii., we should have been glad to have fuller explanations of the changes made. The history, both the civil and the religious, is given in detail in the notes, so that the volume is an exposition of a considerable part of the Israelitish religious development. Though not all of its conclusions should be accepted, there will be general agreement that it is a notable monument of learning, industry and skill.

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