

3. History of the Sacred Scriptures of the New Testament. By Eduard (Wilhelm Eugen) Reuss. Translated from the Fifth Revised and Enlarged German Edition, with numerous Bibliographical Additions by Edward L. Houghton, A.M. In two volumes. Boston. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1884. 8vo. pp. x., 639. \$5.00.

It is presumptive evidence of the great value of this work that it has been before the German reader more than thirty years, and that a fifth edition, revised and with many additions, has been given to that critical people.

The order of the divisions and treatment of the theme is as follows :

1. Origin and Development of a Sacred Literature of the New Testament. 2. Collection of sacred books of the Christians into a whole, for use in the churches. 3. Preservation of their original form. 4. Dissemination of the collection among Christian peoples. 5. Use made of them in Theology.

The first division, covering 265 pages, outlines the origin of the several books of the New Testament. The second, 80 pages, gives the history of the canon, showing how the various writings were brought together. The third, 79 pages, is a history of the text, showing how the several parts have been preserved, the number and condition of manuscripts, critical editions, recensions, etc. The fourth, 80 pages, presents the history of the circulation of the New Testament, its various versions, the many prominent Bible and Missionary Societies, and the position of the Catholic and Protestant churches in regard to the circulation of the Scriptures. The fifth and last division, 100 pages, describes the dogmatic use to which the New Testament has been put, the different theories of exegesis which have prevailed, — all that is included in the general science of hermeneutics. The text of the work, — the author's statement of facts, theories, objections, and the conclusions which he draws from all, — is in paragraphs, numbered from 1 to 600, printed in large, open type, each paragraph followed by copious notes in smaller type, giving more at length the theories mentioned in the text, with the arguments for and against them, and references to the literature of the subject. These references have been largely increased by the translator, who has added many new European authorities, and the

English and American editions of works not accessible to the author, and also English translations of many foreign volumes.

The field covered by this history is thus seen to be extensive and important, and its treatment is characterized by great learning, ample ability in analysis, skillful use and adaptation of material, and honest and unprejudiced effort to get at and present the truth. The translation, made with the knowledge and consent of the author, is pronounced by competent critics true to the original, and manifests a scholarly and appreciative mind. Mr. Houghton, the translator, a graduate of Harvard and Andover, has recently entered the Universalist ministry, and we trust that the scholarly among us will show their appreciation of the privilege which he has conferred on English speaking theologians, in making it possible for them to become familiar with this long tried and well-approved work on this important subject.