

archæologists. He has made a book which is likely to be very helpful to Biblical students, and one to which they will frequently turn as a work of reference. It can need no commendation here for those already familiar with Rawlinson's works. The only criticism to be made on it is that which applies to all similar works, and it results from doubt as to the right interpretation of the ancient records. The zealous defenders of the Bible as a revelation have a tendency to go too far and too eagerly in the direction of seeing proofs of their conclusions as the results of the archæological investigations. We are inclined to think this is Rawlinson's tendency, and that his theories need to be corrected by those of George Smith and other more independent students. But it must be said that Rawlinson has written a very suggestive and valuable work, even if it should prove that his zeal has led him to find proofs of prophecy where there are none. Such facts as he brings together are not of much value in reply to the radical interpreters of prophecy, such as Kuenen, but they are of the utmost importance as showing that the Old Testament narratives have a basis of historic fact. This is what they do assuredly prove, and what should most of all be insisted on by those who would defend the Hebrew Scriptures from those who attack them. Apart from being an excellent commentary on those passages which relate to Babylon and Egypt, Rawlinson's work contains much valuable historic and descriptive information. The descriptions of ancient Babylon are graphic, and based on the latest and most reliable information. In the same way, the accounts of the ancient Egyptian civilization are the results of the most accurate studies, and must be of great service to the Biblical student. The treatment of each of the Hebrew books by itself gives the work too much of the nature of a commentary for the general reader to be quite pleased with it. A systematic presentation of the facts bearing on the subject would have made a more readable work, and one more likely to give a distinct idea of the importance of these studies; but in view of the purpose for which it was evidently designed, the present method is the best. It is a commentary and not a treatise.

#### Rawlinson's "Egypt and Babylon."\*

IN this little book of above three hundred pages, Rawlinson takes each of the books of the Old Testament in its turn and explains all its references to Babylon and Egypt, as light has been thrown on them by the investigations of

\* *Egypt and Babylon from Sacred and Profane Sources*. By George Rawlinson. 2s. 50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.