

The Book of Psalms In this volume appears the ripe result of critical work begun in 1867, and continually since pursued. Christian scholarship seems here to have reached the highest level yet attained in study of the book which in religious importance stands next to the Gospels. Some ninety pages of prolegomena upon the text, the higher criticism, the canonicity, and the interpretation of the book introduce the commentary upon it. Each psalm, preceded by a summary of its contents, is followed by critical notes in two groups, the first of a general kind, the second of a lexical and grammatical character, with abundant textual references. Between these groups is the commentary itself in larger type. The separation thus effected between the less and the more exhaustive criticism of the text is practically convenient. The text itself is given in its true form as poetry, Dr. Briggs's long contention for which has become the prevailing view. The translation, though based on the current versions, continually diverges from them in conformity to Dr. Briggs's revision of the Hebrew text, or as required by the context and usage. *E.g.*, "Kiss the Son" (ii. 12) is changed to "Kiss sincerely," *i.e.*, worship with the heart (in kissing the hand as an act of worship, as in Job xxxi. 27). Dr. Briggs treats the Psalter with reverence as the unparalleled record of centuries of religious experience in communion with God, yet not so high in ethical development as the Wisdom literature (Job, Proverbs, etc.). His work upon it is not likely to be excelled in learning, both massive and minute, by any volume of the International Series, to which it belongs. (The International Critical Commentary. Vol. I. The Book of Psalms. By Charles Augustus Briggs, D.D., Litt.D., and Emilie Grace Briggs, B.D. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. \$3, net.)