

A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament, with an appendix containing the Biblical Aramaic, based on the Lexicon of William Gesenius as translated by Edward Robinson, late Professor in the Union Theological Seminary, New York. Edited with constant reference to the Thesaurus of Gesenius as completed by E. Rödiger, and with authorized use of the latest German editions of Gesenius' *Handwörterbuch über das Alte Testament*, by FRANCIS BROWN, D.D., D.LITT., Davenport Professor of Hebrew and the Cognate Languages in the Union Theological Seminary, with the coöperation of S. R. DRIVER, D.D., LITT. D., Regius Professor of Hebrew and Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, and CHARLES A. BRIGGS, D.D., D.LITT. Edward Robinson, Professor of Biblical Theology in the Union Theological Seminary. Lex. octavo, pp. xix, 1127. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Price, half Russia or full sheep, \$8, net.

There has been no more acute scholastic want in the entire system of English scholarship and teaching, than the want of a scientific lexicon of the Hebrew language. This want is now met so signally that all dispute is barred. This lexicon began to appear in parts in 1891, the last part is now issued and the entire volume completed. It is a monument of learning, patience, and skill on the part of its editors, and its beautiful composition, typography, and printing add new lustre to the well-earned fame of the Clarendon Press of Oxford University. The basis of modern Hebrew lexicography was laid in the *Hebräisch—deutsches Handwörterbuch des Alten Testaments*, 2 vols. 8vo, published at Leipzig 1810-1812, and the production of Wilhelm Gesenius, professor in the University of Halle. An abridged edition of this appeared in 1815, and of this improved editions appeared in 1823 and 1828. In 1833 Gesenius published in Latin his *Lexicon Manuale Hebraicum et Chaldaicum in V. T. Libros*, and in 1834 a German edition of the same work issued from the press. This book, edited and re-edited by different scholars, and translated from time to time into other languages has supplied the entire civilized world with the most necessary tool in Old Testament study. To few men does a kind Providence give greater honor than the preparation of a book to live and influence successive generations as this has done. Gesenius died in 1842, and the German publishers who own the copyright of his lexicon have had it revised at different times by Professor Rödiger of Berlin and by Professors Mühlau and Volck, formerly of Dorpat, and the fourteenth edition under the editorship of Professors Frants Buhl, of Copenhagen, and Albert Socin and Heinrich Zimmern of Leipzig has but lately appeared. The history of the English editions has been very different. The one with which Americans have had most to do was issued in 1836

by Edward Robinson, professor in Union Theological Seminary, who revised and republished it in several editions until 1854. In 1859 there appeared an English translation by Tregelles. With these two editions Hebrew lexicography in the English language practically ceased. The Germans continued to revise their Hebrew lexicon every four or five years, while the whole English speaking race has contented itself since 1859 with one edition that had long since ceased to represent the philological science which it was supposed to carry on. The long and painful wait is over. We now enjoy a lexicon of Hebrew in our own language superior even to the latest edition in German. Let no man dare to speak his mind henceforth upon any question of Old Testament exegesis or lexicography who has not brought his lucubrations to the touchstone of this great book. The whole learned world owes a deep debt of gratitude to the scholars who have performed this great task in such a large way. The chief credit belongs to Professor Francis Brown, of Union Theological Seminary, one of the foremost Semitic scholars of America, but Professor Briggs has written the definitions of all terms in Biblical Theology and Professor S. R. Driver, greatest Hebraist of the English speaking peoples, has dealt with all pronouns, prepositions, adverbs, conjunctions, interjections, and other particles, together with some nouns whose uses are chiefly adverbial. It is difficult to speak of the book in terms of restrained praise. It is a great book and deserves so to be called.