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delight to do Thy will" is the foundation of all Christian obedience; and the servant had caught the very tone of the Lord's voice, when he said, "Without thy mind I will do nothing, that thy benefit should not be, as it were, of necessity, but willingly."

ALEXANDER MACLAREN.

RECENT ENGLISH LITERATURE ON THE
NEW TESTAMENT.

OF books bearing more or less directly upon exposition we have received the following: *Lessons of the Cross and Passion*, etc. Four courses of Lent Lectures by C. J. Vaughan, D.D., Dean of Llandaff (Macmillan & Co., 1886), of which nothing need be said but that it maintains that steady uniformity of excellence which the writer by his previous thirty volumes of sermons has led us to expect. All are at the same level, "not too bright or good for human nature's daily food," but remarkable for instinctive correctness of exposition, unaffected devoutness, and purity of style. The four courses are on "Lessons of the Cross and Passion," "Words from the Cross," "The Reign of Sin," and "The Lord's Prayer." *The Parables of our Saviour Expounded and Illustrated*, by William M. Taylor, D.D., LL.D. (Hodder and Stoughton, 1887) is also by a writer too well-known to require much commendation. This is however the best book we have had from Dr. Taylor. The subject gives scope to his expository insight and geniality. The writer's broad common-sense frees the Parables from the over-refinements of commentators, and grasps the definite lesson of each. It is a fresh and stimulating volume, sure to be prized by preachers. *Seven, the Sacred Number: its Use in Scripture and its Application to Biblical Criticism*, by Richard Samuel (Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., 1887), is a laborious but ill-advised attempt to show that questions of Canonicity, Textual Criticism, and Interpretation can be settled if we believe that every writer of Scripture had an eye to a symmetrical arrangement of his words and paragraphs in sevens. *Astrology in the Apocalypse*, by W. Gershom Collingwood, M.A. (George Allen, Sunnyside, Orpington, 1886), is a short essay on the traces of Chaldæan astrology in

the Bible. Most readers will shrink from some of Mr. Collingwood's interpretations; but undoubtedly he makes out a case which is *primâ facie* plausible and worthy of consideration. The coincidences between the characters of the seven Churches addressed in the book of Revelation and the attributes of the seven planets are at all events curious; and Mr. Collingwood's suggestions have as much foundation as most interpretations of the Apocalypse. The translation of the *Great Commentary of Cornelius à Lapide* is now edited by G. Gould Ross, D.C.L., and the present issue (Hodges, 1887), the 6th volume, contains the Gospel of Luke. The commentary is learned, intelligent, and full. Here and there the theological bias of the author appears. To some, its chief merit will be that it contains many admirable quotations from patristic writers, while he himself is never prolix or pointless. A second edition of *The Parousia* (Fisher Unwin, 1887) gives the name of the hitherto anonymous author, J. Stuart Russell, M.A. The theory of this able and scholarly volume is, that the destruction of Jerusalem satisfied the predictions of our Lord and His Apostles regarding His second coming. "It was an event which has no parallel in history. It was the outward and visible sign of a great epoch in the Divine government of the world. It was the close of one dispensation and the commencement of another." The obvious objections to this idea are frankly considered by the author; and though few will agree with his main thesis, all will be instructed by his discussion of the leading predictions in the New Testament. The volume is indispensable for a student of prophecy or of expository literature. *Palestine in the Time of Christ*, by Edmond Stapfer, D.D., Professor in the Protestant Theological Faculty of Paris, translated by Annie H. Holmden (Hodder and Stoughton, 1886), is a kind of book for which there is always room. It contains a full account of the social, political, and religious condition of the Jews in the time of our Lord, and supplies a great deal of information without which the New Testament cannot be understood. It does not supersede Schürer and Hausrath; but in point of accuracy it bears comparison with these standard writers, and its form will introduce it where bulkier books are excluded. No book of recent publication can so confidently be recommended to teachers of all grades, and generally to intelligent readers. It should find a place in every study.