

the effect of a sheet of armor plate pierced by a shell.' The picture here is unfortunate, and 'hole' is hardly the idea contained in the Greek word. The verb means to tear or split.

In 13: 27, where the text says, 'All shall be gathered into one glorious band of comrades', there is a footnote: 'An intimation of what later became the Christian Church'. But the passage is apocalyptic and refers to the end of the world rather than to the present situation.

Corrigenda

1: 9 In footnote (2) insert fullstop after 'descend'.

3: 6 For 'henchman' read 'henchmen'.

8: 20 For 'four loaves' read 'seven loaves'.

8: 31 'He', 'he'. In this account the pronoun is not capitalized.

8: 34 For 'disciple' read 'disciples'.

In the Editor's Preface there is a misprint in the third paragraph. For 'work' read 'word'.

In the Introduction, third paragraph, for 'disclocates' read 'dislocates'.

Conclusion

We have in this volume a piece of imaginative writing, a very readable account of what Jesus said and did.

The writer does not state what purpose it is intended to serve, or what constituency he has in view. It is not, therefore, possible to assess its immediate value, but without doubt it will give a stimulus to those whose task it is to tell the story, based upon the details supplied by Mark. It brings out in a dramatic way the events recorded by the Evangelist, while at the same time completely obscuring his style.

G. D. REYNOLDS

The Cambridge History of the Bible: The West from the Reformation to the Present Day, edited by S. L. Greenslade, Cambridge University Press, 1963, pp. 590; 45s. 0d.

Cambridge has provided us with many standard multi-volume histories. Here is the first volume of another series, which will clearly play the same part in its own field that the *Ancient History*, *Modern History*, *History of English Literature* and others have in theirs.

Actually this volume, though the first to appear, will be volume two when *From Jerome to the Renaissance*, edited by G. H. W. Lampe and spoken of as 'nearly complete', is published. It is also hoped that 'further volumes may . . . cover other areas'. Much assistance from the Bible Societies will probably be required for those.

The Preface to this volume carefully defines its scope and its limits. It does not deal with the background, composition or content of the Bible itself, nor with Christian doctrine. It is concerned with the text and versions

of the Bible used in the West, with its circulation, with attitudes towards its authority and exegesis, and with its place in the life of the Church and its impact upon the world. The Preface also emphasizes that, even in 590 pages, not everything can be said!

An outline of the book with a brief comment on each chapter may be the most helpful method of review.

Chapter I, by R. H. Bainton of Yale, deals with 'The Bible in the Reformation', a clear and lively account of the various Reformers' attitudes to Scripture, with a fine closing paragraph (p. 37) emphasizing that, despite their often sharp differences of opinion, their main line 'looked upon the Scriptures as the container of the Word of God, uniquely given at a definite point in the past, to be recovered and appropriated in every generation through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit'.

Chapter II, 'Biblical Scholarship: Editions and Commentaries' up to 1660, is technical but both masterly and living. There were giants in those days, and Mr Basil Hall vividly describes their strengths and weaknesses.

Chapter III, 'Continental Versions to c. 1600', by a variety of writers, is excellent on German, good on French, and rather less adequate on other languages, though of course the material there is less.

Chapter IV, 'English Versions of the Bible A.D. 1525-1611', by the editor, is a very satisfying piece of work. It is familiar ground, but Professor Greenslade covers it with great distinction.

Chapters V, VII and VIII turn away from the history of the text for a while to 'The Religion of Protestants', by Professor Norman Sykes, 'The Criticism and Theological Use of the Bible, 1700-1950', by the Rev William Neil, and 'The Rise of Modern Biblical Scholarship and Recent Discussion of the Authority of the Bible', by Professor Alan Richardson. All three chapters are valuable. We can be specially glad that Professor Sykes completed his before his death. It has the sympathetic understanding of his subject that made him what he was, both as a historian and as a man. It is a pleasure also to find Professor Richardson adding his weight to modern emphasis on the value of P. T. Forsyth's work.

Chapter VI is rather unfortunate. It was a broadminded move to invite Father F. J. Crehan, S.J., to write on 'The Bible in the Roman Catholic Church from Trent to the Present Day', and in this chapter we get much information not generally known to Protestants, and an angle that it is salutary for us to examine. It is odd, however, to find Erasmus criticized for not using *Codex Vaticanus* in view of the obstacles that were put in the way of Tischendorf's use of it in the nineteenth century. Nor does it help to have a critical section on the Bible Societies (pp. 224 f.), accusing them of being responsible, by their random distribution of the Scriptures, for the rise of such bodies as the Jehovah's Witnesses. The troubles in Greece early this century are recorded, but no mention is made of happy recent progress. Father Crehan may not have known of the moves towards co-operation in Scripture translation now being undertaken between Catholics and Protestants in many parts of the world, but the spirit of the whole chapter was out of date before it was published. It will need rewriting—perhaps by another man.

Chapter IX, 'Continental Versions from c. 1600 to the Present Day', like chapter III, is less adequate than other parts of the book, though the German section is good. There is no mention of the French Synodale version, which deserves notice in addition to Ostervald. The Revised Second New Testament was in print some time before this History appeared. East-Central Europe has a section in chapter III but nothing here. How far geographically does the 'West' of the title go? This chapter does not include Polish, Modern Greek, Russian, Ukrainian, Latvian or Estonian, though several of them are mentioned elsewhere in the volume.

Chapter X, 'English Versions since 1611', by Dean Luther Weigle, is a straightforward catalogue. The present reviewer cannot agree with the standard criticisms of the Revised Version here repeated, but its position as 'a milestone in the history of the English Bible' (p. 372) is acknowledged. Dean Weigle was chairman of the Revised Standard Version committee and can write with special authority there, but limits himself to two pages and does not mention the New Testament modifications made in 1959. Professor C. F. D. Moule exercises similar tantalizing brevity with regard to the New English Bible.

Chapter XI, 'The Bible and the Missionary', by Professor Eric Fenn, will be of particular interest to *TBT* readers, so many of whom are missionaries. It is most gratifying, in a book of this kind, to have 25 pages dealing mainly with the work of the Bible Societies, and underlining the essential connection between the Bible and the missionary work of the Church. So much that is written on the Bible seems to forget that it is a missionary book. Professor Fenn is especially qualified to write this chapter, as he was for many years Editorial Secretary of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Chapter XII, 'The Printed Bible', by M. H. Black of the Cambridge University Press, is a fascinating account of its subject from the first days of printing till today. Detailed criticism is outside this reviewer's range.

To remind us once again that the Bible is a religious book, the editor concludes with an epilogue on its circulation, use and influence. The true link between the academic and the spiritual is here most adequately forged. We are not left with a gulf fixed between barren scholarship and devotional waffle.

Appendices contain a list of Aids to the Study of the Bible, an adequate but not alarming bibliography, and 48 Plates with notes. Some of these are slightly distorted, as they could not be photographed flat, but they are a valuable visual aid. Most of them are taken from London Bible House Library, though their source is not mentioned.

The two references to Darlow and Moule's *Historical Catalogue of Printed Bibles* (p. 547 f.) as comprising four volumes and two volumes respectively can probably be explained by the fact that volume two is in three parts.

But the general quality of the whole work far outweighs a certain number of blemishes. This will be a standard work of reference for a long time, and will give information, pleasure and the truest spiritual satisfaction wherever it is read.

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