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notes, written at specific junctures in the apostle's career, there will of course be divergence of judgment. The last word has not here been said. If Mr. Harrison had weighed the hypothesis of an Ephesian imprisonment, out of which the "prison-letters" come, he might have made certain more convincing combinations. But he has said much that is wise and suggestive at this point, and made a contribution to this vexed question that is of outstanding importance. The sumptuous appendixes, giving the statistical tables of comparative vocabulary, with the entire text of the Pastorals so printed as to show at a glance the method of its composition, make the book well-nigh perfect for the scholar's use. All in all, *the* book on its theme.

CLAYTON R. BOWEN

MEADVILLE THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

GOGUEL'S INTERPRETATION OF THE BOOK OF ACTS¹

Maurice Goguel, of the Protestant faculty of theology in Paris, is the most useful New Testament scholar in France today. Less brilliant and voluminous than Loisy, he is vastly sounder and more constructive. The primitive Christianity which he sets out to investigate is a living historical movement within human personalities; Loisy often seems to be investigating a purely documentary phenomenon. It was good news, therefore, that Goguel was to issue a complete manual of introduction. The work is to appear in five volumes, covering in turn the Synoptics, the Fourth Gospel, the Acts, the Pauline letters, the catholic letters and Apocalypse. Volume III is before us; Volume IV is in preparation; the others are to follow as soon as may be.

M. Goguel has done well to issue the discussion of Acts first. More and more it is coming to be seen as the key to all the rest of the New Testament. If we can come to clear understanding of the apostolic story which it is an attempt to tell, we have the setting for the epistles and the background for the development of that homiletic tradition which finds deposit in the gospels. Goguel has in the first place mastered his material; he knows the Greek document with extraordinary thoroughness. Then he has mastered the critical literature, again with amazing thoroughness. Far more fully than most of the Germans, he knows the discussions in English, especially those of American scholars. Torrey, Bacon, Cadbury, Lake, Burkitt, Ramsay—such names are frequent in these pages. And the author has mastered his method, in contrast to those writers who are mastered by it. In a half-dozen

¹ *Introduction au Nouveau Testament*. Par Maurice Goguel. Tome III: *Le Livre des Actes*. Paris: Leroux, 1922. 376 pages. Fr. 6.

preliminary chapters he disposes of the external questions—the tradition, the history of the criticism of Acts, the text, its literary contacts with other writings, the style and language of the work, and its literary character. These chapters are models of their kind. He then comes to a detailed critical analysis of the document, with a view to its ultimate literary and historical origins. This, the heart of the whole treatment, occupies almost half the book's space. The closing section is a brief summary of conclusions. It is not the purpose of this notice to register the divergence of the reviewer's opinions on special points in the book. Such divergences would not be many or significant. It is in the critical analysis that Goguel makes, or fails to make, a contribution. Here he carries on a running *Auseinandersetzung* with Loisy's huge new commentary, and here succeeding students will have to carry on a similar discussion of detail with him. Many will assuredly feel that at many points his analysis is too detailed, too artificial, that no human document could survive such a process of merciless dissection. Yet the Book of Acts survives it, and Goguel's positive conclusions will command wide assent, based as they are on the most complete and unbiased examination of all the relevant facts.

Goguel supposes the Book of Acts to have been written between 80 and 90 A.D., at an unknown place, by an unknown author. The work was constructed on the basis of a number of sources, oral and written, of varying value. Chief of these was an account of Paul's mission, written by one of his companions, probably Luke, sometimes, but not throughout, using the first plural pronoun. This source, edited by the *Auctor ad Theophilum*, has undergone drastic abridgment as well as enlargement, alteration, and revision of several kinds. All this editorial process reveals the attitudes and interests of the writer, but has not wholly eliminated the attitudes and interests of the sources, or of the apostles whose work they describe. The author in all probability meant to add a third volume to his extant two; this is the most probable explanation of the abrupt ending of Acts. That this completion of the trilogy was ever carried out there is, however, no indication.

Goguel has given to students of Acts an indispensable work; it is easily one of the half-dozen or fewer outstanding treatments of its subject. We look eagerly for the completion of the whole *Introduction*. A second edition of this earliest volume will soon be demanded; it is to be hoped that it will correct the frequent misprints now apparent, especially in the references.

CLAYTON R. BOWEN