

written thirty or more years ago. Quite different from the present attitude, I fear. But friends of literary education who rebel against the thought of so one-sided a culture have a definite issue to contend for, that at least Isaiah and Job should take their place beside Plato and Homer in the curricula of our colleges and schools. This statement is on Page 1398 of Moulton's Modern Reader's Bible. Now these two quotations, I think, bring out very vividly the greatness of the book of Isaiah. As a literary masterpiece there is nothing in the Hebrew language to compare with it. There are few writings in any language to compare with the literary value of the book of Isaiah. As to its expression it is actually outstanding. Now to us there is another reason to think of the book as a very great book. It is quoted in the New Testament more than perhaps any other book of the Old Testament. At least if there is any other that is quoted more than Isaiah it is quoted very little more, and if you would take out the five books that are quoted most you would probably find that of the rest of them Isaiah is quoted more than any other ten put together. It is a book which you find referred to frequently in the New Testament, quoted by the name of the author, specific quotations taken from different parts of the book or allusions and references to thought contained in the book of Isaiah. From the standpoint of the New Testament Isaiah takes its place as one of the most important of the books of the Bible. So much then for A, the greatness of the book.

Now B, the historic background. This we have already covered in our course last year in Old Testament history. It, however, is vital that we be sure we have it well in mind, especially at this point when we begin to take up the study of the criticism of the book of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah as you know was written in the years about 700 B. C. and somewhat earlier. It ^{is} was written well over a century before the time when Judah went into exile. However, in the course of the time when the book of Isaiah was written you'll find that the northern kingdom, the kingdom of Israel, went into exile. You'll find in Chapter 28 that it is predicted that the northern kingdom will go into exile; also in Chapter 7 ~~it is predicted~~ the prediction is made about the northern kingdom and then when you get over to Chapters 36 ff. the northern kingdom has already been in exile for some time. So the book of Isaiah covers quite a period