

mainly written in
fragments, ¹namely letters of a type used a century or two later than those previously discovered. Among them are many which deal with the Second Jewish Revolt against the Romans (132 to 135 A. D.). They throw much light on the history of that time, and give further evidence of the early date of the other manuscripts.

The study of the manuscripts from the various caves is bound to be of great value in giving new understanding of many points of Biblical interpretation, and in fixing the exact text of the Old Testament in many places. In general they agree so well with the established text that they show how very excellently it has on the whole been preserved. The non-Biblical texts are also of great interest, as they reveal the life and views of the sectarian groups of Jews who wrote these manuscripts. ²They ³should greatly enlarge our knowledge of this period of Jewish history, ⁴should give us a better understanding of the Jewish world at the time of Christ, and should cause great change in many of the theories of the origin of Christianity and of the development of Judaism which are now widely held. There are so many texts and so many problems connected with them that it is too early to draw conclusions much beyond what we have already stated. It is already a most exciting and complicated development in archeological study, and one which should result in bringing many facts of great interest to light, as these scrolls are studied in coming days.