

Editor's Table.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Mr. Hoyt, of Boston, is adding every few days to his already very extensive and choice list of books for children.

SANDY MACLEAN, a good story of a sturdy young Covenanter. With other, tales. 18mo., pp. 108.

OUR FATHER WHO ART IN HEAVEN. A story illustrative of the several petitions of the Lord's Prayer. 18mo., pp. 154.

MOUNTAIN GEMS, by Rev. John Todd, D. D. This is a set of four handsome 18mo. volumes, in uniform style with many illustrations, each volume containing a number of brief stories in the best style of that charming writer for young and old.

THE EXCEEDINGLY HANDSOME INTRODUCTORY OF GOV. GILMORE IS FOLLOWED BY THE GRACEFUL INAUGURAL OF DR. SMITH IN THIS PAMPHLET.

PAMPHLETS.

SMITH—GILMORE. An Address delivered at the inauguration of the author as President of Dartmouth College, Nov. 18th, 1863, by Rev. Asa D. Smith, D. D.

The exceedingly handsome introductory of Gov. Gilmore is followed by the graceful inaugural of Dr. Smith in this pamphlet.

The governor welcomes Dr. Smith as a native of New Hampshire, an old playmate and a relative. Dr. Smith, in the inaugural treats in a discursive and general way of the "College, in its Proper Function and Characteristics."

Scarcely any line of study is more conducive to mental acuteness. Scarcely any is more imperatively enjoined by the signs of the times.

The sermons he [the Holy Spirit,] is most pleased with as such as approximate most nearly to his own preaching in the oracles of God.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT, for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1863.

Ex-Gov. Pollock's Report to the Secretary of the Treasury contains many matters of interest to the general reader.

Under this head a quotation from Cicero, and another from Vinet, follow: "The pen is the best, the most excellent former and director of the tongue."

RECOGNITION OF GOD IN OUR COINAGE.

I would respectfully and earnestly ask the attention of the Department to the proposition in my former report, to introduce a motto upon our coins expressive of a National reliance on Divine protection,

It is necessary at the present day, in order to banish from the threshold of conscience prejudices which, to certain minds of a fastidious character, may be a lasting hindrance, that evangelical discourse should not be unpolished and rude.

strength and salvation, must be in the God of Battles and of Nations.

THE LADY'S FRIEND, a monthly magazine of Literature and Fashion.

This is the second number of a new monthly, started at the commencement of the year, by the enterprising publishers of the Saturday Evening Post.

VICK'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF SEEDS for 1864, is a full, comprehensive guide in floriculture, handsomely illustrated.

Literary.

THE THEORY OF PREPARATION FOR PREACHING.

DR. SKINNER'S ARTICLE IN THE AM. PRESB. AND THEOL. REVIEW.

We have read this article with great interest. Its style is lively and perspicuous, its tone is spiritual, its treatment of the subject, masterly.

Dr. Skinner in the beginning lays great stress upon the thought, that the supreme and dominating part in preaching, belongs to the Holy Ghost.

A true preacher is a spiritual man; the natural man has no perception of the things of the Spirit, the material of preaching: he may have notions of these things and if he be an eloquent speaker, he may discourse on them eloquently;

The supremacy of the Spirit's agency requires the preacher, not the less but the more, to attend to his part of the work.

The natural expression of dependence on the Holy Spirit, and the first means of preparation, of course, is prayer.

Under this head a quotation from Cicero, and another from Vinet, follow: "The pen is the best, the most excellent former and director of the tongue."

It is necessary at the present day, in order to banish from the threshold of conscience prejudices which, to certain minds of a fastidious character, may be a lasting hindrance, that evangelical discourse should not be unpolished and rude.

Preparation without writing. But it should be added, on the other hand, and with strong accent, that if writing for the pulpit be important, not less so are the capacity and the habit of preparation without writing.

Prepared paragraphs and pages should not be introduced into an extempore sermon. This advice, and reciprocally, the injunction not to introduce extempore paragraphs into a written sermon, rest upon the presumed difficulty or impossibility of doing so successfully and gracefully.

have time for more than the bare handwriting. Unless he has uncommon facility of composition, he cannot write well more than one at the utmost.

Indeed, valuable as well written discourses are in other respects, their chief advantage, ultimately, both to the preacher and his hearers, is from the influence they have on the preparation to preach extemporaneously.

Referring to the necessity of self-command in presence of the congregation, Dr. S. justly presents the sacred and awful nature of the preacher's office as a reason for peculiar tenderness of feeling on his part, and he asks the searching question:

ON WRITING SERMONS. It is to be kept vividly and constantly before the mind in writing for the pulpit, that there is a fundamental speciality in this kind of composition.

There is special danger of being unspiritual in this part of the labor: the danger of the undue pursuit of ornament; of ambitious oratory; of going into a search for the enticing words of man's wisdom;

The work of composition generally goes on better when, without anxious attention to diction, the pen of the writer moves swiftly, under the impulse of strong and vivid conceptions of the subject.

But, though, with the generality of preachers, the rule in writing a sermon should be to dispatch it, *currente calamo*, yet they should not assume that because they have followed the best method, and probably produced a better composition than they could have otherwise done, they should not subject it to a critical revision of the language, now that it is substantially finished, according to the true rule.

The very idea of extemporizing, says the writer, supposes that the words of the discourse are unpremeditated.

If you press me to say which is absolutely the best practice, in regard to notes, properly so called, that is, in distinction from a complete manuscript, I unhesitatingly say, *use none*, carry no scrap of writing into the pulpit.

* "To read in a manuscript book as our clergy now do, is not to preach at all. Preach out of a book if you must, but do not read in it, or even from it. A read sermon of twenty minutes will seem longer to the hearers than a free discourse of an hour."

Happy are the candidates for the sacred office who sit under the teaching of an instructor whose views so remarkably combine the maturity, richness and spirituality of age, with the vivacity and ardour of youth.

LITERARY ITEMS.

A Work on the Will. Dr. Whedon, the popular editor of the Methodist Quarterly Review, has completed his work on the Will and put it into the hands of the compositors.

Horace Greeley, in a late number of the Independent has recorded his dissent from the views of Renan's book and has asserted his belief in miracles.

These coincidences he regards as 'incredible! A singular providence we see in them, but what a perversion of the true idea of a miracle to put them on a par with the raising of Lazarus, or the curing of blind Bartimeus!

Prof. Shedd's great work on Christian Doctrine, is not without inaccuracies. The Christian Intelligence, thus points out an error in regard to the teaching of the Heidelberg Catechism.

An Important Work for Missionaries. Eight years ago Prof. Leipsius, of Berlin, published a work called "Das allgemeine linguistische Alphabet," which was translated into English.

The writer, finally calls for a distinct treatise on his subject, and "would rejoice greatly," to know that a competent person had undertaken the work.

First American Sermon Published. The first American sermon ever printed, it is said, was preached in Virginia in the year 1614, by the Rev. Alexander Whitaker, D. D., who landed at Jamestown, May 10th, 1611.

What has been accomplished by Publication.—Eight years ago there were three Baptist churches in Sweden, with three hundred members; now there are one hundred and sixty-one churches, with five thousand five hundred and fifteen members.

A contemporary, in reviewing a recent work of a German writer, has the following amusing remarks on the peculiarities of the German language and literature:

1. Too many volumes in the language; 2. Too many sentences in a volume; 3. Too many words in a sentence; 4. Too many syllables in a word; 5. Too many letters in a syllable; 6. Too many strokes in a letter; 7. Too much black in a stroke.

CHEAP CARPETINGS. LEWIS & IVINS, SUCCESSORS TO H. H. ELDRIDGE'S (Old Established) CHEAP CARPET STORE,

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REMOVAL. O. H. WILLARD, Photographer.

Has removed from 1628 Market Street to his new and spacious galleries, No. 1206 Chestnut Street.

NOTICE. We take this opportunity of informing our friends and customers that we have associated ourselves with

E. H. ELDRIDGE, No. 628 MARKET STREET. (BELOW SEVENTH.)