

LETTER FROM ANNAPOLIS.

Annapolis, February 10th, 1864.

DEAR BRO. MEARS:—I promised you from this old-fashioned city Maryland's Capitol, and the scene of historic interest. You will remember that here the Continental Congress were once assembled, and within the walls of the quaint old State House, Washington resigned his sword, and Lafayette afterward presented his conclusions. Here for many years until the outbreak of the great rebellion, the site of the United States Naval Academy, whose convenient buildings have since been made a hospital for the sick and wounded victims of the war. It was also, it was that General Butler made his debut on Southern soil, a few days after the disgraceful day for Baltimore, of April 19th, 1861. For the past month, the Maryland Legislature have been in session at a time big with the future interest of the Commonwealth. In the course of Divine Providence, and by the logic of events, Slavery has been shown to be no longer possible within her borders. Through the madness of its own chambers its doom has been hastened, and now inevitable. The fact is accepted by all who are not blind. The life of the Nation demands that the ulcer which has so long poisoned society, and which has induced such terrible convulsions, shall be cut out without any delay. *Tolle insaniam, cessat effectus.* The march of sentiment on this point at this latitude is wonderful. According to the Legislature have taken the first step as it is regarded, in the process of emancipation, and yesterday, after a lengthened debate, passed, by a vote of thirty-three to fifteen, a bill providing for the call of a Convention, to see if be the will of the people, to frame a new Constitution, &c. The Convention will assemble on the last Wednesday of April. The main business of this Convention will be, as is understood, the immediate destruction of the barbarous institution by annulling its legal existence forever. Thus is the axe laid at the root of the tree. May the sturdy blows not cease till it falls; and as it falleth, so may it lie! A sad tragedy gave us, in this place, the opportunity of witnessing last Saturday, the funeral service of the Greek Church. A sailor of the Russian fleet, two vessels of which—the *Almaz* and the *Tarigr*, are now here at anchor, was murdered in a drunken bout. The service began in the chapel of the Naval School, by the chanting of an office for the dead in Solovonic; after which came a mass, and sprinkling of holy water and burning of incense. Then the priest read aloud an account of the life of Demidoff, the murdered man, and placed the scroll containing it in his right hand, which he kissed, bowing to the ground and making the sign of the cross. Four stalwart men then placed upon their shoulders the coffin, uncovered with Russia's white-grooved flag, with its St. Andrew's cross of blue, and with a solemn dirge, the procession found its way to the Soldiers' graveyard, where sleep so many of our country's brave defenders. First went a huge sailor with the coffin-lid upon his head; and then the Greek priest with his gorgeous robes of green bespangled with rich golden crosses; while after him followed M. Bodisco from Washington, accompanied by officers of the Russian fleet with many of our own army and navy; and finally the marines and the comrade sailors. When within an hundred yards of the grave, all broke forth into a solemn chant of a funeral psalm. There was farther waving of his censor and muttering of strange words by the priest as he laid a crucifix upon the dead man's bosom, and sprinkled earth upon him with the Sexton's spade, ere the coffin was fastened and lowered amidst volleys of musketry. It was altogether an impressive spectacle to see this stranger laid away to rest in a strange land, and appropriate that he should find a resting place beside our sleeping heroes. The whole number of invalids in hospital here now, is not over 600 or 700; while at times as many as 8000 have been accommodated. We are glad to know that there is some religious interest among the men. Many have been heard to cry "What shall I do, to be saved?" who have found the Saviour. J. G. H.

Editor's Table.

ELLIOTT.—A critical and grammatical commentary on St. Paul's Epistles to the Thessalonians, with a revised Translation. By Charles F. Elliott, B. D., Dean of Exeter and Professor of Divinity, King's College, London. Andover: Warren Draper. Philad.: Smith, English & Co. 8vo. pp 166. Dean Elliott's commentaries are long past the need of any critics' commendation. For clearness, brevity, scholarlike fidelity, appreciation of the real grammatical sense of the text, absence of all discursive disquisitions, and evidence of comprehensive and profound learning, without the slightest parade and joined with a childlike reverence for the word of God, these commentaries are unique in the Biblical literature of England. We know nothing equal to them anywhere, the nearest approach being the "Kurz ge faestes Exegetisches Handbuch" of DeWette, a model of scholarly compactness and of sharp insight, but belonging decidedly to the rationalistic school of critics. It is indeed a favorable omen, and not to be overlooked among others of a very different character, that such a man should be advanced to a position of eminence in the Church of England. The commentary on Thessalonians slightly differs from preceding works by the same author, by a cautious but somewhat freer mixture of exegesis in the strictly grammatical work which still forms the bulk of the Commentary. Attention is paid to the connection of clauses and the general sequence of thought; and to the developing of the dogmatical significance of more important passages. This will undoubtedly make the work more valuable and more acceptable. In addition to the half-a-dozen or more old versions which this accomplished scholar has heretofore used in the originals, he has latterly employed the Armenian version; and for this purpose has acquired such a knowledge of the language, as would enable him to state faithfully his opinion in contested passages. We are surprised to learn from Dean Elliott, how little is known by some of the most celebrated Biblical scholars of these old versions in the original. Even Tischendorf is shown to rely upon Latin translations; and Latin translations are not always trustworthy or exact. "It is of paramount importance that the loyal critic should use no eyes but his own." Like Prof. Shedd, in his recent work on the History of Christian Doctrine, Dean Elliott, with all his regard for modern scholarship, finds very much deserving of the attention of the Biblical student in the best English divines. In the commentary before us, they are still more frequently referred to,—sermons especially, on all the more difficult verses, are mentioned; and Prof. E. says, that no portion of his labors has been more kindly appreciated, or has apparently been of more real service to theological students. Part of Elliott's work has been to undo the mischief of Jowett's Commentary upon the same portion of the Scripture. He records it as his fixed opinion, that the system of interpretation pursued by Prof. J., is as dangerous as inaccurate and untenable. "Surely expressions that would be thought hard, if applied to Pindar or Thucydides seem sadly out of place when directed against the diction of the inspired Saul of Tarsus." A peculiar feature of Prof. Elliott's Commentaries, is the New Translation of the Epistle appended to each, in which our noble English version is so far adhered to, as not to sacrifice the hallowed associations connected with it while substantial improvements are introduced into the text. Notes from the more ancient English versions accompany the author's translation, and greatly enhance the value of this part of the work. Mr. Draper has brought out the volume in the most creditable manner. SMITH. The believer's Daily Remembrancer. By Rev. James Smith. From the thirty-eighth London Edition. New York: R. Carter & Bro. 18mo. pp 381, red edges. An excellent aid to busy Christians who would carry with them in the daily conflict with worldliness, a text, a pious reflection and a verse. There is always pointed, nourishing thought in the reflections on the texts; something on which the memory can seize and the mind work, during the busy day. For sale at the Presbyterian House. A. L. O. E.—The Silver Casket, or the world and its wiles. By A. L. O. E. New York: R. Carter & Bros. 18mo. pp 276. For sale at the Presbyterian Board Store. An exhaustless fountain is the rich inventive faculty of this admirable writer for children. Allegory, vivid illustration, dramatic narrative are all made most effectually to subserve the writer's noble purpose, to unfold and enforce truth and duty, in every sphere of life, and against every form of temptation in the experience of the

young. One of the best of this series is the "Silver Casket." It will be read with absorbing interest and profit by the class especially for to whom it is designed. Illustrations, paper, type and binding are all excellent. CASEY.—Cassedy's Camden City Directory 1863-1864. 12mo. pp 174. Published by F. A. Cassedy, Camden, N. J. This volume is a very complete compend of the streets, residences, business, statistics, government, &c., of our neighbor city of Camden. Its population is put down at 14,404. It has four Baptist, five Methodist, two Presbyterian, (Old School), two Episcopal, one Lutheran, and one Roman Catholic churches, and a Friends' Meeting House; sixteen places of worship in all. PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES. THE PHILADELPHIA PHOTOGRAPHER.—A monthly Journal Devoted to Photography. February 1864. Philadelphia: Bennerman & Wilson, Seventh and Cherry Streets. Price \$3 per annum. This journal is a credit to the important calling which it has undertaken to represent. The letter press is composed of thorough discussions of various matters connected with the art: Selection of Lenses; Report on the comparative merits of Lenses, with table of experiments; Photography applied to Engineering by Coleman Sellers; Photography applied to miniature painting on Ivory; Photolithography with Silver Soap; besides proceedings of the Photographic Society of Philadelphia; Plea for Heliography, by M. A. Root, &c. The illustration, "Happy as a King," is a perfect marvel of delicacy of finish and perfection in all its details, as well as in the elegance of the whole. The photograph itself is well worth the entire price of the magazine, and would form a parlor ornament, the beauty of which it would be hard to match. CHICKAMAUGA, THE PRICE OF CHATTANOOGA.—A description of the strategic plans, marches and battles of the campaign of Chattanooga. With illustrative map. By the author of the Annals of the Army of the Cumberland. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. This pamphlet is designed as an appendix to the "Annals," a large and important military work, recently issued in splendid style by Messrs. Lippincott & Co. The pamphlet is included in the body of the later editions of that volume, of which no less than three editions were sold in sixty days, notwithstanding its expensive character. The cause of General Rosecrans, as against the War Department, is earnestly and ably defended in the pamphlet, which throws a great deal of light on the last campaign of that General, including the splendid advance from Murfreesboro' and the first occupation of Chattanooga. An elaborate military map adds to the value of the pamphlet. IOWA.—Census returns of the different counties in the State of Iowa, for the year 1863, showing in detail the population, agricultural statistics, domestic and general manufactures, &c. Printed by authority of the Census Board. We are indebted, we believe, to Rev. Thompson Bird, of Iowa, for this valuable document, illustrating the resources and material greatness of this young giant of a commonwealth. The State has in the military service of the United States, forty regiments of infantry, nine of cavalry, and four batteries. UNITED STATES CHRISTIAN COMMISSION. Facts, principles and Progress. October, 1863. A small and handsome pamphlet, briefly and lucidly exhibiting the nature of the work of this great enterprise, with illustrations of its efficiency and acceptableness. TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT of the Boston Young Men's Christian Association, with the By-Laws, List of Officers, &c. Presented May, 1863. REDPATH'S BOOKS FOR THE CAMP FIRES.—On Picket Duty. Boston: James Redpath. 18mo. pp 96. A handy little volume, containing a number of entertaining and, we believe, pure stories for the leisure moments of the soldier. THE WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN. A Religious monthly. Rev. T. H. Cleland and Rev. J. L. McKee Editors and Proprietors, Louisville, Ky.—This is the first number of a periodical designed to take the place among Presbyterians South and West, of the scurrilous and disloyal, *True Presbyterian*, whose editor, Stuart Robinson, is constrained by military authority to live in Canada. The character of Dr. R's paper is pronounced and undisguised, but the "Western Presbyterian" will not meet and neutralize the mischief of that organ by a decided inculcation of loyalty. It expects to be "silent upon the subject of our nation's trials," because it "feels called to a much higher, more appropriate and important work." It is lamentable that Kentucky Presbyterians remain so blind and so unmoved amid the grand Providential developments of our day, and that they will

amuse themselves by imagining that Christian men have any clearer indications of duty than those presented by the unparalleled events of the present. They do not appear to have come to the kingdom for such a time as this. We are sure the mass of Western Presbyterians would be surprised at the assumption that they are represented by such a timorous characterless affair as this. LITERARY ITEMS. SENSATION BOOKS ON HEAVEN.—The London *Weekly Review* deals severely with—not to say critically annihilates—a series of books on Heaven, which have had an enormous circulation in Great Britain, and have been republished in this country: Heaven our Home; Meet for Heaven; Life in Heaven. The serious error of these books is the familiarity even to vulgarity, with which they treat of the heavenly world. Detailed information is professedly given of things which eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man. Enoch's journey to heaven is familiarly spoken of; his experience on arriving there is described, and then the conversation among the inmates of the heavenly city is given in detail. Trivial and stupid indeed is the converse of the saints which we have believed to be so high and glorious, if these confident statements are to be accepted. Jacob in Heaven has discarded Leah, and engages in long-winded, goody talk with Rachel Rachel reciprocates; and includes in touching terms to the circumstance of her death. David is not only not poetical, but is ungrammatical besides. Adam and Eve are described as "two venerable fountains, who may be heard giving expression to anxious wishes." From which passage we learn says the critic, that fountains can talk and that people in heaven are subject to anxiety. Mary and Martha exchange views upon the grief they experienced at the death of Lazarus, with a sophomoric attempt at fine language: Heaven, according to the writer, is about as agreeable and exalted a place as a gossiping church tea-party. Such trashy writing brings divine things into contempt with unbelievers, as well as lowers them in our own spiritual perception. A false, vitiated taste is cultivated, spiritual conceit is engendered and a prurient prying into the secret things of Scripture is encouraged. It is the "silliest of all sensation literature." The same paper, the *Weekly Review*, speaks in terms of decided condemnation, of a work the announcement of which raised our expectations not a little: "THE CHILD'S COMMENTATOR, by Ingram Cobbin, M. A." Such a work, well executed, is much needed as an aid to domestic and Sabbath School instruction, and would afford great help to parents in making family worship attractive to the young. There is absolutely nothing extant exactly or approximately answering to this palpable want. We are sorry to learn from the *Review* that "the Child's Commentator" is "not in any sense adapted for a child," except that it may aid the child's teacher i. e. like any other commentary. "The subjects are too dry, and the treatment too monotonous for a child to like." A PUBLISHER'S UNFAIRNESS. Under this caption the New York *Christian Times*, (Low church Episcopal) brings a very serious charge against the publisher Carleton, which we republish as it is a matter in which all book critics, especially in the columns of religious journals, have an interest. Such a bold and scandalous perversion of the critic's words, for the sole purpose of promoting the sale of an infidel book, should cover the author with shame, or compel a full acknowledgment of the fault. The latter has not, so far as we know, been made. The *Times* says: A correspondent has brought to our notice a most willful and wicked misrepresentation of our late review of "Renan's Life of Jesus." We shall demand from Mr. Carleton, the publisher, as public an explanation as has been his perversion of our language. The circular to which our attention is drawn, we append. List the three documents speak for themselves— 1. The strictures of our correspondent. 2. The professions of the circular. 3. The quotation as it appears in our columns. 1. Our correspondent says: "I have cut out the enclosed circular of Carleton's, to draw your attention, as publishers of the *Christian Times*, to his extract in commendation of Renan's Life of Jesus. The book is a vile infidel publication, and calculated to do great harm. I believe the words are perverted, as no Christian paper could endorse it. And the claim should be denied." We are obliged to our friend for this opportunity to expose an ingenious falsehood. Now for— 2. The professions of the circular. "RENAN'S LIFE OF JESUS.—A translation of that remarkable work, by M.

Ernest Renan, just issued in Paris, where the excitement is so great concerning its subject and author, that already more than 100,000 copies of the costly French edition have been sold. It is characterized by the *Christian Times* as 'MAN'S ABLEST WORK.' Surely the republication of such a volume is disgraceful enough, without this bare-faced attempt to make a Christian paper responsible for the inquiry. Let us turn to our files, and see what we really did say. We reproduce only the passage so sadly misquoted, and refer both the publisher and our readers for our opinions of the book expressed at some length in the *Christian Times* of October 22d ult.: "For the rest, we know that the abler and more scientific work of Strauss was overthrown by solid argument and superior learning, so that it now stands, if at all, only as a monument of folly of even the ABLEST of MAN'S efforts to discredit the authority, by impugning the authenticity of the Holy Gospels. The fate of Strauss was the fate of all his predecessors, and the future of Renan will prove no exception to the rule." We were not speaking of Renan when we used the language attributed to us, but of the failure of Strauss' infidelity. That, perhaps, the "ablest of man's efforts to discredit the authority of the Holy Gospels," remains now only a monument of the supreme human folly of him who would deny his God. It is but the stump of the idol. Dagon has fallen before the ark; Renan shall have no better fate. CHEAP CARPETINGS. LEWIS & IVINS, SUCCESSORS TO H. H. ELDRIDGE'S (Old Established) CHEAP CARPET STORE, No. 43 STRAWBERRY STREET, SECOND DOOR ABOVE CHESTNUT, PHILA. Strawberry is the first street west of Second. Being under a low rent and light store expenses, we are able to sell our goods at the LOWEST PRICES in the city, and in order that all classes may be suited, we offer a well assorted stock of Tapestry, Brussels, Imperial 3 ply, Superfine, Fine, and Medium Ingrain CARPETS. Royal Twilled, and Plain Striped Entry and Stair Carpets; also, List, Rag, Hemp and Cotton Carpets in great variety. Floor Oil, Cloths, of all widths and every style; also Canton and Cocoa MATTINGS, Table and Stair Oil Cloths, Druggists, Hearth Rugs, Stair Rods, Bindings, &c., &c. LEWIS & IVINS, mar19 1y 43 Strawberry street, Philadelphia. WILL NOT WASH OUT TARRANT'S INDELIBLE INK FOR MARKING LINEN, MUSLIN, SILK, &c. By years of use has proved itself THE BEST, MOST PERMANENT, MOST RELIABLE Marking Ink in the World. MANUFACTURED ONLY BY TARRANT & CO., 278 Greenway Street, New York. (FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.) PHILADELPHIA INSTITUTE FOR PHYSICAL CULTURE By the practice of Dr. Dio Lewis's New Gymnastics and the inculcation of the Laws of Health, established by Mr. and Mrs. GILLINGHAM, October 15th, 1863. Central Branch, 10th and Walnut Sts., South-west corner Broad and Walnut Streets. Classes of Ladies meet on Mondays and Thursdays at 4 o'clock; P. M. A new class organizes on Wednesday, February 2d. Classes of Masters, Misses and Young Ladies meet on Tuesdays and Fridays at 8 o'clock; P. M. A new class organizes on Wednesday, February 2d. The fee for a course of twenty lessons, two or four times per week is \$7.00. Two in the same family \$12.00. For the remainder of the season, twenty weeks, twice a week, \$12.00. Four times per week, \$20.00. In the system of New Gymnastics no fixed apparatus is employed, all the exercises being performed to the inspiring strains of music with light wooden dumbbells, hand rings, wands, bean bags, &c. They will be found admirably calculated to develop and maintain the highest possible condition of physical health, and to acquire a great flexibility, presence and endurance of body, far more desirable than enormous muscular strength. For further information, address G. GILLINGHAM, No. 1224 Buttonwood st. jan. 23. SELECT, CLASSICAL AND ENGLISH SCHOOL, No. 1280 Locust Street, Phila., B. KENDALL, A. M., Principal. The school year is divided into two sessions of five months each, commencing September and February. Pupils are carefully prepared for any class in college or for mercantile life. Thoroughness in the rudiments is insisted upon as indispensable to the successful prosecution of classical and higher English studies. Special attention is also given to the Modern Languages. A fine play-ground on the premises gives unusual value and attractiveness to the location of the school. All other desirable information will be furnished to those interested on application to the Principal. W. HENRY PATTEN'S NEW WEST END Window Shade, Curtain and Upholstery Store, No. 1408 CHESTNUT STREET, Next door to Hubbell's (Apothecary). Window Shades, Gilt Cornices, Bedding, Furniture Re-upholstered, Varied and Repaired. Carpets or Matting, cut or made, or altered and put down, by the best men to be got in the city. Furniture Slips, or Covers, handomely made and fitted. Venetian Blinds, etc., etc. W. HENRY PATTEN, feb12 1y 1408 Chestnut street.

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