

Editor's Table.

Wilson.—Chronicles of a Garden, its Pets, and its Pleasures. By the late Miss Henrietta Wilson; with a memoir by Rev. James Hamilton, D. D., F. L. S., New York, R. Carter & Bros., 16 mo., pp. 176, Elegant edition.

Miss Wilson, the authoress of this exquisite volume, was a remarkable person, gifted with elegant tastes, with great fondness for nature, animate and inanimate, as it may be observed within the limits of a two-acre garden. Devoted to all in the home circle, she was at the same time a large-hearted, active Christian. She not only admired the Divine skill in the little compass of her works, which she studied, but she served her Master in the lanes and alleys of Edinburgh, as a zealous member of the Free Church of Scotland. She was the niece of the celebrated Prof. John Wilson, and inherited some of the remarkable mental qualities of the family.

The volume before us is the work of an enthusiast for the sights, pleasures and employments of the garden. Keenness of observation, a rich vein of devotion, and a warm poetic imagination lend a charm to the work, which its limited topic would scarcely lead us to expect. The topics through which she conducts the reader are: The Pleasures of Work; Trees, Evergreens and Shrubs; Spring; Summer; Autumn; Winter; Our pets: Ruskin, McCosh, Southey, Wordsworth, Browning and such kindred spirits lend their aid in her labor of love, and enrich without overloading her pages, which, after all, are her own. To lovers of nature, especially as cultured and ordered by the skill and taste of man, the work will be welcome. The proceeds of the sale were designed by the authoress, since dead, to aid in furnishing competent nurses for the sick poor of Edinburgh, in their own homes.

The work is brought out in elegant style, profusely gilt, with fine engravings, and on tinted paper. For sale at the Presbyterian House.

Tax Post or Honor.—By the author of "Broad Shadows on Life's Pathway." New York, R. Carter & Bros., 16 mo., pp. 370.

The laudable object of the author is to show the ways in which we may witness for the Master, either by the quiet testimony of a Christian life, or by the personal sacrifice of that which we hold most dear, or by deliberately choosing a life of self-denying labor, or by a noble confession of the truth in the face of persecution and death. The writer has chosen the Madagascar persecution as fitly illustrating that form of witnessing for Christ which is at once the most difficult and most honored.

For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

Browning.—Sordello, Stafford, Christmas Eve and Easter Day, by Robert Browning. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 16mo. pp. 412. With portrait. Philadelphia. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The intense subjectivity and involved style of Browning, much as they interfere with the enjoyment of his poetry by the mass of readers, do not deny him a high place among the thoughtful, speculative class of poets. Indeed few things are more marvellous than the music of some of his intricate sentences, unwinding through line after line of well-balanced rhyme and rhythm. The volume before us contains several long compositions, the first being founded upon the fierce strife between Guelphs and Ghibellines, which rent northern Italy in the 13th century. The minute knowledge of the history of those times shown by the poet is remarkable, and proves that while seeking an inward object, he is conscious of the duty of fidelity to the outward form in which he invests it.

SIXTEEN REVELATIONS OF DIVINE LOVE, made to a devout servant of our Lord, called Mother Juliana, an anchoress of Norwich who lived in the days of Edward III. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 16mo. pp. 214. Philadelphia. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

What motives could have induced the re-publication of this series of monkish reveries of the fourteenth century, and its presentation under the auspices of Ticknor & Lippincott to the general public, we cannot tell. The style is that of an uncouth age, and the matter commends itself neither to our taste, our sense, or our piety.

Taylor.—Hart.—Sunday School Photographs, by Rev. Alfred Taylor, of Bristol, Pa., with an introduction by John S. Hart, LL. D. Boston: Henry Hoyt. 18mo. pp. 200. Philadelphia. For sale by J. C. Garrigue.

This is a collection of brief Essays, in which, in a slashing, off-hand style, different characters, principally faulty ones, found in the ranks of Superintendents, Teachers, Scholars and Speakers at Sabbath Schools are described. "Good taste is often sacrificed to the purpose to make a hit." The second sentence of the book speaks of a superintendent as "in a stew," and a sentence or two after, he is putting "into a stew those with whom he associates." With altogether too much of this sort of writing, which by no means constitutes the telling part of the book, we freely admit

no little merit, in the keenness of discernment and broad exposure of common faults in the management of Sabbath Schools, and we believe it is admirably adapted to overthrow abuses and help on a good cause. We cordially commend it to all, either permanently engaged in Sabbath School labor, or transiently brought in contact with it.

KELLEY.—Johnny's Captain. By Catharine E. Kelley, author of "Andy Hall" &c. Boston: Henry Hoyt. 18mo. pp. 128. Philadelphia. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

A beautiful simple story, illustrating the power for good a little child, influenced by the love of Jesus, may wield in a wide and unpromising field of effort. A number of pages are duplicated and those which should have been in their places are wanting.

PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES.

THE WESTMINSTER REVIEW for January contains: Life and Writings of Roger Bacon; Tunnel under Mt. Cenis; Astrology and Magic; Depreciation of Gold; Gilchrist's Life of William Blake; Parties and Prospects in Parliament; The Inspired [sic] Writings of Hinduism; Russia; Physiology of Sleep; Contemporary Literature.

New York, Leonard Scott & Co., for sale by W. B. Zieber, Philadelphia.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for March contains, The Queen of California; The Brother of Mercy; Ambassadors in bonds; Wet weather Work, V.; Relation of Art to Nature, II.; Our Classmate; Whittier; Convulsionists of St. Medard; House and Home Papers, III.; Song; Our Soldiers; Theocracy; The Peninsular Campaign; Reviews and Literary Notices.

The writers of this number are Whittier, Bayard Taylor, Mrs. H. B. Stowe, Robert Dale Owen, Holmes, Alice Cary, Lk. Marvel and others. Boston, Ticknor & Fields.

THE CONTINENTAL MONTHLY for March contains, American Finances and Resources; two letters by Hon. Robert J. Walker; Palmer, the American Sculptor; Sketches of American Life and Scenery; The Issues of the War, by an Ohio Soldier; Carl Friedrich Neumann, the German Historian of our country; Was he successful? by Kimball.

New York, John F. Trow, Publisher.

ADDRESS OF HON. EDW. EVERETT at the consecration of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg, 19th November, 1863, with the Dedicating speech of President Lincoln, and the other exercises of the occasion; accompanied by an Account of the Origin of the Undertaking, and of the Arrangement of the Cemetery Grounds and by a Map of the Battlefield and a Plan of the Cemetery. Published for the Benefit of the Cemetery Monument Fund. Boston: Little, Brown & Co. 8vo. pp. 87. Philadelphia. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

We take pleasure in commending this handsome pamphlet, which is one of the most complete of all the contributions of the day to the history of the war. No Pennsylvanian, especially, should be without it, as with the charms of classic imagery and eloquence, and with minuteness and vividness of description, it helps to immortalize one of the sections of our State. Possessed of the pamphlet one may account himself sufficiently informed on the great battle of Gettysburg. Mr. Everett has corrected and supplemented his discourse with valuable notes, since its delivery.

OUR PRISONS. Tenth Annual Report of Wm. J. Mullen, Prison Agent to the Philadelphia Society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons. Instituted 1787.

Mr. Mullen's efforts have been mainly directed to procuring the prompt release from prison of untried persons whose confinement has been "extremely unjust and oppressive, or for offences so trivial or accompanied by such mitigations that a further confinement did not seem demanded by justice or expediency." Mr. M. is sustained by many of our best citizens and by the public press, in his efforts, which are certainly in a sphere offering abundant opportunity for such friendly efforts as these of Mr. Mullen.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW for January 1864. L. Scott & Co., New York. Philadelphia, for sale by W. B. Zieber. Contents: China; New Englanders and the Old Home; Forsyth's Life of Cicero; Capt. Speke's Journal; Guns and Plates; Bels; Rome in the middle Ages; Danish Dutches.

The article on China is one of those first class essays, which the English Reviewers know so well just when and how to place before the public; seasonable, exhaustive, written with animation, with graphic power and with a thorough mastery of the subject. "New Englanders and the Old Home" is a bitter rejoinder to the sarcasms of Hawthorne's severe book on English society. Hawthorne seems to have written under the influence of the low partizan hatred of England, cherished by many men of his own party; the reviewer responds in the haughty disparaging tone of a true, America-hating British Tory. "Capt. Speke's Journal" gives a most interesting resume of the book, and awards full praise to the explorers, but emphasizes the necessity of further explorations before accepting as an established fact the assumed discovery of the headwaters of the Nile. "Guns and

Plates" gives an opportunity for another fling at America, in the matter of originality and power in artillery. We are disappointed in not meeting with the usual religious article, which generally gives peculiar value to each number of the London Quarterly.

The Monthlies for March.

GODEY'S LADIES' BOOK; L. A. Godey, Philadelphia.

THE LADIES' FRIEND; Deacon & Peterson, Philadelphia.

ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE; T. S. Arthur & Co., Philadelphia.

STUDENT AND SCHOOLMATE; J. H. Allen, Boston.

CHINA.

We give two extracts from the very interesting article in the last London Quarterly, on this country:

COTTON CULTURE.

Cotton is grown in all the central provinces, but principally in Che-kiang and Kiang-su. There are two kinds, the white and the yellow, and it is from the latter that is produced the strong and durable material which has by foreigners been called "Nankin" cloth, and from which, when dyed blue, is made the ordinary dress worn by all the laboring classes. According to the accounts of native historians it appears that cotton was not cultivated until the thirteenth century; and that, although it was brought into the empire as an article of tribute, the Chinese did not begin to plant the seeds or manufacture the material until the close of the Sung dynasty, A. D. 1281. Partly owing to the exceeding fertility of the soil, and also to its advantageous position near the banks of navigable rivers, the country surrounding Shanghai is famous both for the quality and the quantity of the cotton that it produces. The seeds are planted early in April, shortly before the Feast of Tombs, the land having been previously prepared by thorough ploughing and manuring. The seeds are carried by the sowers in baskets, and scattered broadcast over the ground, and either simply trodden in or covered over with handfuls of earth, and rolled with a heavy wooden roller. The rains which fall at this time of the year and the succeeding hot summer cause vegetation to proceed with great vigor; the shoots spring up rapidly, and the plants begin to flower early in August. In the autumn, as the pods begin to burst, the pickers go into the fields and gather the cotton; for which work—the stature of the plant being low, not averaging above two feet high—children are found to be best adapted.

In the beautiful valleys of Che-kiang province and in the Chusan archipelago this cotton gathering presents an interesting and instructive instance of the peculiarly patriarchal character of the agriculturists. The farms are invariably small, and are worked by the proprietors and their immediate families. In the warm September evenings the elders go out into their fields to watch the little children at work; and among these elders are usually to be found the old gray-haired grandfathers, who have taken part in or watched over many similar gatherings, and have seen stored in the adjoining barns the produce of some three score or fourscore years. The children work with that zeal which is consequent upon the knowledge of a personal interest in the result, and the crop is quickly gathered. In their haste open pods are frequently overlooked, a circumstance of which the native writer of an essay upon cotton cultivation condescends to remind them. "Look back," he writes somewhat poetically, "look back on the part which you have left, and you will find that more pods have opened; you will discover white pods on the part over which your feet have travelled." The cotton, when brought into the farm-yard, is spread upon reed hurdles and thoroughly dried. It is then separated from the seeds, and when perfectly freed, or, as it is termed, cleaned, a portion is placed aside for family use, and the remainder is put into large sacks, and sent for sale to the nearest town, where the merchants store it in warehouses, and supply the general demand. In each of the homesteads scattered all over the cotton districts is contained all the various machinery required for converting raw cotton into cloth; and it is, perhaps, in China alone that it happens that the farmers make their garments from the produce of their own land. When the crop is gathered, all the family, especially the women and young girls, set to work, carding, spinning and weaving; and from their home-spun material they make strong working clothes, well fitted for the purposes of labor. By thus manufacturing his own cloth the thrifty farmer is enabled to employ his whole household usefully and economically throughout the year. During the season between October and April the men and boys are employed in ploughing, and preparing the land for a future crop, or as is very usual, in sowing an intermediate crop of wheat or other useful grain; and during the same period the women are working hard in the house at their spinning wheels, and producing, not only sufficient cloth for their own families, but also such a surplus as will go far to supply the wants of their non-cotton-growing neighbors.

THE WAR WITH CHINA—ITS FAILURE AS A COMMERCIAL EXPEDIENT.

It has been a constant subject for surprise to manufacturers in Great Britain that the export trade to China has not increased in such degree as the number and known commercial disposition of the people would justify lead them to expect. They were aware of the extent of the trade with India, and presumed that with equal facilities for commerce the advantages of the China trade would be proportionally greater. This natural

\*Che-kiang cotton yields from seven to nine pounds in twenty; near Shanghai, and Soochow the proportion is a little more favorable.

deduction has been proved erroneous, and the error has arisen, not from over-estimation of the commercial capabilities of the empire, but solely from a misconception of the character and wants of the people. Previous to the first war our export trade was exclusively confined to Canton and its immediate neighborhood, and the merchants explained its stagnation by the absence of available means for supplying the Chinese with the goods which they were supposed to so ardently desire. At this time foreigners were treated by the officials with insufferable arrogance or contempt; vexatious hindrances were placed in the way of trade; and, in fact, the general state of our commercial and political relations was altogether unsatisfactory. The disputes arising from the opium traffic brought matters to a crisis, and at last it was comprehended, both by the European community at Canton and the Home Government, that a war was necessary in order to open the country and place our commerce upon an equitable footing. The war took place, and it resulted that we obtained permission to trade freely at five important ports, and were ceded an island, upon which we established a strong military force, and erected naval, and mercantile storehouses. Now, then, is the time, thought the Manchester manufacturers, for our exports to pour into China, and cargo upon cargo of cotton and other goods were sent out by them, in the expectation of finding a large demand and of realizing ample profit. The result was most disappointing. "For the two years succeeding the signature of the treaty, the novelty of our goods created an exceptional demand; and in 1845 the value of our exports reached the sum of 2,394,827 l. sterling, a value which, although far exceeding that of earlier years, was comparatively insignificant. But subsequently to 1845, the curiosity of the Chinese abated, and in 1850 a year remarkable for its widely spread peace and commercial competition, the whole value of our exports to China only amounted to 1,918,244 l. sterling; while those to India for the same year were valued at nearly 8,000,000 l."

Our merchants had then the difficult duty of explaining the apparently inexplicable anomaly of India, with a population less than one-fourth of that of China, consuming about four times the amount of exports, and again the fault was ascribed to the absence of sufficient free ports, and to the restrictions of the Chinese Government. It was demanded that the Yang-tze-kiang and the commercial towns of the interior should be open to trade, that British agents should have permission to travel in all parts of the country, that a representative should be stationed at Peking, and that a comprehensive and equitable treaty of commerce should be ratified and carried into execution. These propositions required another war, for which the seizure of the "Arrow," in 1856, afforded a cause; and at its conclusion a treaty was obtained, which was sufficiently advantageous to satisfy all requirements. The wide extension of our general relations with China has in a great measure compensated for the expenses and inconvenience of the war, but the result with regard to the demand for our exports not fulfilled expectation. The Chinese have not evinced any particular desire to purchase the proffered goods; and the disproportion between the Indian and the Chinese consumption, although less than in preceding years, is still very remarkable. All these miscalculations have been caused by the absence of real knowledge of the wants and habits of the people. If these had been more clearly understood, and if proper justice had in earlier years been awarded to the energetic and self-reliant character of the nation, many grave errors would have been avoided, and fewer pecuniary losses would have been deplored.

When our exports were first introduced into the markets of the interior our manufacturers were surprised to find that, instead of meeting with a large demand for their cotton and other goods from, as they had imagined, a people anxious to obtain the benefits accruing to them through the foreign free trade, they were absolutely competing—and for some years competing, at a loss—with a nation of cotton-growers and traders, who were equally anxious to obtain a sale for their own native goods. In this race the advantages were more equally distributed than was then generally supposed. The British manufacturer had in his favor machinery with all its appliances for ensuring a good, rapidly-made, and cheap material; but the Chinese grew their own cotton, and, although much time was lost by them in manufacturing the cloth, the disadvantage was in some measure compensated by the cheapness of labor. It therefore happened that, although the native purchasers were offered foreign cloth at an unusually low price, a material better suited to their wants was offered by their own producers at a price almost as low, and was so generally preferred that our merchants were in many cases obliged to part with their goods at a ruinously cheap rate.

\*Including the three ports on the Yang-tze-kiang we have now thirteen ports open to our trade, of which the most profitable are Hankow, Shanghai, and Canton.

The Ministers' Union of Chicago is composed of the Congregational ministers of that city. The Independent says: Rev. Robert Patterson, D. D., of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, is also a member; who, by his scholarly attainments, Scotch wit, and catholic spirit, adds much to the interest of these gatherings. The Union meets once in a month, in the evening, at the houses of the members, in rotation. Its exercises are social, literary, devotional. The members are accompanied by their wives; supper is provided. Two literary productions are presented at each meeting, and these are passed around for criticism.

AMERICAN HOSPITALITY.

HOW IT STRIKES AN ENGLISHMAN.

The following passage is extracted from a letter of the celebrated English magazine writer, George Augustus Sala, to the London Telegraph. With some exaggeration, explained from the fact that the writer's avocation is to produce "sensation" in a literary way, the extract is fair, kindly, and interesting.

Once let the Americans really know who and what you are, and they welcome you with open arms. Their houses, their horses, their carriages, their servants, are all at your disposal, not metaphorically, as the Spaniards offer them, but actually and entirely. They will dine you, they will breakfast you, they will sup you, and when there is nothing legitimate in the way of eating and drinking going on, they will press you to have oysters. They will give you, if you allow them, a great deal more Champagne, Madeira, Scotch ale, and Bourbon, whisky than is good for you. If you say you are a teetotaler, they will send you a dozen of Congress water or effervescent sarsaparilla. If you confess yourself a smoker, they will cram your pockets with Cabanas, or send you a box of Imperials almost as long and as strong as pokers. Admire an American author and you will find his works handsomely bound, on your table when you return home. I happened to mention the other day that, intending to look in at Havana on my way to New Orleans, I thought I might as well get up a little Spanish. I bought a copy of Ollerdorf's Spanish grammar, and was sent me. They will insist on paying your hackney coach, your omnibus, and ferry fare; and I positively believe that were I mean enough to ask, I could find a dozen friends who would pay my hotel bill. That which they do to strangers the Americans are not slow to do among themselves. A gentleman of mature years informed me lately that his uncle had sent him a thousand dollars as a New Year's gift. They are always making presents. Any person of good means, with a house of his own, is sure to have from six to a dozen nephews, nieces, and cousins staying with him for months at a time. I never knew such a people for having cousins, particularly female, and pretty. Ten to one, also, but you will find an adopted child in every other family. When an American falls in business—and most of them fall at some time or another—if he be at all a decent kind of man, he will find friends who will not only "loan," but give him money to start afresh. And, pray let me add, that it would be doing a cruel and shameful wrong to this people, to assume that their hospitality towards the strangers within their gates is dictated by a vulgar spirit of ostentation. That there are vulgarisms, and "stuck-up," and ostentatious folks in the Union is clear enough; but their great heart in respect to the sacred duty of hospitality is sound; and in the performance of that duty, they beat the English, and the Irish, and the Russians—which is saying a great deal.

MURDER OF DR. LIVINGSTON.

The last mail from the Cape of Good Hope brings the sad intelligence of the killing of Dr. Livingston. It requires confirmation, and we trust that it may turn out that the great explorer still survives. We take the following, says the Colonial Presbyterian, from a letter dated at Cape Town, Dec. 21:

Our latest intelligence from the interior is of a most painful nature. The interest which has always been taken by the people in this colony in the Livingston expedition, as well as the Central African mission, has not at all abated since the intelligence of the recall of Dr. Livingstone; and information is eagerly sought for upon the arrival of any of her Majesty's steamers engaged upon the coast. On Tuesday last her Majesty's ship Ariel arrived in Simon's Bay, and the utmost anxiety prevailed as to the news from the Zambesi. The feelings of the inhabitants may be conceived when the intelligence spread like wildfire through their ranks that the happy doctor, and those with him, had been brutally massacred by the natives on Lake Nyassa. That there was foundation for the intelligence was soon apparent, for a detailed statement of the circumstances attendant was speedily circulated. The doctor, it appeared, after the receipt of the news of his recall, had started for Lake Nyassa, taking with him five Makololos, but no Europeans. Unfortunately, after gaining the upper Shire, their boat, their only means of conveyance, was lost over one of the cataracts with which the river abounds, and they were compelled to continue their journey on foot. It was on the 14th of July that the Rev. doctor commenced his unhappy journey; and from the time of the occurrence mentioned above, until the 5th of November, nothing was heard of him. On that day the Governor of Quillimane received a letter from the Governor of Sena, stating that the doctor and his companions had met their death at the hands of the natives on Lake Nyassa. Although the account of the horrible tragedy bears all the impress of authenticity, I gladly seize upon a rumor which is current to the effect that the worthy doctor, although badly wounded, is not yet dead.

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NOTICES OF THE WORK.

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