

Editor's Table.

MISSIONARY CONFERENCE. Report of the Punjab Missionary Conference, held at Lahore in December and January, 1862-63. Edited by the Committee of Compilation. Lodianna. Printed at the American Presbyterian Mission Press, Rev. A. Rudolph, Superintendent, 1863. Sold by Robert Carter & Bros., New York, and W. S. & A. Martien, Philadelphia. 8vo. pp. 398.

The union of Missionaries and the friends of Missions for the purpose of mutual support and enlightenment, and for friendly intercourse, is one of the signs of the times. The great Conference at Liverpool, of 1860, has been followed by one of analogous character, though on a smaller and merely local scale in the Punjab, in Northern-India. This latter included missionaries of the Church of England, the Presbyterian, the Reformed, and the United Presbyterian Churches, the Church of Scotland and the Methodist Episcopal Church, besides many lay members, whose denomination is not given. Subjects of the highest practical interest were earnestly discussed by means of brief written essays followed by voluntary remarks from the members, each of whom brought the stock of his experience to swell the common fund. Among the subjects discussed we notice: Schools; Itinerations; Lay Co-operation; Medical Missions; Native Pastorate; Sympathy and Confidence of Native Christians; Polygamy and Divorce; Inter-mission Discipline; an Indian Catholic Church. The most lively and painful interest was roused by the discussion on the sympathy and confidence of native Christians. The opening essay, by Rev. David Herron, frankly admitted the want of sympathy between missionaries and converts, and several natives present, testified, in very strong language, to the same fact. The revelations were far from pleasant, yet if a rankling evil has been brought to the broad light of a Christian council of disinterested men, by this Conference, it has even thus accomplished good. The idea of a Catholic, or comprehensive church, embracing all the evangelical Christians of India in one general fold, was ably and hopefully advocated by not a few. Missionaries may become pioneers in the work of genuine Christian union. The very knotty subject of Polygamy and Divorce occupied considerable attention. A Bible and Tract Society for the Punjab was formed, to whom was assigned the question of a standard authorized version of the Scriptures in Hindu. A central committee was organized to counsel with missionary bodies in secular matters, to provide support for native Christians and inquirers, and to promote a vernacular Christian literature. A General Committee of Reference was formed, for determining differences of opinion between missionary bodies. The enactment of suitable laws on marriage and divorce as affecting native converts was asked. A committee was also appointed with reference to a larger and more systematic employment of medical missionaries. During the conference, the Lord's Supper was celebrated, in which practical proof of the unity of the various churches represented was given. The book is valuable as revealing peculiarities of missionary character and life, and as furnishing a guide in difficult questions arising in missionary operations. A full index accompanies it.

MACOURT. Altar Incense. Being Morning Watches, Evening Incense and Altar Stones. A Manual of Devotion for Morning and Evening. By the author of the Faithful Promiser, &c. New York: R. Carter & Bros. 18mo. pp. 310. Red edges. Philadelphia: for sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

A book of Prayer and devotional Poetry, suitable for private or family worship. A morning and evening prayer and a selection of poetry are given for each of thirty-one days. Few undertakings are more difficult than to provide suitable forms of expression for the soul in the attitude of worship; the author has made a valuable contribution towards such a result, and we have no doubt there are times when almost any true Christian would find such a treatise welcome.

A. L. O. E. Good for Evil and other Stories for the Young. By A. L. O. E. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. 18mo. pp. 288. Philadelphia: for sale at the Presbyterian House.

This makes, we believe, the fiftieth A. L. O. E. volume published by Carter & Brothers. The publishers have doubtless long ago learned that the little people never tire of these bright stirring dramatic stories, in illustration always of some valuable principle of truth or duty. The volume before us contains a large number of short stories, some of which have already gone the rounds. We venture to republish a favourite in our family department.

MAGAZINES AND PAMPHLETS. THE PHILADELPHIA PHOTOGRAPHER for July. Benrman & Wilson. We are glad to see that this journal is in a prosperous condition. Externally it is a credit to the typographic art as well as photographic art. The illustration is very choice and elegant. Price \$3 per annum.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE, No. 1048, for July 2d, commences a new volume. Contents: Use and Abuse of Female Sentiment in Religion. Tony Butler, part 8. Lindisfarne Chase, part 11. Poetry. Short Articles.

LITERARY ITEMS. AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF GENERAL WINFIELD SCOTT.—Among the new books now in preparation for the coming autumn, few are likely to command more attention from the public than the autobiography of General Winfield Scott, now in the press of Messrs. Sheldon & Co., New York. The volume will contain pen and ink sketches of noted contemporaries, and will be illustrated with two steel engraved portraits. It will doubtless abound in matters of personal, political, military, and historical interest.

"THE ARMY RATION."—This is the title of a work prepared by E. N. Horsford, late Rumford Professor of Chemistry in Harvard University, and is the result of an investigation made by Prof. Horsford, at the request of officers connected with the administration of the medical and subsistence departments of the army. The author thinks he has successfully shown that the present rationing ration, weighing thirty-two or forty ounces and occupying about one hundred cubic inches, may be reduced in weight to thirteen or sixteen ounces and in bulk to thirty five cubic inches, without any diminution of nutritive value, and this not by means of concentrated extracts of food, but simply by removing the insubstantial portions and the water, by compression. The opinion of this eminent chemist is certainly worthy of all consideration. If it were found correct in practice, it would greatly simplify all army movements, especially those of an invading force, moving like Sherman upon a long line of communication.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES.—We learn from that invaluable annual, Child's National Almanac for 1864, that the number of libraries exceeding 10,000 volumes in Great Britain and Ireland in 1856 was 43; in France, at the same date, 38; in the United States, in 1863, 104. The aggregate number of volumes in these 104 libraries was 2,403,477, which is probably about one-fifth of the total number of books contained in all the public and educational libraries of the United States. Most of the libraries of the country have had a very prosperous year. Of the Philadelphia Mercantile Library, the American Literary Gazette says, that the year just closed has been one of the most important in its history. An increase of \$1 in the annual dues of members has already produced excellent results, which will probably be more marked in the future. 4,135 volumes have been added during the year, at a cost of a little over \$1 a volume. "The library now contains over 25,000 volumes." John Edmands is the obliging Librarian.

FOREIGN. Nathaniel Hawthorne.—The leading literary and political newspapers of England have noticed the death of Mr. Hawthorne, in the kindest and most appreciative manner, and some of the London publishers are bringing out rival cheap editions of his favorite works.

French Items.—The Paris correspondent of the American Literary Gazette says: The sale of the poems of Alfred de Musset continues to be so great that the profits on them have paid all of the expenses of the "Revue Nationale." You know how heavy these expenses are during the first years of the establishment of a periodical.—M. Ernest Renan, in the 1st May number of the "Revue des Mondes," attributes the relative inferiority of Yankee literature "to the absence of great institutions for intellectual interests, such as our Universities and Academies."—The Archbishop of Paris has decided that henceforth a priest or priests shall annually be sent to Germany, to acquire that knowledge of critical methods which may enable them successfully to defend religion against modern attacks.—A physician, the author of a work on homeopathy, Dr. Courty de La Pommerais, is now lying under sentence of death for poisoning a woman whose life he had insured for \$110,000.

Increase of the Vocabulary of the Latin Language.—M. Quicherat was lately elected to a vacant seat in the French Academy of Belles Lettres and Inscriptions. His principal recommendation, according to the correspondent of the Literary Gazette, to a seat in the learned company is his Addenda Lexicis Latinis, which is really one of the most valuable contributions made to the study of the Latin language for many years. Of a truth, since Forcellini published his noble dictionary, it is one of the most valuable works which have appeared. Its chief merit lies in its wise liberality in admitting to its pages those Latin words to which former Latin lexicographers refused freedom of dictionary, upon the ground that no Latin words should appear except such as were to be found in the purest Latin authors. What would be said of a lexicographer who should refuse to admit in his work all English words except those found in the writers of the reigns from Elizabeth to Annie, both inclusive? Nevertheless, this rule has been so generally accepted in the learned world, that even Herr Wilhelm Freund's immense dictionary, which appeared at Leipzig in 1834, does not contain a single new word. M. Quicherat has collected no less than 4,000 new words in the Latin, and several thousand more in the glossaries. He even found one new word in the classical authors which have been examined with the microscope since the revival of learning; this is the adverb *dire*. And he discovered the nobility of the verb *lectare, scriptare, frequenter*, of *legere* and *scribere*, which have been expelled from Horace by critics who insisted that *lecto aut scripto* were to be taken as the ablative of *lectus* and

*scriptus*, and not as the indicative of *lectare* and *scriptare*.

Leonardo da Vinci.—A letter from Italy, in a recent number of "The Athenaeum," says: "The prophecy that the present generation would be the last privileged to see even traces of the once glorious picture of 'The Last Supper,' by Leonardo da Vinci, is unfortunately borne out by the state of that work. A more complete wreck cannot well be conceived—so complete that it is now almost impossible to distinguish even the outline of the principal figures. This picture may be cited as one of the most remarkable instances of the perishable nature of oil colors. It was finished about 1498. In 1540, one half is said to have nearly disappeared, and ten years later nothing but the outline remained. How artists undertook to restore it, and what ruin they wrought, is well known. Very instructive, though not a little vexatious, is the fact, that while this oil picture has disappeared, the large fresco of the Crucifixion, by Montoriano, executed in 1405, on the wall opposite 'The Last Supper,' is in good condition; and we have many examples of admirably-preserved frescoes which date many centuries back."

A SENSIBLE AND ENCOURAGING VIEW.

The New York Times of July 7th, takes the following view of the situation so far as concerns the Army of the Potomac and Richmond. We commend it especially to those inclined to despond:

What now is specially needed is patience on the part of the people. Let loyal men throughout the North but possess their souls with the resolute spirit of their great military leader, and it is certain that the rebellion cannot hold out many months longer. We don't say this with any prophesying disposition. Predictions lie like broken pots herds along the whole path of this war. All sensible men have long since ceased to value them, come from what quarter they may. But a mathematical calculation from settled data is now a prediction. The present situation admits of such calculation, and therein it differs from all that have preceded it. Hitherto, the future has been divined mainly from anticipated issues of particular battles, or particular strategic movements. If some great conflict were impending, the superiority of our army in numbers would give many minds an absolute confidence that the enemy must sustain a crushing defeat, which would end the rebellion. When the conflict came, owing to some unappreciated advantage of the enemy in position, or some other cause, it would give us but a drawn battle, or, at most, an indecisive victory. The particular care of the rebel generals always to keep open their line of retreat, has almost uniformly deprived even our positive successes of nearly all practical fruits. So far as mere strategy is concerned, it is always idle to prognosticate its results; for in our necessarily imperfect knowledge of the enemy, it can never be fully known what counter-strategy may be brought to meet it. Thus predictions of decisive overthrows from particular movements or encounters have a hundred times failed. Fair as they have been on the surface, there has always been enough of the uncertain element in them as to make them worthless. There is now, we think, an essential change in the situation. Geographically, the two great armies have reversed their positions. The Army of the Potomac bears upon Lee from the south instead of the north. This of itself tells with consequences upon Lee's lines of supplies and of retreat, for these lines all run southward; we believe it can surely be calculated with fatal consequence. Let us look calmly. The business of the Army of the Potomac hitherto has been to be assailants. Its object was the rebel capital, and to secure that it had to maintain the aggressive. It had to give battle at the enemy's entrenched positions; and, if successful, it was only to find itself confronted with other positions yet more formidable. Such a mode of aggressive warfare must put any army, however brave or numerous, at an immense disadvantage. To declare positively that it will ever attain its object is unsafe; that it will attain it by a certain specified time is simple presumption. The change of position has made it no longer necessary for the Army of the Potomac, or at least its great body, to be assailants. Richmond is not now the immediate, but the ultimate object. The special purpose now is to destroy the communications leading into Richmond. That destruction is to be accomplished mainly by cavalry.

The infantry have simply to maintain their present advanced positions as the base for cavalry expeditions. Their business is chiefly defensive; and so long as it is certain that their present intrenchments cannot be carried either by stratagem or battle, with any force the enemy can bring against them, an end is made of a whole class of contingencies that always threatened when they were on the aggressive. So far as regards that, then, the future may be counted upon with far less uncertainty than ever. It is certain that the resources of Virginia cannot for any long period support Lee's great army, without taking into account at all the fact that these resources are certainly reduced by the great number of noncombatants within the State who are incapable of being removed. It is certain that there are but two railroad lines which can contribute supplies without, and that the means for transportation by the common roads, for the seasons of the year when these roads are practicable, are too limited to be of any material service.

The only question then is, whether

our cavalry can keep these two railroads permanently unavailable. We don't see how it is possible for any one who has read of the work just done by Generals Wilson and Kautz, to doubt it. It is officially stated that sixty miles of the railroads were destroyed that it would be impossible to rebuild them in less than a month. This operation can be repeated as often as occasion demands. With our great superiority in cavalry, and with our acquired knowledge of the country, the enemy cannot prevent these swoops.

Had they five times their number of men, they could not effectually guard these long lines of railroad, located at no greater distance from our army base. A few minutes' work at any one point in the burning of bridges, or the blowing up of a culvert, prevents the transmission of troops from one threatened point to another. And a day's uninterrupted work of destruction on any part of the line is enough to necessitate a whole month's incessant work of repairing. It is not within the limits of physical possibility of General Lee to keep these railroads open against General Grant's continued attacks. That General Grant will continue these attacks as often as need be, no one who knows anything of his tenacity of purpose can doubt.

It all, then, comes to this:—The Army of the Potomac is now planted in a position which is secure against all attack—a position which relieves it from all the risks of delivering battle, and a position which gives it the command of means of communication absolutely necessary to the enemy's subsistence. What else then is wanted for the capture of Richmond? Nothing—absolutely nothing, but time. As surely as Lee's army and the population of Virginia cannot live on air, just so surely their means of subsistence must be continually diminishing from the time the present limited crop is gathered.

The crop, so far from sufficient to carry them to the harvest of next year, cannot sustain them, short of starvation rations, even to the end of the present year. But a few months at furthest are necessary to compel Lee either to abandon Virginia, thus isolated from the rest of the "Confederacy," or to surrender. If he attempts to abandon it, without railroads to aid him, it is hard to see how it will be possible for him to get the necessary transportation indispensable to any great army movement. The attempt even, at best, would be an exceedingly difficult and dangerous one. With such a General as Grant on his flanks and in his rear, Lee could hardly get through to a new base of supplies without general disorganization.

It is for the Northern people to maintain their patience and confidence, and let General Grant manage this business in his own way. If he prefers to operate by slow and sure methods, as at Vicksburg, instead of by constant attacks of doubtful issue and involving great sacrifices of life, all true men will cheerfully recognize its wisdom, and calmly await the final triumph, even though it comes not for many months yet. When it does come it will be all the more complete and decisive.

FISH STEALING.—A HOTTENTOT FABLE.

The following is taken from a recent English translation of Hottentot Fables and is given as a specimen of the mental calibre and ingenuity of that people, hitherto regarded as at the lowest point of human degradation:

"Once upon a time a jackal, who lived on the borders of the colony, saw a wagon returning from the seaside laden with fish. He tried to get into the wagon from behind, but he could not; he then ran on before, and lay in the road as if dead. The wagon came up to him, and the leader cried to the driver 'Here is a fine kaross for your wife.' 'Throw it into the wagon,' said the driver, and the jackal was thrown in. The wagon traveled on through a moonlight night, and all the while the jackal was throwing the fish out into the road; he then jumped out himself, and secured a great prize. But a stupid old hyena coming by, at more than her share, for which the jackal owed her a grudge; so he said to her, 'You can get plenty of fish, too, if you lie in the way of a wagon as I did, and keep quite still whatever happens.' 'So!' mumbled the hyena. Accordingly, when the next wagon came from the sea, the hyena stretched herself out on the road. 'What ugly thing is this?' cried the leader, and kicked the hyena. He then took a stick and thrashed her within an inch of her life. The hyena, according to the directions of the jackal, lay quiet as long as she could; then got up and hobbled off to tell her mistresses to the jackal, who pretended to comfort her. 'What a pity,' said the hyena, 'that I have not such a handsome skin as you!'"

THE GLORY OF THE PINES.

Magnificent! nay, sometimes, almost terrible! Other trees, tufting crag or hill, yield to the form and sway of the ground, and clothe it with soft compliance, are partly its flatterers, partly its comforters. But the pine is serene resistance, self-contained; nor can I ever, without awe, stay long under a great Alpine cliff, far from all house or work of man, looking up to its companion pine, as they stand on the inaccessible jutting and perilous ledges of the enormous wall, in quiet multitude, each like the shadow of the one beside it, upright, fixed, spectral, as troops not knowing each other, dumb forever. You cannot reach them, cannot cry to them, those trees never heard human voice; they are far above all sound but of winds. No foot ever stirred fallen leaf of theirs. All comfortless they stand, between the two eternities of the vacancy and the Rock; yet with such iron will, that the rock itself looks bent and shattered beside them; fragile, weak, inconsistent, compared to their stony energy of delicate life and monody of enchanted pride; numbered unconquerable.—Ruskin.

GRACE renews nature; glory perfects grace.—John Owen.

Advertisements. SECOND EDITION. THE BOOK FOR THE NATION AND THE TIMES, BY A CITIZEN U. S. N. A. 12mo. Pamphlet. 25 Cents. OPINIONS OF THE PRESS. Among the many publications from the press this is eminently timely. Setting out with the idea that the present committees upon our country are the just judgment of God for our national sins, it faithfully proceeds to show the prominent ways by which, as a nation, we have sinned, viz.—By adopting a National Constitution which makes no formal recognition of God; by regarding as a nation civil government as an ordinance of God; by disregarding the law of God in relation to the moral character of our civil wars; and by maintaining slavery, and refusing to try it by the word of God. These are its leading positions, and they are generally well maintained. We would rejoice to see this pamphlet have a wide circulation.—Christian Instructor.

CHEAP CARPET STORE. LEWIS & IVINS. NO. 43 STRAWBERRY STREET, Second door above Chestnut. PHILADELPHIA. Cheap Carpet Store. LEWIS & IVINS. RUN NO RISK. We refund the money, if desired, for every lot of Shirts which fail in any respect. FINE SHIRTS, CUT LENGTHWISE OF MUSLIN. Made of New York Mills Muslin, and very fine Linen Bosoms, ONLY \$3.50. WILLIAMSVILLE MILLS MUSLIN, AND FINE LINEN BOSOMS, ONLY \$3.95. GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS. SMITH & JACOBS, 642 9th St. No. 1226 CHESTNUT street. WISTAR'S BALSAM, OF WILD CHERRY. ONE OF THE OLDEST AND MOST RELIABLE REMEDIES IN THE WORLD FOR Coughs, Colds, Whooping Cough, Bronchitis, Difficulty of Breathing, Asthma, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Croup, and Every Affection of THE THROAT, LUNGS AND CHEST, INCLUDING EVEN CANNOT BE DISCREDITED. The Rev. Jacob Sechler, Well known and much respected among the German population in this country, makes the following statement for the benefit of the afflicted: HANOVER, Pa., Feb. 16, 1859. Dear Sir—Having realized in my family important benefits from the use of your valuable preparation, Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry—it affords me pleasure to recommend it to the public. Some eight years ago one of my daughters seemed to be in a decline, and little hopes of her recovery were entertained. I then procured a bottle of your excellent Balsam, and before she had taken five whole of the contents of the bottle there was a great improvement in her health. I have, in my individual case made frequent use of your valuable medicine, and have always been benefited by it. JACOB SECHLER.

FROM H. D. MARTIN, M. D., Of Mansfield, Tioga co., Pa. Having used in my practice the last four years, Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry, with great success, I most cheerfully recommend it to those afflicted with obstructed Coughs, Colds, Asthma, &c.

FROM JESSE SMITH, Esq., President of the Morris County Bank, Morristown, New Jersey. "Having used Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry for about fifteen years, and having realized its beneficial results in my family, it affords me great pleasure in recommending it to the public as a valuable remedy in cases of weak lungs, colds, coughs, &c., and a remedy which I consider to be superior to any other I have ever used in cases of the kind." FROM HON. JOHN E. SMITH, A Distinguished Lawyer in Westminster, Md. I have on several occasions used Dr. Wistar's Balsam of Wild Cherry for severe colds, and always with decided benefit. I know of no preparation that is more efficacious in more distressing cases of general illness. The Balsam has also been used with excellent effect by J. B. Elliot, Merchant, Hall's Cross Roads, Md.

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