

Editor's Table.

DRIFTED SNOW FLAKES, or Poetical Gatherings from Many Authors. Protestant Episcopal Book Society, 1224 Chestnut street, Philadelphia. 208 pp. 12mo.

In the contest for public favor, half the battle is already fought for any book which comes to us in the beautiful external qualities which grace this issue from the press. In the matter which fills its pages, it is safe to pronounce it equally felicitous. A few of the poems are re-publications, but most of them are new—compilations from a pile of manuscripts from different hands—being the effusions of earnest and devout minds, speaking aloud the sentiments breathed in the sick chamber, or when the heart was crushed with sorrow, joyful through hope, or jubilant with praise. We have ventured to transcribe a specimen. It will be found on another page, under the title, "The Germs of the Beautiful." One thing about the book we do not like, though others will—the name. It is no doubt beautiful, but these poems have a warm Christian tone, and they should not have a wintry name. For sale as above.

THE EARLY DAWN; OR SKETCHES OF CHRISTIAN LIFE IN ENGLAND IN THE OLDER TIME. By the author of "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family." With Introduction, by Prof. Henry B. Smith, D. D. New York: M. W. Dodd. pp. 397. The "Chronicles of the Schonberg-Cotta Family" have been extensively read, and have met with but one judgment from readers. The past has not only been made to re-appear to us in its freshness, but in truthfulness also. Luther and his times are clothed with the charm of romance, and yet we feel ourselves in the midst of facts. For the present book it is sufficient to say, that the scene is transferred from Germany to England. It portrays the multiform history of the Christian life in England, from the Druidical age to the time of the Lollards. The style has the same originality of conception and the same attractiveness which have already distinguished the writings of the author. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store, 1334 Chestnut Street.

THE FOREST ARCADIA OF NORTHERN NEW YORK, EMBRACING A VIEW OF ITS MINERAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND TIMBER RESOURCES.—T. O. H. P. Burnham, Boston, gives us this Duodecimo of 224 pages, in a style which is very comforting respecting the case of publishers in these shaky times. The subject matter is that recently prolific one of the great wildernesses in northern New York. We remember when it was a fallow land, all thoughtless of the profanation which it has since suffered as the resort of summer tourists, with their rifles and fishing rods—happy they if they have not forgotten the more indispensable outfit of mosquito bars—and the prospecting region for speculators in sawlogs. The writer gives us enough of adventure to keep our interest well tightened, and is withal natural and easy in his style. For the copy before us, we are indebted to Lippincott & Co., 715 and 717 Market Street.

PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES. THE AMERICAN MONTHLY KNICKERBOCKER for August, 1864. New York: 37 Park Row. Philadelphia: T. B. Caldwell and John Campbell. Contents: 1. Administration Modes for National Regeneration. 2. The Fine Arts as Educators. 3. Yucatan. 4. Sunbeams. 5. Laoc. 6. The Frescoes of Michael Angelo. 7. Brazil and Brazilian Society. 8. City Cousins. 9. A Wilted Morning Glory. 10. Webster's March Speech. 11. Found Wanting. 12. Funeral. 13. The New Nation. 14. The Country and the Clergy.

The present is the second number of the "New Series," or more properly the new dispensation of the time-honored old Knickerbocker. Under the able editorship of J. Holmes Agnew, it opens for itself the new career of a Political-Literary Magazine—of what character may be judged from this statement in the prospectus: "This arrangement has been made at the suggestion of leading gentlemen connected with the Democratic party and other conservative organizations, for the purpose of establishing, on the basis of the old Knickerbocker, a Magazine of high character and extensive circulation, which will furnish the appropriate antidote to the radical doctrines of the extremists." At the head of the list of "leading gentlemen" who have given to this arrangement the sanction of their names, stands Gov. Horatio Seymour. Among them we notice also the names of General McClellan and Hon. C. J. Biddle. These facts will furnish a key to such articles as the 1st, 13th and 14th in the above table. The literary portion of this number, so far as we have cast our eye over it, is wholesome and lively.

THE BIBLICAL REPERTORY AND PRINCETON REVIEW, July, 1864. Philadelphia: Peter Walker, 321 Chestnut street.

The leading articles of this number are: The Donatist Controversy; Modes of Evangelization; Buckle's History of Civilization; The War and National Wealth; Water Baptism and that of the

Spirit; and a pretty full resume of the proceedings of the late O. S. General Assembly. Twenty-three pages of the latter are devoted to a narrative and review of the proceedings in the case of Dr. McPheeters, who, for alleged disloyalty, was displaced by the Presbytery of St. Louis, from the pastorate of the Pine Street Church in that city. The conclusion of the Reviewer is against the action of the Assembly in refusing to reverse that of the Presbytery, declaring it in his estimation "an injustice which has few, if any, parallels in the history of our church."

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE, August 6, 1864. Little, Son & Co., Boston. Zieher, Philadelphia.

This number has three articles from the Spectator: John Clare, England and Denmark, and the English Treatment of Denmark; one—Lindisfarn Chase (continuation)—from the Victoria Magazine; one—A Son of the Soil—from McMillan's Magazine; with the usual intermixture of short articles and Poetry.

THE NATIONAL PREACHER for August has two sermons—ones by Rev. Samuel Baker, D. D., on "The Duties of American Christians to their Country;" and one—"More blessed to Give than Receive"—by Rev. J. M. Sherwood. Both are sound and high-toned on the subjects of which they respectively treat.

LITERARY ITEMS. EUROPEAN.

M. Renan, the author of the "Life of Jesus," has been removed, by an Imperial decree from the professorial chair in the College de France, which he had recently attained under patronage of a Minister who desired to rescue him from dependence on fortune, and to raise him to an eminent position. The Paris correspondent of the American Literary Gazette says:—"There was a misunderstanding between them about engagements made. Public opinion was wounded by the declarations made by M. Renan in his opening lecture, and which were the more offensive because they were wanton. Voices which ought in every civilized community to have great weight called for his removal. I hold that M. Renan was bound, as an honorable man and as a man of delicacy, to resign that place. He had disappointed his patron, or he had got into the house by mistake."

The London correspondent of the same paper says:—"The Reader," whose lists of new publications are by far the most accurate of all that are published in London, makes up an aggregate of 312 works, as representing the mass of books published here in June, which is equivalent to an increase of some thirty over the preceding years. With an increase in the quantity there has been no deterioration in quality, but, on the contrary, on the whole, there is a marked improvement.

The following notice is taken of one of the issues of the month:—"Much was expected from the posthumous volumes of Sir Francis Palgrave's 'History of Normandy and England,' and much more than was expected have they realized, though some of the most interesting sections were left unfinished at the time of his death. There is scarcely a more delightful book in the whole range of English historical reading, and all the more so because, unlike Macaulay, you feel sure that you may safely rely upon every word Sir Francis Palgrave utters. It is sure to be as popular with you as it is already with us, and it is not being able to meet half the demands of subscribers to their gigantic library, notwithstanding the very large number of copies which they secured on the day of publication."

Of a forth-coming volume it is said:—"We are expecting anxiously 'The Idylls of the Heart,' which are announced for July, in which Tennyson is said to have thrown the whole power of his genius. I hear from a person who has seen a portion of the manuscript that it surpasses even 'The Idylls of the King.'"

Victor Hugo on Shakspeare.—An English critic, noticing Victor Hugo's last work, describes it as a large book, saying very little about Shakspeare, and a great deal about Victor Hugo.

Archbishop Usher.—After much delay, the edition of the Complete Works of Archbishop Usher, commenced over twenty years ago, is brought to a close by the publication of the seventh volume, containing general index, title-pages, &c. This is an Irish work, the publishers being Hodges and Smith, Dublin.

AMERICAN.

In a book, bearing the title of "The Mystery of the Trinity paralleled in Nature—an Analogical Argument," the Rev. W. R. Huntington, of Worcester, Mass., makes his particular analogue from that which chemists term Allotropism. This is a word which implies the existence of the same substance in several forms, as carbon in the form of charcoal, graphite and diamond.

JENNIE JUNE, with Lee and Shepard, Boston, for publishers, has given us "Talks on Women's Topics," concerning which Mr. Child's Gazette, says:—"So many female writers of late have plunged into big, coarse, and masculine subjects, that it is rather refreshing to hear a judicious woman talk like a woman upon women's topics. There is a great deal of sense and pleasantness about these gathered papers both in matter and style. The general topics are Spring, Courtship, The Household, About Babies, A Chapter about Girls, Summer, About Women, Autumn, Social Amusements, Matrimony, Winter Pleasures, Christmas Holidays."

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF ARCHBISHOP

Hughes are in course of publication by the American News Company. Part IV is just announced.

THE EARLY CHURCHES in New York. G. P. Disoway, Esq., yielding to the earnest solicitations of many prominent clergymen of New York and laymen, has been induced to incorporate all his articles originally written for the Christian Intelligencer that relate to the early history of the churches of that city into a volume. The work is now ready for the press, and will soon be issued.

THE MESSIAH'S SECOND ADVENT.

Dr. Hatfield is contributing a series of articles on this topic to the American Presbyterian and Theological Review. In the last article he gives a sketch of the opinions which in different ages have been more or less prevalent as to the time of his second coming, showing that the extravagance of the Millerites has been frequently exhibited in earlier times.

Guided by the current opinion, the Second Coming of the Messiah was confidently expected in the sixth century. The signs of the times were portentous. The previous century had brought down, from the frozen North, vast and irresistible hordes and Goths and Vandals, who swept over the sunny South, laying waste its fertile plains, ravaging its towns and villages, giving over its populous cities to be sacked and consumed, and sparing neither sex nor age in their thirst for plunder and blood. Irretrievable ruin had overtaken the grand old empire of the West, and the foundations of society had been convulsed to their very centre. Still fresh swarms of savages, Huns and Tartars, were pressing forward, obscuring the whole Northern and Eastern horizon, eager to share in the abundant spoils. Surely, the thousand years had expired, and Satan had been "loosed out of his prison," to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle," and their number was "as the sand of the sea."

As the century advanced, the omens became still more marked. Comet after comet with its immense train glared angrily for weeks together in the heavens, portending wars, plagues and shiverings of the earth. The fifth and thirteenth years of Justinian (A. D. 531, 539), were thus made memorable. Fear and terror seized the people, and not without cause. The result fulfilled their worst forebodings. Year after year, at times the earth trembled and shook. Proud Byzantium, for forty days, was subjected to these fearful shocks. The whole empire felt them. "Enormous chasms were opened; huge and heavy bodies were discharged into the air; the sea alternately advanced and retreated beyond its ordinary bounds; and a mountain was torn from Libanus, and cast into the waves." Two hundred and fifty thousand persons are said to have perished in the earthquake of Antioch. Berytus, with its illustrious university, was swallowed up. It fell, July 9th, 551.

Nine years before, the Plague, the most terrific scourge of antiquity, had begun its work. Entering on its career of desolation on the borders of the Nile, it spread Eastward and Westward along the Mediterranean, penetrating on one hand Persia and India, and on the other Greece, Italy, and the regions beyond. Year after year, it pursued its awful ravages, with more or less virulence. More than half a century of years it prevailed on the earth. The number of its victims has never been computed. Procopius, whose own observations supplied material for his graphic descriptions, wants words by which to show forth its horrid triumphs. At Constantinople, "during three months, five, and at length ten, thousand persons died each day." "Many cities of the East were left vacant, and in several districts of Italy the harvest and the vintage withered on the ground." The mortality of the century, by the plague alone, has been estimated as high as one hundred millions.

Well might the miserable dwellers on the earth, in the midst of these accumulated horrors, deem that the day of doom was at hand, that the "seven angels having the seven last plagues," were pouring out their vials upon the reprobate earth. Vastly greater reason had they for such a conjecture, than had the poor enthusiasts, who waited so eagerly, a score of years ago, for the coming of our Lord to destroy the world.

As the first thousand years of era was drawing to a close, advantage was taken, by not a few of the priesthood, to stir up the populace with the expectation of the immediate approach of the Last Great Day. The views of the Augustine respecting the thousand years of the Apocalypse were reproduced, and everywhere credited. That famous period was about to expire. Satan was about to be let loose. The terrible Antichrist, foretold by Paul, and supposed to be identical with the "Gog and Magog" of John, or at least, their prince, was soon to be revealed. The grand conflict—the last great battle—of the ages was soon to be fought. The Lion of the tribe of Judah was sure to come shortly, to put an end to the reign of the "Old Serpent," to destroy the world, and bring an everlasting righteousness. The old exploded dogma of the limitation of time to six thousand years was revived. The Septuagint, for hundreds of years, had given place to the Vulgate, with its peculiar chronology. According to the new reckoning, the sixth chiliad was just about to commence, and this was regarded as a very proper occasion for the introduction of a new and grander dispensation. The pulpit sounded the alarm far and wide, and eager crowds gathered to hear the wonderful news. It became

the theme of universal discourse, it was uppermost in every one's thoughts. Hence immense numbers, transferring their property to the churches and monasteries, left all and proceeded to Palestine, where they supposed Christ would descend from heaven to judge the world. Others, by a solemn vow, consecrating themselves and all they possessed to the churches, the monasteries, and the priests, served them in the character of slaves, performing the daily tasks assigned them; for they hoped the Supreme Judge would be more favorable to them, if they made themselves servants to his servants. Hence, also, whenever an eclipse of the sun or moon took place, most people betook themselves to caverns, and rocks, and caves. Very many, also, gave a large part of their estates to God and the saints—i. e. to the priests and monks. And, in many places, edifices, both sacred and secular, were suffered to go to decay, and, in some instances, actually pulled down, from the expectation that they would no longer be needed. This general delusion was opposed, indeed, by a few wiser individuals; yet nothing could overcome it, till the century had closed. But, when the century ended without any great calamity, the greater part began to understand, that John had not really predicted what they so much feared.

"This belief," says Robertson, "was so universal and so strong, that it mingled itself with civil transactions. Many charters, in the latter part of the tenth century, begin in this manner: 'Appropinquante mundi termino,' etc. 'As the end of the world is now at hand, and by various calamities and judgments the signs of its approach are now manifest.' The 'Gesta Episc. Leodiensium,' written about A. D. 1050, describe a terrible panic in Calabria, among the army of Otho, occasioned by an eclipse of the sun, said to have occurred in 995; possibly the nearly total eclipse of May 7th, 970, recorded in Struyk's catalogue: 'Smitten with an incredible terror, they thought of nothing else but the approach of the day of judgment. Some basely hid themselves away in wine casks, some in chests, others under wagons. Every one prized the opportunity, if, on that unnatural night, he could find a hiding place for himself.'"

Of the last year of the century, A. D. 1000, Sigebert, who flourished at the close of the next century, and wrote a chronicle of the times, says: "Many prodigies appeared. A tremendous earthquake occurred. A comet made its appearance. At nine o'clock on the 19th of January, the heavens opened, and a torch, as it were, with a long track, darted, like lightning, to the earth, so that not only they who were in the fields, but they, also, who were in the houses, were dazzled with the light; which assure gradually faded away, and a figure appeared as of a serpent, with a huge head and coiled tail."

The long looked for and dreaded year, the first of the second thousand of our era, passed like all its forerunners; the second also; and still the world moved on; and the pursued its wonted course; and the scoffers could say, and doubtless, after so much prognostication on the part of the priesthood, did say,—"Where is the promise of his coming? for, since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

In the third year the people took heart, laughed at their fears, and began to undo the folly of the recent reign of terror. As the year 1003 approached, writes Glaber Radolphus, A. D. 1045, "there was almost the world over, but especially in Italy and France, a general repairing of the churches. An intense emulation prevailed among the Christian people in the matter of church decorations: It was as if the world had everywhere cast off its old garments, and was decking itself with the white raiment of the churches. The splendid cathedrals of Strasburg, Mayence, Trier, Speyer, Worms, Basil, Dijon, Toul; and others, date from this period—monuments and memorials of the great panic, and fruits of the spoils acquired by the priesthood.

The panic was in some measure renewed when, a few years afterwards, Jerusalem was trodden under foot by the Turks. "In the year of our Lord 1009," says William Godell, the chronicler of the period, "through God's permission, the land of Judea was invaded by the unclean Turks, Jerusalem was taken, and the glorious sepulchre of Christ our Lord fell into their hands." In the year following, when these events were reported throughout the world, fear and grief filled the hearts of most people, since they imagined that the end of the world had arrived, and the better disposed, turning the occasion to profit, seriously addressed themselves to the reformation of their lives."

The world was kept almost continually in a state of alarm in respect to the last day. The thousand years had been dated from the incarnation. Now the crucifixion was thought to be the terminus a quo; and then the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans. Arentinus, the annalist, relates that during the reign of Henry IV., about A. D. 1062, a report was of constant prevalence that the end of the world was at hand. So greatly and generally had the outward church become a sink of immortality, that impiety, infidelity, and every form of vice and crime taken possession of the priesthood of all orders, with rare exceptions, that thoughtful and serious men, here and there, were emboldened openly to declare that Antichrist had surely come, and seated himself in the temple of God; and that, consequently, the Second coming of the Messiah to judge the world was momentarily to be expected.

In fact, there had been no generation since the Apostles' days that had not been told that Antichrist had come, or was about to come. The American News Company. Part IV is just announced.

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AGENTS: M. W. Dodd, 397 N. 2d St. Philadelphia. J. B. Lippincott, 715 Market St. Philadelphia.

was just about to come. In every age a class of men is to be found, who take special interest in exposing the immoralities and degeneracy of their own times; who regard the days in which they live as the very worst of all; who cannot believe that any future age will exceed theirs in depravity; and who therefore look upon the predictions respecting the Antichrist of the last days as an actual fulfillment before their own eyes. The Nervos of Pagan, and the Borgias of Pagan, Rome, the Alarics, Attilas, and Generics of the North, the Hildebrands, Leos, and Napoleons of the West, have each, in their turn, been identified with the Man of Sin. Now it is an individual; then an organized system or dominion. In no one particular have interpreters differed more than in their identification of the Antichrist of John's epistles, and the "Anomos" of Paul—"the Man of Sin." The Apocalypse makes no specific mention of either. All sorts of speculations have been started and maintained as to the times of Antichrist, and the period of his operations; some confining his dominion to the forty-two months of the Apocalypse, and others extending the time to nearly thirteen centuries.

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Proposals for Loan.

Notice is hereby given that subscriptions will be received by the Treasurer of the United States, the several Assistant Treasurers and designated Depositories, and by the National Banks designated and qualified as Depositories and Financial Agents, for Treasury Notes payable three years from August 15, 1864, bearing interest at the rate of seven and three-tenths per cent. per annum, with semi-annual coupons attached, payable in lawful money. These notes will be convertible at the option of the holder at maturity, into six per cent. gold bearing bonds, redeemable after five and payable twenty years from August 15, 1867. The Notes will be issued in denominations of fifty, one hundred, five hundred, one thousand, and five thousand dollars, and will be issued in blank, or payable to order, as may be directed by the subscribers. All subscriptions must be for fifty dollars, or some multiple of fifty dollars. Duplicate certificates will be issued for all deposits. The party depositing must endorse upon the original certificate the denomination of notes required, and whether they are to be issued in blank or payable to order. When so endorsed it must be left with the officer receiving the deposit, to be forwarded to this Department. The notes will be transmitted to the owners free of transportation charges as soon after the receipt of the original Certificates of Deposit as they can be prepared. Interest will be allowed to August 15 on all deposits made prior to that date, and will be paid by the Department upon receipt of the original certificates. As the notes draw interest from August 15, persons making deposits subsequent to that date must pay the interest accrued from date of note to date of deposit. Parties depositing twenty-five thousand dollars and upwards for these notes at any one time will be allowed a commission of one-quarter of one per cent, which will be paid by this Department upon the receipt of a bill for the amount, certified to by the officer with whom the deposit was made. No deductions for commissions must be made from the deposits. Officers receiving deposits will see that the proper endorsements are made upon the original certificates. All officers authorized to receive deposits are requested to give to applicants all desired information, and afford every facility for making subscriptions.

W. P. FESSENDEN, Secretary of the Treasury.

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