

Correspondence.

OPEN AIR MEETINGS.

BY EDWARD PAYSON HAMMOND.

In the State of Maine, during the spring of 1862, open air meetings were held which were blessed of God in the conversion of souls.

I remember that some of the good ministers in Portland were, at first, a little troubled with regard to the outdoor services, but when some of them found how distinctly God was setting his seal upon them, their objections disappeared.

About seven o'clock, on a clear still evening, we heard the voices of children in sweet and silvery tones, apparently led by a strong masculine voice.

At Brunswick, open air meetings were held on the Green. When these meetings commenced, fear was expressed with regard to the results.

At one of the open air services some four hundred persons from Lewistown, mostly young converts, had come a distance of twenty miles to be present.

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It was thought desirable at one of the meetings of the association, with a view of attracting public attention, to hold a special service on the evening of the second day on the village green.

I had the pleasure, many years since, to attend the anniversary meeting of one of our associations, in a village about twelve miles west of London.

The dying apostle asks, "And how shall I assure them?" His own convictions are not merely based in history; to his quickened moral sensibility, in which these doubters do not share, the great truths of Christianity are ever undergoing reiteration and illustration in the world.

or read for his text, "Herein is love; not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins."

Such a scene must have impressed the mind of every minister of Christ present with a conviction that out-door preaching has no insuperable difficulties; it must have powerfully affected those hearts, nor is it too much to hope that some will carry the holy impressions they then received into the world of eternal glory.

It was my happiness, two or three years after the occurrence I have described, to originate and assist in another interesting service of a similar character. Some five miles south of London Bridge is a vast plain known as Blackheath.

It was resolved, as religion was awfully neglected in the neighborhood, as thousands on every Monday evening resorted to the heath, and as open air preaching had been recently revived in the district around, to endeavor again to collect congregations on "The Mount," and Dr. F. A. Cox kindly consented to open the campaign.

As I walked away with the excellent and beloved doctor after the service through the park, we observed two young women trying to overtake us.

Worthy the Lamb, &c. in which he was joined by the children with which he was surrounded, and moved forward to the church, the whole singing joyfully, and making melody that we have rarely heard surpassed.

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BROWNING'S DEATH OF ST. JOHN. SECOND PAPER.

Without stopping to dwell on the setting of the story, which is very artistically yet naturally done, we bring the reader to the side of the dying Evangelist, who, with three or four fellow-Christians, had taken refuge from the rage of persecution in a deep cave.

There is left on earth No one alive who knew (consider this!)—Saw with his eyes and handled with his hands

The declarations of the living John were generally sufficient. His testimony was received. Much of the Lord's life, he says, had grown

Even men who insisted on explanation as a condition of believing, and the young ones, who in their strength and their impatience asked: "Where is the promise of his coming?" under his teachings, he thinks, in the main believed.

We had the truth, might leave the rest to God: It was thought desirable at one of the meetings of the association, with a view of attracting public attention, to hold a special service on the evening of the second day on the village green.

The dying apostle asks, "And how shall I assure them?" His own convictions are not merely based in history; to his quickened moral sensibility, in which these doubters do not share, the great truths of Christianity are ever undergoing reiteration and illustration in the world.

Is here and now: I apprehend naught else. Is not God now? I the world his power first made? Is not His love at issue still with sin, Closed with, and cast, and conquered, crucified? Visibly when a wrong is done on Earth? Love, wrong, and pain, what see I else around? Yes, and the Resurrection and Uprise To the right hand of the throne—what is it but?

These inquirers whom he recognizes as "the children, His beloved ones, too," yet who are not capable of recognizing these great contemporaneous manifestations and proofs of the truth, need to study the historic facts of Christianity, until "that Life and Death" becomes their "world," as it is John's.

Here the poet, catching the very temper of his inspired Hero, introduces that favorite theme of the beloved apostle, which gave such honied sweetness to his letters and exhortations, and which invests the memory of his serene old age with such an unwonted charm—Christian love.

For life, with all its fields of joy and woe, And hope and fear,—believe the aged friend—Is just our chance of the prize of learning

The chief argument of the poem is here stated. Men by skepticism lose all things, because they lose hold of the grand manifestation of love in the gospels.

The apostle is next described as anticipating and describing faithfully the false principles of philosophy which lie at the foundation of the Straussian and Tuebingen speculations on the historical character of the Gospels and Epistles.

Our mind receives but what it holds, no more. First of the love, then; we acknowledge Christ—

How prove you Christ came otherwise at least? Next try the power: He made and rules the world.

Miracles according to this philosophy are not needed any longer in proving the truth of the Gospel. They had their use once. [The apostle is not represented as aware of the latest phase of advanced rationalism, which, speaking in Dr. Shenkel of Baden, asserts that "miracles are the dark shade which has been cast upon the bright splendor of the activity of Christ."] They have been superseded by the fruit of the book itself they were designed to prove.

It is no longer for old twigs ye look Which proved once underneath lay store of seed But to the herb's self. This book's fruit is plain, Nor miracles need prove it any more.

DR. JENKINS CALLED TO MONTREAL.—We see it stated, in the secular papers, that "the Presbyterian Synod of Montreal has decided to call the Rev. John Jenkins, D. D., to St. Paul's Church in that city."

Editor's Table.

STANTON.—The Church and the Rebellion: A Consideration of the Rebellion against the Government of the United States, and the Agency of the Church, North and South, in relation thereto. By R. L. Stanton, D. D., Professor in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian Church, Danville, Ky. New York: Derby & Miller. 12mo. pp. 562. Philadelphia, for sale by Martien.

The tone of this volume, especially as emanating from the other branch of the church in Kentucky, is most welcome from its healthfulness, its uncompromising loyalty and its high and bold anti-slavery position. The aim of the accomplished author is to put the blame of the rebellion, so far as it rests upon the church at all, on the right shoulders, viz.: the champions of extreme pro-slavery views in the pulpits and professors' chairs of the South, with their sympathizers in like positions in the North.

The interest of a large part of the volume, it will be seen, is local and denominational: a criticism might justly be made also upon the absence of a felt unity in the miscellaneous materials brought together, but the facts and discussions are of great value, and will go far to settling truthfully and finally the grave question of the responsibility for this great and bloody national convulsion.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S BOOKS.

BUSHNELL.—Nature and the Supernatural, as together constituting the one system of God. By Horace Bushnell. New edition. New York: Charles Scribner. 12mo. pp. 528. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

CHRIST AND HIS SALVATION: in sermons variously related thereto. By Horace Bushnell. New York: Charles Scribner. 12mo. pp. 456. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

JAMESON, Sacred and Legendary Art. By Mrs. Jameson. Vol. I. Containing Legends of the Angels and Archangels, the Evangelists, the Apostles, the Doctors of the Church, and St. Mary Magdalene, as represented in the Fine Arts. Vol. II. Containing the Patron Saints, the Martyrs, the Early Bishops, the Hermits and the Warrior Saints of Christendom, as represented in the Fine Arts.

PRIME.—The Power of Prayer, illustrated in the wonderful Displays of Divine Grace at the Fulton Street and other meetings in New York and elsewhere, in 1857 and 1858. By Samuel Ireneus Prime, author of "Travels in Europe and the East." New and enlarged edition. New York: Charles Scribner. 12mo. pp. 418.

This is a wonderful record of facts in which the prayer-hearing God is shown to be true to his nature and his promises in events of our own time. It has acted, and doubtless will continue to act, as a powerful stimulus to the faith and prayer of God's people all over Christendom, having been re-published in England, translated in two different versions in France, and published in the East.

TICKNOR & FIELDS' BOOKS.

CHILD. Looking towards Sunset. From sources old and new, original and selected. By T. Maria Child. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Square 12mo. Fine cloth gilt bevelled edges, gilt top, tinted paper. pp. 455. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

This is one of the books so rarely issued from our presses, which it is a luxury simply to hold in one's hand. There is an exquisite grace and finish, without any extravagance, about all the externals that at once created a strong prejudice in favor of the contents. These contents are in fact, as choice as the exterior would lead us to expect, being a miscellany of Original and Selected articles upon topics connected with our everyday life, especial reference being had to old age, gathered by the accomplished authoress with consummate skill and taste.

A NEW ATMOSPHERE. By Gail Hamilton. Author of "Country Living and Country Thinking." Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 12mo. pp. 310. Bevelled boards, red edges, tinted paper. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The well-known newspaper essayist and magazine writer has, in this volume, dispensed with the inadequate and unsatisfactory method of unfolding her views afforded by those channels, and has wisely given herself the range of a whole volume. We notice a decided advance in the intensity, breadth and volume of her thoughts as here expressed. She seems to be swayed by a just sense of a mission to her contemporaries, and with new dignity and force she urges her views, with illustration and argument, on her readers.

JAMESON, Sacred and Legendary Art. By Mrs. Jameson. Vol. I. Containing Legends of the Angels and Archangels, the Evangelists, the Apostles, the Doctors of the Church, and St. Mary Magdalene, as represented in the Fine Arts.

The reputation of Mrs. Jameson, as an appreciative and accomplished critic of works of art, has long been established. The themes of these elegant and compact volumes are novel and curious, as well as exceedingly instructive. They show us an aspect of Romanism which has given it, perhaps, half of its power with the aesthetic as well as the ruder classes of people. They furnish, too, a luminous commentary upon such poets as Spenser, and reveal

in fact, the sources of much of the inspiration of early literature and art.

A handsome engraved portrait of Leonardo da Vinci accompanies the first volume.

MARTIENS' BOOKS.

A batch of excellent books for young persons in bright vermilion covers, with gilt backs and illustrated, has just come from the press of W. S. & A. Martien, of this city. We note:

MARGARET'S SECRET and its Success, by Mrs. Carey Brock, author of "Working and Waiting." 12mo. pp. 340.

Margaret is a wise and patient Christian girl, the eldest in a large family, which a step-mother enters, bringing the usual trials of such a change to the younger members, aggravated by harshness of temper. Margaret's "Secret" is found in the verse of Solomon: "A soft answer turneth away wrath" and her great success in practising upon it is admirably told.

JOSEPH THE JEW. A Tale founded on Facts, By the author of Mary Mathieson. 12mo pp. 303.

A story of deep interest the scene of which is laid in Germany in the time of the wars of Napoleon. The consoling power of Christianity is illustrated in contrast with the unsatisfactory creed of the Jew.

HOW CHARLEY HELPED HIS MOTHER. By Ruth Buck. 18mo. pp. 195.

THE TWO COUNCILS. By Catharine M. Trowbridge. Author of Frank and Rufus. 18mo. pp. 201.

JENNIE'S BIBLE VERSES. By Catharine M. Trowbridge. 18mo. pp. 153.

THE POOR WEAVER'S FAMILY. A Tale of Silesia. From the German. By Mrs. Sarah A. Myers. 18mo. pp. 121.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY, N. Y. Depository, 929 Chestnut St., Philadelphia.

CHRISTIAN HOME LIFE. A Book of Examples and Precepts. 12mo. pp. 299. 80 cts.

In thirteen chapters, as many topics illustrating the nature, necessities and opportunities for good in the life of the household are unfolded and illustrated, by example and the precepts of eminent Christian writers, forming a volume of great value and attractiveness. All who would make home happy by cultivating household piety will derive much assistance in their work from this volume.

The Tract Society have also issued a number of smaller volumes for Sabbath schools and young persons, all of which may be cordially recommended as suited to their object. We give the titles and prices:

At 50 cts. each: DORA HAMILTON. BLOOM OF YOUTH. PLEASANT PATH. WALTER MARTIN. At 35 cts. each: JOHNNY. At 30 cts., each: MADEIRA. A LITTLE MORE. At 25 cts.: JESUS IN BETHANY. At 20 cts.: U. S. PRIMER. At 15 cts. each: OUR KATIE. MARY'S FALSEHOOD. SCOTLAND.

CALIFORNIA—THE MOUNTAIN REGION

Rev. Dr. Kendall, in a letter to The Evangelist, gives the following sketch of our church work in the district named:

At Sonora there is a good house of worship; the congregation is large, and had a large proportion of females and children, which are far too scarce in this State. These elements represent home comforts, permanency and the material with which to form and teach the Sabbath school, which I was glad to learn was in a flourishing condition, and which cannot fail to be a source of strength to the church.

In Columbia a pleasant revival of religion has been enjoyed within a few months past. A former church edifice having proved inadequate to the wants of the congregation, they have just built a new one, more attractive and commodious than its predecessor, an honor to the people, and an ornament to the town, which will be ready for dedication in a few weeks. Aside from causes just mentioned, [the decline of population on account of partial exhaustion of the mines, and insufficient supply of water,] everything looked encouraging in these two churches. They seem to be acceptably served by their pastors, and harmonious among themselves.

At Murphy's, fifteen miles from Columbia, we have another church, one of the latest formed in the State and still very small. The pace was never large, for it could never be called a mining town, but it has some elements of prosperity which do not belong to purely mining towns. The Church work here is laying foundations hard and slow, yet necessary and important. A large population, at least several hundreds, needing the Gospel, and a few taking great delight in its ordinances, make the presence of our missionary a necessity. Without him there would be no one to warn the wicked, visit the sick, or bury the dead.

My journey has led me along among the foot-hills of the Sierra Nevada, and through the mining towns 100 miles in extent or more. In Vallicita, Angel's Camp, Mokelumne Hill, Jackson, Sutters, Amador, Lathrop, Folsom and Lincoln, I know not what religious influence may be on the people, but with the exception of Congregational churches at Mokelumne Hill and Folsom, I do not learn that there are any Calvinistic churches of any name. Yet in them all are many hundreds of souls—great numbers of them unquestionably walking unconcerned in the way to death. There are many other towns of like extent in the State, but the whole population is so small that many places are too feeble to support a minister of the Gospel or to comment themselves to the Church for aid; and yet a Christian cannot contemplate their wretchedness without pain.