

Editor's Table.

GILLET. Life Lessons in the School of Christian Duty, by the Author of the Life and Times of John Huss. New York, A. D. F. Randolph. 12mo. pp. 407; laid, tinted paper. Phila. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

The literary industry of the author of this excellent volume is amazing. Recently through with a noble work, which would content many a man as a life-monument, we hear of him giving the finishing touches to a History of Presbyterianism quite as large as the Life and Times of Huss. His productions enrich the pages of our leading Quarterlies; he finds time to write, with care and good judgment, almost every fortnight, an article for the American Presbyterian; and this volume reminds us that he is the pastor of a congregation whose proximity to the metropolis acquaints them with the models of American pulpit oratory, and who are yet so satisfied with their sermons, that at least one of them—so we judge from the introduction—has provided for the publication of a volume of them.

And the judgment of the people is carried out by the contents of the volume. Amid all his manifold literary duties, Dr. Gillett finds or takes time, though we cannot understand how he does it, to provide thoughtful, practical, stirring sermons for his people. True they are not elaborate or deep, but the range allowed himself by the author in selecting the series in this volume, would have excluded such. They have the valuable qualities of directness, homeliness, perspicuity. Simple, often beautiful illustrations, abound. All literature and history, sacred and profane, are tasked to furnish them. The sentences are short, the paragraphs are luminous, the sermons themselves scarcely half-an-hour long, yet always holding up and pressing home some thought, principle or duty, of living, present value. In these respects not a few models of sermon-writings could be gathered from the volume. And the impression left by the whole is that of completeness—not as if the author had preached a formal series of sermons, but as if the separate discourses had risen from a harmonious, well-ordered mind, never working at random, but aiming to rear among his people, from its foundations, a symmetrical, beautiful Christian life. Any who are seeking to commence, to cultivate, or to inculcate such a life, will find in "Life Lessons" a valuable aid.

THOMPSON. Bryant Gray: The Student, the Christian, the Soldier. By Joseph P. Thompson, D. D., Pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle Church. New York: A. D. F. Randolph. 18mo. pp. 148. With engraved portrait. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

A beautiful memorial of one of the many noble, cultivated Christian youth who have been sacrificed in our conflict. Bearing the names of two poets, his nature seemed as refined and delicate as theirs. He was brought into the church in the revival of '57, received a commission as 1st Lieut. 4th N. Y. Art. in '61, and raised to the staff of Gen. Doubleday in the following February. He discerned the lack of a noble spirit and manly enthusiasm in the army, as guided and influenced by Gen. McClellan. He laboured faithfully for the salvation of his associates, and was removed by disease Dec. 31st, 1862. William Cullen Bryant, the poet, after whom he was named, took a deep interest in his case, opened the columns of the Evening Post to his contributions, and furnishes some interesting matter for the little volume.

TALES AND SKETCHES OF CHRISTIAN LIFE, in different lands and ages. By the author of the Chronicles of the Schönberg-Gotta Family. New York: R. Carter & Brothers, 18mo. pp. 350. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

The successive stories of this gifted writer need only be announced to the Christian public as they appear. Their style is so captivating, their tone so pure and scriptural, their pathos so homelike and truthful, and their source—the life of the early church—so novel and yet so skillfully wrought up into scenes and incidents of the most intense interest, that they must command a large patronage from the better class of readers. Glad are we that a natural craving of the imagination can be gratified by such healthful and instructive material. The present volume embraces: "Mala and Cleon, a tale of the Egyptian Church in the Third Century," "Sketches from the History of the Reformation in Italy,"—all but the conversations in this are historical, "Diary of Brother Bartholomew," Monk of Odenwald, 12th century; "Sketches of the Moravians," largely historical.

JACKSON. Legends of the Monastic Orders, as represented in the Fine Arts. Forming the Second Series of Sacred and Legendary Art. By Mrs. Jameson. Corrected and enlarged edition. Boston: Ticknor and Fields. Blue and Gold. pp. 489. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia.

Lovers of art, and all those who seek accurate information upon the leading ecclesiastical personages of medieval times, owe a debt of gratitude to the

author of this volume for the immense and well digested mass of facts it contains. A clue to the significance of many of the masterpieces of painting—otherwise quite unintelligible, is given and graceful and just criticism intermingled in the well-known genial style of the writer. Some of the characters described are intensely interesting—like Thomas a Becket: some command our highest admiration—like Elizabeth of Hungary. Mrs. Jameson, in the introduction, gives evidence of fairness and good sense in her estimate of monachism as an institution.

The volume is embellished with a noble miniature head of Titian.

HYMNS OF THE AGES. Third series. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Sq. 16mo. tinted paper, gilt top, pp. 331. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

The public is doubtless well acquainted with preceding volumes of this collection of choice spiritual poetry. This, as they have been made with the most refined taste, and excellent judgment and abounds with gems of the rarest value. A large space is given to pieces suited to the time of war. Old age is also liberally remembered. As many as could be gathered of Madam Guyon's mystical and tender songs are given, they being out of print in this country. The finest hymns of Wesley, Cowper and Watts are also reproduced. Notwithstanding their familiarity, there is a depth and fullness of evangelical thought in these latter pieces that gives them decided advantage in comparison with more refined and æsthetic compositions, made popular by such collections as these.

MARK BARNETT, THE CRIPPLE, or West Morelands. By the author of "Weldon Woods." Boston: Henry Hoyt. 18mo. pp. 226. For sale by Ashmead & Evans.

A simple and touching record of labors for the salvation of souls carried on by private individuals, chiefly children, among their own comrades and neighbors. The great and important lesson well taught, is that we can go about our daily duties doing good; that we may win the souls of those we meet to the Lord Jesus by pious tempers and a pure example; that a kind and tender word, with the Saviour's blessing, will not be in vain.

It is beautifully printed and illustrated.

PENNMAN. Winfield, the Lawyer's Son, and how he became a Major General. By Major Pennman, author of the Tanner Boy. Philadelphia: Ashmead & Evans, 724 Chestnut St. 16mo. pp. 323.

The public are naturally eager to know all the interesting facts which can be collected of the early history and subsequent career of its military leader, now so successfully carrying forward the war to its conclusion. General Hancock has been prominent for splendid bravery and skill, and for an unusual, and almost uniform, career of brilliant success from the commencement of the war. No word of suspicion of his earnestness and loyalty has ever been breathed. He is decidedly the most interesting officer in the Army of the Potomac. When any work is known to be assigned to his command, the public, as a matter of course, expect it to be done.

The title of the volume before us does not clearly indicate the fact, but it is the life of Gen. W. S. Hancock. And the public will receive it with interest, especially the Pennsylvania part of it, upon whom, as his fellow-citizens, this gallant General reflects such honor. There is some trifling stuff about his boyhood—taking laughing gas for instance—which is a real blemish to the volume, but the story of his career in Mexico, and in the present conflict, is well told and forms a memorable record of exploits for the cause in which he has periled his life and shed his blood. The mechanical execution of the volume, illustrations, typography, &c., is highly creditable.

PAMPHLETS AND PERIODICALS.

THE DIVINE GREATNESS. A sermon preached at the Dedication of the North Broad Street Presbyterian Church, on Sabbath evening, Oct. 2d, 1864, by the pastor, Rev. E. E. Adams, D. D.

We are glad to see that the Trustees of North Broad Street Church, have put this noble sermon in print. The occasion and the discourse well deserve it.

LITTLE'S LIVING AGE. No. 1068, contains the Appendix of the report of the Sanitary Committee, being the evidence taken by the Commission relating to treatment of Union Prisoners by the Rebels. It consists of evidence of returned Union Prisoners, evidence of U. S. Army Surgeons in charge of returned Union prisoners, Quarterly Report of Hospitals for Union Prisoners in Richmond, furnished to the Rebel authorities by their own Surgeon General, and obtained by a paroled Union prisoner, evidence relating to Rebel prisoners in our hands, Evidence of Rebel prisoners in our hands, with Supplement in regard to our soldiers at Andersonville, and Gen. Butler's letter on Exchanges. Wood cut engravings of the camp at Andersonville and of the photographs of emancipated, returned prisoners give completeness to the account. A double number has also been issued

containing both the narrative previously published and the appendix: to be had at the office of the Living Age in Boston, price 20cts, \$15 per hundred; \$125 a thousand. An invaluable document, authentic, unquestionable, overwhelming. Get it by all means and circulate it.

GENTLEMEN'S CHRONOLOGICAL AND STATISTICAL ALMANAC AND MANUAL FOR 1865. Compiled and published by F. A. Cassedy, Camden, N. J. Contains besides the usual Calendar and astronomical facts, a great amount of valuable information of a political and historical character. As a specimen of the character of information to be found in its pages, we would refer to the "Qualifications of Voters," a brief synopsis of the conditions required in every State to the exercise of the rights of suffrage. For sale by F. Foster, 2d and Mead sts., Philadelphia.

LITERARY ITEMS.

Comparisons.—Some of the literary papers are again discussing the comparative quality of the work of European and American publishers, as regards the getting up. We presume the facts in the case to be that the Americans, in this department of enterprise, as in many other things, can do either the best or the worst. Such is certainly the case so far as specimens have fallen under our observation. Mediocrity is not a natural offspring of our modes of business this side of the water. When we undertake to make a book, in its outward appointments, really refreshing to the eye, we do it. When a cheap edition is demanded, it is no unbearable strain upon our feelings to meet the demand. We are an accommodating people, and do not impoverish ourselves by that quality.

The points of excellence in the getting out of a book are a heavy and perfectly clean paper; a clear, well-faced and finely outlined type; spaces liberal and uniform; good margins, especially at the inner side of the page; appropriate and taking devices for illustrated letters when used; a generous outlay of talent in illustrations; binding solid without clumsiness, fine but not finical, not tawdry when gilded, and when anything unique is attempted, let there be design, and not mere oddity in the conception. Taking these qualities as a whole, the good work of either Philadelphia or Boston will bear away the palm from either Paris, London, or Edinburgh.

It must however be confessed that it is only when they set themselves resolutely against business tendencies in their line, our publishers give us any fair account of what they can do. Many of the circumstances on which excellence depends are very difficult of control. These are well summed up in an article in a recent number of Child's Literary Gazette on American Book Manufacture. "Our paper mills are taxed to their utmost capacity, and can scarcely supply the demand for the ordinary qualities which can be readily produced. Then the haste, so strongly characteristic of the times and of our people, requires that the paper as soon as packed shall be whisked off to the printer for immediate use by him. The mellowing influences of time are not allowed to operate upon the chemicals used for bleaching, nor is there opportunity for evaporation. Ink on such paper loses its brightness and color in a short time, and we have a lustreless page. The same haste is allowed to infect the manufacture of the book. With newly made paper, hurried press work, and with pressing performed before the ink is dry, we have in too many instances "off-setting" and other imperfections, some of which, however may be found to no small extent in the most pretensions of English books. Our publishers should be allowed by the public and by authors to take more time to produce their work. When this has heretofore been done the results are unexceptionable."

Issues for the Holidays.—Thus far the indications are that we are not to have the customary inundation of holiday literature. What we have seen announced belongs chiefly to the juvenile department. Of this Mr. Toyboldt of this city gives us an attractive catalogue of the "Mother Goose" order, and Mr. Childs advances into the higher character of the Abbott literature, reproducing in three books of poetry, the old friends of whom we never weary, Rollo and Lucy. The Messrs. Martien are also on hand with books of a more strictly religious tone, such as may become standards for Sabbath school libraries after they have defiled their holiday dress. Our religious publication societies are not idle, and we look for an attractive bill from our Presbyterian Publishing Committee. In New York the Carters offer a popular list from the pen of those established favorites, the author of the "Wide, Wide World," and "A. L. O. E." In Boston, Ticknor & Fields are giving a splendid series of Mayne Reid's juveniles. These last are also offering books for the season adapted to mature readers, among which is a beautifully illustrated edition of "Penyons's" "Enoch Arden," Scribner, of New York, has brought out an elegantly illustrated edition of "Bitter Sweet," together with several of Holland's other productions. head of "General Literature."—The feature of the month is the completion of the republication of the recent edition of Lord Bacon's works, by Messrs. Taggart & Thompson, of Boston. A new effort at classification—one that is on the whole much superior to that in Basil Montague's collection—is the salient characteristic of the present publication. The subject matter is the basis of classification, resulting in the three distinct divisions of 1st. The Philosophical and Literary; 2d. The Professional; and 3d. The Occasional. Each of these divisions has received the editorial supervision of a scholar whose

attainments are peculiarly adapted to his part of the work. Another peculiarity of this division is that in the third division, every authentic writing, and every intelligently reported speech of Bacon's (not belonging to either of the other divisions) which can be found in print or in manuscript, is set forth at length in its chronological place, with a running explanatory narrative. We have thus presented a sort of biography, inasmuch as the pieces collected run throughout his entire life, and the editors are of opinion that most of the difficulties found in Bacon's life disappear when the records of it are read in their natural sequence, and in their true relation to the business of the time.

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