

Editor's Cable.

GUTHRIE ON THE PARABLES.

THE PARABLES READ IN THE LIGHT OF THE PRESENT DAY. By Thomas Guthrie, D. D., Author of "The Gospel in Ezekiel," "Way to Life," "Speaking to the Heart," etc. New York: Carter & Brothers, 12 mo. pp. 278, bevelled edges, gilt top. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

Dr. Guthrie is himself a fine example of a graphic, illustrative writer, and finds a most congenial subject in the parables of our Lord. He does not attempt the scholar's part in treating them, but seizing boldly upon their great lessons, with all that affluent style and that irresistible earnestness which are well-known characteristics of his writing, he applies them to the men of our times and the actual living interests of the day. Dr. Guthrie follows the example of the GREAT TEACHER, as every preacher should, of preaching to the times. And these wonderful parables prove their high origin from their adaptedness, not only to the farmers, the fishermen, the merchants, and the men, women and children of our Saviour's age and country, but equally to all classes and conditions in every age and country, in short to our common humanity.

The parables on which Dr. Guthrie has thrown the blended light of modern times and of his own genius are those of the Leaven, The Two Virgins, Prodigal Son, Good Samaritan, Unjust Judge, Pharisee and Publican, Hid Treasure, Pearl of Great Price, Lost Piece of Money, Sower, Unmerciful Servant, Laborers in the Vineyard.

The externals of the book are exceedingly attractive, paper, type and binding bordering on the luxurious; but the wood cuts are scarcely less than disgraceful, especially amid so much typographical excellence. They should certainly be omitted in future editions.

MEREDITH. The Apple of Life, by Owen Meredith, author of "Lucile," &c. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Square 16mo, paper, pp. 35.

A poem in the long versed anapestic measure in which poets love to display their rhythmic prowess, but which it is hard to make mellifluous and manageable to readers generally. The poem is didactic in character, though the incidents are graphically told and relieve the performance of all dryness. Solomon, in response to his complaint of the brevity of human life, and consequent vanity of all earthly things, receives the gift of the apple of life, which, upon reflection, neither he, nor the Shulamite, nor the courtier Azariah, nor the Egyptian harlot, into whose hands successively the gift comes, thinks best to partake of, and the rejected apple comes back to Solomon himself, who appreciates the lesson taught by the incident: "Life is good, but not life in itself."

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.

NEWTON. Bible Blessings, by Rev. Richard Newton, D. D. New York: R. Carter & Bro.'s. 16mo., pp. 318. For sale at the Presbyterian House.

One of the most genial, kind-hearted, loving, and loveable of teachers of the young in the great truths of Christianity is the author of this volume, made up of sermons to the highly privileged young of his flock. The stream of illustrations seems inexhaustible; things new and old yield material to enforce the simple and yet grand truths of the Gospel. And yet the truth itself is not put out of sight, or the high aim of the preacher sacrificed to mere amusement. The effect of the whole is to win the youthful mind to the path of duty, and to vindicate the Scripture declaration that wisdom's ways are pleasantness and her paths peace. Dr. Newton has taken care to verify his very impressive story of the Quaker conscript in the rebel army, page 281.

SEWELL. The Lost Child, a Ballad of English Life; and the Romance of the Mallee Scrub, by Mrs. Sewell, author of "Mother's Last Words," &c. New York: R. Carter & Bro.'s. 16 mo., pp. 108.

The sad story at the commencement of the volume seems scarcely appropriate for a "Fireside Library," though delicately narrated. "The Romance of the Mallee Scrub" is a well known and welcome versification of a thrilling story.

EYSTER. Sunny Hours; or, Child Life of Tom and Mary. By Nellie Eyster. Philadelphia, Ashmead & Evans. 18mo., pp. 206.

Sprightly, vivacious pictures of child life; animal life being naturally enough prominent in the descriptions. The fine scenery of the Susquehanna near Harrisburg, where the scene is laid, is described with an enthusiasm which Pennsylvania may well feel for the wonderful natural beauties of that part of our State. Messrs. A. & E. have done their part well in the externals of the work. The illustrations are well executed.

THE MARTYRS OF THE CATACOMBS: A Tale of Ancient Rome. Illustrated. New York, Carlton & Porter. 16mo., pp. 202. Philadelphia, for sale by Perkenpine & Higgins.

A thrilling story of life among the Roman Catacombs, bringing to view the heroism and faith of God's suffering people, who found in those dismal excavations a refuge from their bloody enemies, and who turned those dungeons into memorials of the reality and power of true religion, more effective than the costliest piles of ecclesiastical architecture.

the slave of mere impulse, and without any healthful energy of purpose. Contact at boarding school with a poor man's son of entirely different character, with help from above, leads him to turn over a new leaf, and he comes out at last quite a man. A story full of interest and adapted to encourage all boys in struggling with infirmities of temper or outward temptations. It forms the sixth of the "Win and Wear Series," the whole of which can be had in a box for \$7.50.

VARIETY LIBRARY: (1.) The Fishermen of Gamp's Island; or, Ye are not your own. By Miss C. Chesbro. 18mo., pp. 315. (2.) The Story of Mary; or, The Four Pictures, with other Stories in Rhyme. By S. S. C. T. 18mo., pp. 141. (3.) The Fisherman's Children; or, The Sunbeam of Hardwick Cove. pp. 152. (4.) Woodbury Farm; or, The Sister's Visit. By A. R. B. pp. 214. (5.) The Log House by the Lake. A Story of Pioneer Life in Canada. By W. H. G. Kingston. pp. 168. New York: Carlton & Porter.

These are five 18 mo. volumes in exceedingly tasteful style, each with four good illustrations, in uniform binding, (red cloth,) and enclosed in a strong paste-board box. "The Fishermen of Gamp's Island," is designed to show the elevating effect of the Gospel upon rude fishermen. "The Log House by the Lake" is from the fresh and novel field of pioneer life in Canada. "The Fisherman's children" is a story of a young boy who drifted upon a dangerous coast. "The Story of Mary" is better in plan and sentiment than in poetic execution. All are pure and noble in aim, and enlivened with well-told incidents, forming a capital addition to our juvenile literature. For sale by Perkenpine & Higgins. From the same publishers we have:

LITTLE PANSEY. A Story of an Orphan Minister's Daughter. 18 mo., pp. 126.

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Very useful to juveniles from the infant classes upward, especially at this time of the year.

EARNEST CHRISTIAN'S LIBRARY.

PLAIN WORDS ON CHRISTIAN LIVING, by Charles J. Vaughn, D. D.; pp. 221.

THE CROSS OF JESUS, by Rev. D. Thompson; pp. 164.

THE SOUL GATHERER, from the tenth London edition; pp. 215.

These are practical works, generally of high character, close, earnest, and thoughtful. The Calvinistic tone of the first and third volumes is guarded against by the insertion of notes and sentences in brackets, where the doctrines of perseverance and of the power of remaining sin in the believer are too strongly put for our Arminian brethren. Bad as this practice is, it is much more honorable than the silent suppression of an author's opinions, with which other publishers have been chargeable.

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PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS.

BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE, October, 1865. New York: L. Scott & Co. Philadelphia: W. B. Zieber. Contents: I. Memoir of the Confederate War for Independence, by Heros Von Borecke, Chief of Staff to General J. E. B. Stuart, Part II.; II. Miss Marjoribanks, Part IX.; III. Giacomo Leopardi; IV. Switzerland in Summer and Autumn, Part II.; V. The Obstinate Titan; VI. The Laying of the Atlantic Cable, by Henry O'Neil, A. R. A.

THE PHILADELPHIA PHOTOGRAPHER, November. Benetman & Wilson.

AN ADDRESS before the Freehold Young Ladies' Seminary, on its Twentieth Anniversary, August 2, 1865. By Rev. D. V. McLean, D. D.

LITERARY ITEMS.

Gillett's History of Presbyterianism—the Nottingham Sermon. The following correspondence explains itself:—

PHILADELPHIA, October 2, 1865.

EDITOR AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN:—

Dear Sir:—I have lately been reading with great interest, and with a gratification, at once peculiar and appropriate in a young Presbyterian, Gillett's "History of the Presbyterian Church." It must strike even the cursory reader, that the amount of labor necessary to the collection of such disconnected material was most stupendous. Yet we know how bravely and well the author has met most of this. Every church member should read the work—mainly of course, with a view to inform himself of the early history of the Church of his adoption, but further than this, with a certainty of obtaining very much of local historical information, which has escaped the notice of the more general historian of the republic.

"In reading the History I met with frequent mention of a 'Nottingham Sermon' preached by Gilbert Tennent, during the early history of the Church in this country, and just about the time of the division of the Synod of Philadelphia, and which afterwards gave the author of it great embarrassment while on a mission to England. I felt a desire to know more of this rather remarkable man (Tennent), and of his 'obnoxious sermon,' and therefore, addressed a short note to Dr. Gillett. It occurs to me that others might profit in their reading of the work in question by the references set forth in Dr. Gillett's reply, which I enclose. I am well aware that the author, in his preface, gives many of the sources from which he drew historic

facts, yet these more special references may be an important aid to the reader of his valuable Church History.

"Yours, CLINTON STREET."

"MY DEAR SIR:—I regret that I cannot refer you to any easily accessible account of the 'Nottingham Sermon.' The sermon, itself, is in the Sprague collection of the Princeton Theological Seminary. Dr. Chauncey's book on the Revival in the Times of Whitfield, gives specimens of the most obnoxious passages. Tracy's 'History of the Great Revival,' if I recollect right, has some account of it. In Dr. Hodge's 'History of the Presbyterian Church,' II. 126, you will find an abstract that will give a pretty good idea of the discourse.

"Dr. Alexander's 'Log College,' has quite a full account of the Tennents. See, also, 'Sprague's Annals,' and Webster's 'History of the Presbyterian Church.'

"Of the effect of it in England, and Tennent's regret for having published it, you will find something in the report of the mission of Davis and Tennent to England, contained in Footes's 'Sketches of Virginia.' I presume, by further examination, I could mention other sources of information, but I doubt whether any of them would be so easily accessible as necessary hints to the history did not allow me to be fuller on many points.

"Yours truly, E. H. GILLETT."

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND LATE ISSUES.—Messrs. G. & C. Merriam announce a fine edition, on large paper, of the recent edition of Webster's Dictionary, to be sold to subscribers only. It is to be printed on fine paper; the size of the untrimmed page, 10 by 15 inches, and in the best style of the Riverside Press. The number to be sold in this country is limited to two hundred and fifty copies, with the right reserved to supply not exceeding twenty-five or thirty copies abroad. Subscriptions are limited to one, or at most two copies to an individual.—Ticknor & Fields are preparing and offering a great variety of editions of Tennyson, of one of which Child's Literary Gazette speaks as follows: "It will contain in one volume Tennyson's poems complete, and will have for embellishments two steel plates, sixty-four full-page engravings by the best English and American illustrators of Tennyson, and a dozen or more new emblematic head and tail-pieces cut on wood. It is certainly an honor to our country that Mr. Tennyson's American representatives should be the first to plan and execute a complete illustrated copy of his works (not even attempted in England)."

A new novel by Mrs. M. W. Lawrence, wife of Professor Lawrence, of East Windsor Theological Seminary, is announced. She is the author of "Light on the Dark River."—Rev. J. C. Fletcher, who has just returned from Brazil, has nearly ready for publication a new revised and enlarged edition of his valuable work on Brazil.—Dr. Pusey's "Lectures on the Book of Daniel" will shortly be republished at the Methodist Book Concern, in New York.—The Rev. T. H. Peane has in preparation a work giving religious and general incidents in the life of a pioneer itinerant preacher in Oregon.—J. Elwood Zell, Philadelphia, announces "The complete works of Wordsworth."—R. Carter & Bro.'s: new works by Drs. Guthrie, Bonar, and Macduff; "Walks from Eden," by the author of "Wide, Wide, World."—James Miller, New York, a new book of Tales, by Hans Christian Andersen.—Carlton, New York, Translation of Renan's St. Paul; "What came Afterwards," by Arthur.—M. W. Dodd, "Winifred Bertram"; "The Song without Words," by the author of the "Schönberg-Gotta Family," and several works by the author of Mary Powell.—Wm. Gowans: New Edition of Comte's Positive Philosophy.—Ticknor & Fields: "The Gulistan; or, Rose-Garden of Saadi"; "Good company for Every Day in the Year"; "Atalanta in Calydon."—W. H. Appleton: Headley's Boy's Life of Admiral Farragut; Boy's Life of Sheridan.—Bunce & Huntington: "Festival of Song, a Series of Evenings with the Poets" (Holiday Edition).—Boulton, New York, Spooner's "Biographical History of the Fine Arts," and "Anecdotes of Painters, Engravers, Sculptors," &c.—J. B. Lippincott & Co.: "Frost and Fire."—Dick & Fitzgerald, N. Y.: "American Boy's Book of Sports and Games."—Mr. Joseph Sabin, of New York, is preparing a "Bibliotheca Americana," which promises to be very full and complete.

FOREIGN BOOK TRADE IN AMERICA.—Favored by the enormously high prices of paper and labor here, and by the comparatively low price of gold—which is about the cheapest of all merchantable articles in this country—the dealers in foreign books are crowding into our markets and underselling our publishers in such works as are not copyrighted here, and are issued in sufficient numbers to allow of cheapening. Messrs. A. Strahan & Sons, well-known publishers of London, have recently opened an establishment in New York, and advertise over seventy different publications at reasonable prices. The list includes such books as "A Summer in Skye," "Studies for Stories," "Guthrie on the Parables," "Vinent's Outlines of Theology and Philosophy," "Praying and Working," "Near and Heavenly Horizons," "The Country Parson's" various volumes, Ed. Irving's writings, five vols., &c. R. H. Johnson & Co. also offer a large stock of books lately selected in England and Scotland including Dickens, Carlyle's, Strickland's, Hume and Smollett's, Macaulay's, Mrs. Jameson's Works. Routledge and Sons have a store in New York for the sale of their well known Toy-books, edition of Shakespeare, etc. T. Nelson & Sons offer Oxford Bibles, and Charles Scribner & Co. offer ten "superbly illustrated English Books for the Holidays," with others to come. Thus the exceedingly anomalous condition of our commercial and financial affairs presents an opportunity for foreign enterprise among us, which even the high tariff cannot quite exclude.

BETTER THAN A BAR.—The "What Cheer House," an hotel in San Francisco, advertises among other attractions, that it

offers for the use of its inmates "a well-selected library of 5000 volumes."

LIBRARY OF PETER FORCE.—A movement is on foot in New York, under the auspices of the N. Y. Historical Society, for securing to that city the library and historical collections belonging to Peter Force, of Washington. It is difficult, says the *Notion*, to give even an idea of Mr. Force's vast library. The choicest articles of bibliomaniacal pursuit, the early tracts, travels, and narratives connected with the discovery and settlement of America, "now cheaply purchased for their weight in gold," are abundantly represented in the collection; but, in addition, it contains, what is never found on the shelves of the dilettante book buyer, the solid material from which history is evolved—laws, reports, surveys, maps, legislative documents, periodical literature, and newspapers (the largest collection in the country), etc., etc., the fitting furniture for a public library, where the enquirer might dig and dig without fear of exhausting the rich historical placer. Some idea of the money value of such a library may be formed from the fact that one hundred thousand dollars in gold has been offered for it as a money-making speculation. Mr. Force did very great service to the country in the conception and execution of the great collection, published by the authority of Congress, "American Archives—consisting of authentic records, State papers, debates and letters, and notices of public events, from the origin of the history of the United States, of the causes and accomplishment of the American Revolution, and of the Constitution of government for the United States to the final ratification thereof,"—in fifteen volumes folio. This work belongs to the order of national literary monuments, and will rank with any such in existence.

FOREIGN.—METAPHYSICAL INQUIRY is becoming quite active in Great Britain. Professor McCosh, of Belfast, is about issuing an Examination of Mill's System. Mill is soon to publish "Auguste Comte and his positivism." Mr. James H. Sterling continues the Hamiltonian controversy in a forthcoming work, entitled "Sir William Hamilton; being the Philosophy of Perception: an Analysis."

MISCELLANEOUS.—A Catalogue of the original works of John Wycliff has been published at the Clarendon Press, Oxford.—The original text of the famous Asiatic traveler, Marco Polo, "Citizen of Venice, Privy Counsellor, and Imperial Commissioner of Kublai Khan," is now about being published at Paris for the first time, edited by M. Panthier, the celebrated Oriental and Chinese scholar. It is curious that this should yet remain to be done for a book that has passed through sixty editions in the various languages of Europe, from 1496 to the present time. The work will appear with every advantage of maps, geographical and historical commentaries, and remarkable confirmation of the credibility of the narrative, derived from Chinese sources by the learning of the editor.—The Belgian Government have expelled from their territory, M. Rogeard, (who had to leave France in consequence of his "Propos de Labienus") he had just published at Brussels a volume of prose and verse hostile to the French Empire; it was entitled "Poor France."

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have frequently cast a longing eye on the remains of the ancient Segontiacum or Silchester, in Hampshire, one of the largest Roman towns in Britain, with grass grown walls nearly three miles in circuit. The site was, however, included in the estate of the Duke of Wellington, and the "Iron Duke" had no notion of his good old pasture land being broken up for such purposes. His son, the present duke, is more liberally inclined, and patronizes the explorations. The courses of the leading streets, etc., are ascertained, and excavations are laying bare the foundations of large public buildings. A faithful record of all "finds" is kept, and an account of the proceedings will be published by the rector of the parish.—*The Nation*.

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