

Correspondence.

JOSEPH ALLEINE.

Few human productions have ever had so extensive a circulation as Joseph Alleine's "Alarm to the Unconverted."

His book was not published until four years after his death, but in three years from that time, its circulation had reached seventy thousand copies.

Something of its popularity may be accounted for by a knowledge of the circumstances in which it was prepared.

It was such diligence as this, not only among his own flock, but in prison, or wherever else his lot might be, that prepared him to deal at once so tenderly, yet so pungently, with the souls of men.

In some of the paragraphs of this correspondence, we note the conjoined evidence of piety and genius, and are not surprised that such a book as his "Alarm" should have been the production of his prison Patmos.

The practice of thus associating a particular tune with each common hymn is of great value in fixing the tune in the memory.

Yet I would not say that in every particular my own idea has been met. For example, the second hymn, "Come thou Almighty King," has been sung for forty years or more to the tune "Italian Hymn."

Something of his own cheerful self-denial is reflected in his counsels. "Let none of you dream of an earthly paradise, or flatter yourselves with dreams of sleeping in your ease and temporal prosperity, and carrying heaven too."

earthly felicity, but be content to wait till you come on the other side of the grave.

In such a strain as this, he inspires others with something of that Christian heroism which he evinced himself. Few men have ever seemed to live so habitually in the land of Beulah, or breathe the daily so much of the fragrance of heaven.

NOTES ON HYMNS AND TUNES, WITH SPECIAL REGARD TO THE SOCIAL HYMN AND TUNE BOOK.

DEAR BROTHER MEARS:—I have just procured and examined a copy of our new Social Hymn and Tune Book, and to say that I am delighted with it, is to say what those who have before been acquainted with it would naturally expect.

There is a great advantage in preserving those tunes that the Christian world will not willingly let die, and always associating them with favorite hymns.

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fully meet, and which required a nice balancing of different claims to decide.

There are a few hymns that I was surprised not to find, such as "O God, Our Help in Ages Past," "Come Trembling Sinner," "To-day the Saviour calls," "When I Can Trust my all with God," "Through Every Age Eternal God," "Yet I have not found the hymns that I could easily strike out to make room for them."

In regard to the minor arrangements of the Social Hymn and Tune Book, it wants an alphabetical index of subjects, as a means of saving time in selecting hymns.

Likewise in regard to printing the names of the composers of the music; to say nothing of what is due to them, it is a great means of instruction.

The introduction of so many new hymns will of course excite a desire for a new edition of the Church Psalmist.

Yet, my beloved ministers have intellectual habits, tastes, and necessities "differing." It is my heart-felt and happy conviction, that the only becoming, true, and Scriptural course for us (wives) is to let them have their own way; and may God bless them in it.

has not produced any great master of sacred song, a large number of hymns have come to the notice of the Church, and many of them have been at once accepted.

THE STUDY.

The minister was moving into the parsonage, and the great question before the house was, "Which room shall be the study?"

"Oh, James must have the pleasantest retired room in the house for his study." Such was the reply of my very dear friend, the minister's wife.

I have seen almost every possible diversity of habit and taste indicated in the choice of a study.

Mr. O. is the antipode of his serene brother. His nervous state is such, when writing, that no sight, no sound of human or inhuman life must reach him.

Again, as to the order and neatness of a study, there is every diversity of tastes among men.

There is frequently an unaccountable degree of interest about the lives of men who have lived an inward life upon the border lines of faith and doubt.

Verily, our beloved ministers have intellectual habits, tastes, and necessities "differing." It is my heart-felt and happy conviction, that the only becoming, true, and Scriptural course for us (wives) is to let them have their own way; and may God bless them in it.

Editor's Table.

STRAHAN'S ENGLISH BOOKS.

IRVING. Miscellanies from the Collected Writings of Edward Irving. A. Strahan, London; crown 8vo., pp. 487. For sale by Smith, English & Co., Philadelphia Agents.

After a number of years of obscurity, the name and works of this brilliant but erratic genius have emerged into the light of a more general experience of notoriety.

DE GUERIN. Journal of Eugene de Guerin. Edited by G. S. Trebutien. London: Simpkins, Marshall & Co. 12mo., pp. 460. For sale by Smith, English & Co., Philadelphia Agents.

ALFORD. Meditations in Advent, on Creation and Providence. By Henry Alford, D.D., Dean of Canterbury. London: A. Strahan, 18mo., pp. 240. Philadelphia Agents, Smith, English & Co.

These Meditations, originally Sermons, are a sort of Theology for the People, in which the great truths of religion are handled without formality or conventionality.

TICKNOR & FIELDS' BOOKS. HOLMES. Humorous Poems, by Oliver Wendell Holmes. Square 18mo., paper cover, pp. 100. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Philadelphia: for sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

ROBERTSON. Life and Letters of Rev. F. W. Robertson, M.A., Incumbent of Trinity Chapel, Brighton, (Eng.) 1847-53. Edited by Stopford A. Brooke, M.A., late Chaplain to the Embassy at Berlin. In two volumes, 12mo., pp. 352, 359. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

There is frequently an unaccountable degree of interest about the lives of men who have lived an inward life upon the border lines of faith and doubt. Sympathizing with doubters and with believers, both, seeking ever those modes of viewing and presenting doctrines least liable to objection, sometimes removing or greatly softening objections to the truth; then, on the other hand, assailing established representations of truth, which in their judgment prejudice the inquirer, and frequently rendering good service to theological science, we still scarcely know why their writings take such a hold and circulate so widely.

ary an intellectual phenomenon, the Life and letters are worthy of study. The tendency of all he has written is far more towards a Christianized and beautiful Stoicism than Scriptural piety.

AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY, N. Y. The following volumes have just been issued in handsome bindings and large type, and with admirable illustrations, 18mo. size:—

THE GLEN CABIN, pp. 232. LIVERTON RECTORY; or, the Non-Conformist in the Seventeenth Century, pp. 188.

EVELYN PERCIVAL, pp. 189. EFFIE MORRISON; or, the Family of Red Braes, pp. 157.

THE HUGUENOTS OF FRANCE, pp. 198. This and the three preceding are by the author of Allen Cameron.

SAVE THE ERRING, by the Rev. J. H. Langille, pp. 164.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS. THE ANNALS OF IOWA: A Quarterly Publication by the State Historical Society. Edited by Theodore S. Parvin, Corresponding Secretary.—Contents: Sketches of the Sac and Fox Indians, and the Early Settlement of Wapello County; Dubuque in Early Times; The History of the First Congregational Church of Lyons, Iowa; Sketches from the History of Polk County; The Trial and Execution of Patrick O'Connell, at the Dubuque Mines, 1834; Editorial Notes.

THE EVANGELICAL REPOSITORY AND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.—Contents: Religious Education of Children; Religion and Politics; Remarks on Psalms CXVII. and CXVIII.; On Success in Preaching; "Not Many Mighty are called," etc.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY FOR DECEMBER.—Contents: Griffith Gaunt; or, Jealousy, I.; The Parting of Hector and Andromache; William Blackwood; The Chimney Corner, XI; The Forge, II., etc. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Philadelphia, A. Winch, T. B. Peterson & Bro.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.—No. 1121. November 25, 1865.—Contents: Posthumous Writings of Alexis de Toqueville; Miss Marjoribanks, Part 9; Foreign Policy of America; Lord Palmerston; The Vacant Premiership, etc.

NEW MAGAZINE—"THE ARGOSY."—Messrs. Strahan & Co., London and New York, announce a new literary magazine by the above title, price twenty-five cents a month.

THE SIXTEENTH FRENCH EDITION OF THIS JOURNAL IS JUST ANNOUNCED.

THE EXTERNALS OF THESE VOLUMES ARE AT ONCE SUBSTANTIAL AND ELEGANT, AND THE PRICE IS MODERATE.

THE BOOK OF SONNETS, an original work from the MSS. of Leigh Hunt; new works by Robert Buchanan and Jean Ingelow.—J. B. Lippincott & Co., of this city, have made extensive arrangements for the importation and republication of the works of nearly a score of English houses.

By constant reference of the Psalms to Christ, and to the Church as inseparably united to Christ, their words become invested with brighter meaning. The words of David become the words of the Son of David—speaking either in his person or in the person of his people.—Plain Commentary on the Psalms.