

Editor's Table.

AGASSIZ. The Structure of Animal Life. Six Lectures delivered at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, in January and February, 1862.

This volume is the fourth of the series, resulting from the Brooklyn Graham Lectures, founded for the purpose of exhibiting, by the ablest scientific men whose services could be commanded, the Power, Wisdom and Goodness of God as illustrated in his works.

McDONALD. Spiritualism identical with Ancient Sorcery, New Testament Demonology, and Modern Witchcraft, with the Testimony of God and Man against it. By W. McDonald. New York: Carlton & Porter, 16mo., pp. 212.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS. LITTELL'S LIVING AGE.—No. 1133, February 17, 1866. Contents: Peninsula of Sinai, Notes of Travel therein; The Pastor's Widow; Is the Cattle Plague Small-Pox?; Spirituality without God; Harem Life in Egypt; Poetical Selections—Poems of the Inner Life; American Sympathies; Lucky Friends; Curzon's Monasteries of the Levant; Livingston's Zambesi and its Tributaries; New Poetry (Wife's Litaney, etc.); Poetry: Snowballing. Boston: Littell, Son & Co.

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW. The first number of this new trans-Atlantic monthly, for February, has just appeared. It is published simultaneously in London and New York, by A. Strahan, Messrs Smith, English & Co being the agents in Philadelphia. The editorial control is in the hands of the Dean of Canterbury, (Alford), well known for his genial, scholarly, and devout appreciation of Christian truth, and for his researches on the field of Biblical criticism and exegesis.

The article on Sunday argues the question merely on grounds of Christian expediency, and is against the binding force of the Fourth Commandment. This is equivalent to giving up the day for all practical purposes.

The externals of this new claimant for the favors of the theological public are positively luxurious. It contains 180 large 8vo pages of the most valuable matter, and is cheap at \$1, or \$10 per annum.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for March contains its usual choice miscellany. The list covers fifteen articles, including five continuations, besides Literary Notices. Price \$4 per annum. Ticknor & Fields, Boston.

OUR YOUNG FOLKS for February. A perfect fascination with our young folks, who wait for its coming with uncommon eagerness, and devour its contents with enviable relish, reminding us of our enjoyment of those good things for juveniles which were just beginning to come from Boston in our young days. Price 82, richly illustrated.

FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT of the American Colonization Society, with the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors, January 16, 1866.

HELPSFUL HINTS for the Sunday school Teacher. New York: Carlton & Porter.

MEMORIAL of GERARD HALLOCK. LETTER to REV. LEONARD BACON, D.D. By Rev. J. Halsted Carroll.

WATER DEPARTMENT. Annual Report of the Chief Engineer of the Water Department of the city of Philadelphia, and plan of supplying the city with water by aqueduct from the Perkiomen. Presented to Councils, February 15, 1866.

LITERARY ITEMS. AMERICAN.—There is a bill before the House to reduce the duty on imported paper from 20 to 3 per cent, ad valorem. It is asserted, and no doubt with truth, that, including licenses and income tax, the printed book with its constituent materials pays from twelve to fifteen distinct taxes before it reaches the reader.—The

historical geography of Syria and Palestine, contained in Carl Ritter's world-renowned "Erdkunde," is being translated by an American scholar, Mr. W. L. Gage, who was an attendant of Ritter's course of lectures at the University of Berlin, and is already favorably known by versions of two of his minor works published by Messrs. Gould, Lincoln & Co., and Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co. Some condensation will be used in Mr. Gage's translation of the Palestine, but this will be more than compensated by the additions of the editor, who will add to the work the latest results of recent explorations among the sites of sacred history, now proceeding with much energy, from various sources. Mr. Gage's familiarity with continental literature and the geographers of Germany, as Kiepert, Petermann, etc., will give him great facilities for this task and enable him to bring forward much matter entirely new to English readers. The work will form four handsome volumes in octavo, and will be accompanied by maps drawn for the work by A. Keith Johnston. Mr. Gage has also in view, at no distant date, the publication of a life of Carl Ritter, with extracts from his correspondence, etc.; and, in fact, seems to have dedicated himself to the task of extending the fame of one of the great men who create a science and impress themselves ineffaceably on their age. The work is to be issued by Messrs. T. & F. Clark, of Edinburgh.—The Nation.

FOREIGN.—The Oxford University Press is publishing the works of Wicliff, the great English Reformer, from whose torch the Bohemian Reformers, Huss and Jerome, lit their fires. Investigations made for the above purpose show that the number of Wicliff's writings still extant, after weeding from the list spurious and wrongly attributed books, is ninety-six in Latin and sixty-five in English. The most important manuscripts of these treatises are spread abroad over Europe. The most valuable and interesting collection of them is in the Imperial Library at Vienna. Two libraries at Prague, in Bohemia, also contain rich materials, as well as the Imperial Library at Paris, and several of the university and cathedral libraries in England, so that the editorial function in the case of Wicliff must be anything rather than a sedentary one.—Prof. Masson, high authority on all matters relating to Milton, says that he considers the picture of "Milton dictating to his Daughters," who sit "rapt and reverential," pure fantasy, and asserts that they panned his books, wished him dead, and conducted themselves generally in the most uncomfortable manner possible.—Mr. Murray has just published an elegant volume, with illustrations from the antique, "The Agamemnon of Æschylus and Bacchanaeus of Euripides," with passages from the lyric and later poets of Greece, translated by Henry Hart Milman, D.D., Dean of St. Paul's. The recurrence to former pursuits after so long an interval of severer studies, and at the advanced age of seventy-five years, is an interesting example of literary activity of mind and the persistence of early tastes through changes of time and object.—A help to students of etymology and philology, in any European language, of great value is furnished by the new "Sanscrit-English Dictionary" of Dr. Theodore Benfey, just published by Messrs. Longman & Co., in an octavo of 1200 pages, at the moderate price of £2 12s. 6d. It contains references to the best editions of Sanscrit authors, also etymologies and comparisons of cognate words, chiefly in Greek, Latin, Gothic, and Anglo-Saxon.—"Emblem Books."—Proposals have been issued for a new photo-lithographic impression of the first English book of emblems, a rare and curious work written by Geoffrey Whitney, a native of Cheshire, and printed by Christopher Plantin, at Leyden, in 1568. It is entitled "A Choice of Emblems and other Devices," and contains two hundred and forty-seven emblematic engravings and devices on wood accompanied by quaint old verses. As there are descendants of the old emblem-collector in America, their aid is solicited in giving completeness to the work. C. Scribner & Co., 124 Grand St., N. Y., will act as agents of the parties. The number of copies printed, on tinted paper, the exact size of the original edition, is four hundred and fifty, at twenty-five shillings each, the price of which will be raised after publication to £2 2s., and fifty copies of a larger size in demi-quarto; all of the latter have been subscribed for. A general history of emblem books and the literature of the subject will be given, including a bibliography of all the English works of the kind, essays by the editor on their relations to our early literature, "Shakespeare's references to emblem books," etc., etc., illustrated with plates from the various earlier emblems, and every information requisite to form a complete work on an important and curious branch of artistic and ethical enquiry.—Macaulay's Marginal Criticisms.—An early volume of "Macmillan's Magazine" contained an elaborate critical estimate of Warburton's "Divine Legation of Moses," copied from the fly-leaves of a volume read by Macaulay for the first time, in India, and which was sold at the disposal of a portion of his library shortly after his decease. It was found, when too late to recover them, that many other of the books sacrificed at the same time were enriched in a similar manner with annotations; but as Macaulay, like most people who really use their books, was comparatively indifferent to their appearance and condition, a large part of his collection presented a very poor appearance to the eyes of a bibliomaniac, and thus, without examination, was sapiently consigned to the auctioneer and irreparably scattered.

RECIPE FOR A CHEAP PAINT. Eleven pounds of dry lime, sifted fine, 1 gallon of water, 2 lb. of linseed oil—raw or boiled; one-fourth lb. of potash dissolved in a pint of water, which can easiest be done by heating in a kettle over the fire. First, mix your lime and water, which will appear much like thick hasty pudding; then add your oil and potash water. Mix thoroughly, and if the oil and water unite, it is ready for use; if not, a little more potash water must be added to cut the oil. Use no more potash than is necessary for this purpose. Put on with a paint brush, as other paint. It will appear much thicker than ordinary oil paint, but it will lay easy in this condition. The writer of this has

UNDERDRAINING SWAMPS. Mr. Wm. Renick, who professes to have had experience in underdraining swamps writes to the Ohio Farmer, that his underdrains have worked well for ten or twelve years. He writes: "Dig a ditch from two and a half to three and a half feet deep, as the case may be, as narrow as can well be done with a common spade. Then when this is done, I go back to the starting-point and dig eight inches deeper, with a spade made for the purpose, with the blade but four inches wide, the increased depth being in the middle of the original, leaves a shoulder on each side on which I lay good oak plank, eight or ten inches long, and then fill up. This is all very simple, but they are far the most effectual ditches I ever had dug. I have tried tile in such land, but I would not pay ten cents per rod for any more of that kind of ditching in that kind of land. Neither will mole ditching answer in this part of the county; the muskrats soon destroy it.

"In laying down the plank, I commence at the head of the ditch, so that the underlap of the plank will be down stream. The plank will not slip during at least one generation, except the mouth of the ditch, and if they slip, the water has made a course, and we continue to run. I have shortblind or covered ditches made more than twenty years ago, with old rails to cut to be used in the fence, and the water continues to flow from them to this day, rails doubtless were gone long ago. This is a perceptibly increased

of water from the ditches, or the most of them, since they were first dug, and the ground is drying further and further from them each year. Some years ago I tried to drain two very similarly situated pieces of ground, one with tile and the other with plank alone; the latter is now a fine blue grass sod where wild grass only grew before. The tile ditching has done but little good, only drying the ground but a few feet on each side, although I thought at the time that the tile ditch ground would be the easiest drain; there was some fall, the other had no fall—indeed, the fall was the other way, and we had to create a fall by depth of ditch.

poainted for twenty years, and for the last three years has used this preparation on first-class houses, and but few persons can see any deficiency in it. It wears well, and costs less than half as much as all oil paint.

Rural Economy.

AGRICULTURE IN ITALY.

The regularly irrigated lands in the Italian Kingdom already amount to not less than 3,350,000 acres, or more than 5200 square miles. The Canal Cavour, now near completion, will add 250,000 square miles to this quantity, and numerous other canals for the same purpose are in course of construction, or, at least, projected with prospect of success. It is computed that in Lombardy, a proper supply of water increases the annual product of lands by about twenty dollars per acre at the present prices of agricultural growths. There are few crops which are not irrigated when the means are at hand, and even chestnut, walnut, and forest trees are not unfrequently watered, with manifest advantage. In the Alps, irrigation is carried up to the very foot of the glaciers, and on the southern slope of those mountains water is applied to meadows which lie further northward than the city of Montreal, and higher than the highest peak of the White Mountains. In Italian husbandry generally water is almost as necessary as solar heat to profitable agriculture. The stimuli of irrigation, and of profit are encouraging efforts for the extension of the system of irrigation, and in all probability the day is not very far distant when the current of every spring and brook and river in Italy will have been at least once utilized for irrigation, for hydraulic machinery, or navigation.

A very considerable portion of the Italian peninsula and islands being covered by barren mountains, and much of the lowlands being so unhealthy as to be barely inhabitable, the amount of land which can be made to produce food for man or for domestic animals, or vegetable growths required for other human use, is relatively small, and the twenty-two millions of souls that compose the population must draw their nourishment from an extent of territory which seems insignificant to our familiar with the vast expansion of its own arable soil. Hence, while the wages of the farm-laborer are low, probably much exceeding, on the average, a frania day, without board, the price of land is high, and it is only under exceptional circumstances that he who inherits no patrimony can hope to own the smallest portion of the soil he tills. The landed proprietors of Italy, like those of France, are tenants of their acres, and sales of real estate are much less common in those countries than in our own, where lands and houses pass from hand to hand almost as freely as personal property. So rare are tracts of land in Italy, in fact, that a stranger can gather from his own observation, from personal inquiry, very little information as to the current market value of real estate. The report under consideration attempts to give from local returns the averages of meadow or arable ground, and of various cases, of woods, vineyards, heaths and marshes in each province. The rate of discrepancy in price between dry arable lands is very great; for while in some situations pastures or meadows without water are not worth more than twenty or ten dollars an acre, there are irrigated lands which command not less than six hundred dollars an acre. I do not refer to meadow garden grounds in the vicinity of large towns, or vineyards planted with fancy growths, which are sold at fancy prices, but to lands devoted to ordinary cultivation. Besides original character of soil and convenience to high roads and markets, a value of irrigated lands is much affected by the quality and usual temperature of water supplied to them. A warm rivulet which brings down and deposits vegetable slime or enriching mineral substances, may double or even triple the price of the land it waters, while cold glacier streams charged with silicious sediment, add very little to the price of soil over which they are conducted. So far as the writer of this notice can judge from the returns before him and from a good deal of inquiry, he thinks that lands of the same relative value as those which compose the bulk of New England and New York farming grounds are worth in Italy from seventy-five to two hundred and fifty dollars an acre. Marshes often have but a nominal value, but where they are suited for producing the basket-willow, canes, certain species of reeds, rushes, and other aquatic or semi-aquatic plants, they sometimes sell as high as good arable soil.—G. P. M. in the Nation.

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poainted for twenty years, and for the last three years has used this preparation on first-class houses, and but few persons can see any deficiency in it. It wears well, and costs less than half as much as all oil paint.

POOR ECONOMY.

In drawing a large stone, a farmer broke his "evener," or large whiffletree. Having no auger to bore the holes in a new one—which he could have readily extemporized from his wood pile—he must needs go to the shop several miles away to repair the loss. The harrow-wood splits and a tooth loosens. No bit or gimlet to bore a hole for an old rivet which could readily be found. So half a day must be spent to go to a shop, or a neighbor's, or else the harrow must be left to do its imperfect work. A reach in the wagon gets broken in the hurry of drawing in hay. Again, no shave or auger to repair the damage. The gathering in of hay is delayed, and its exposure to the coming storm the result. A hinge on the kitchen door gets loose—no screw-driver to tighten it—the door binds on the threshold and is violently wrenched from its position. A strap in the harness gives out—the splicing of a rein rips—noawl to mend—and cannot spend time to go three miles to a shop—horses run away—hurt the driver, hurt themselves, and smash up the wagon.

MORAL.—"A stitch in time saves nine."

Nothing lost, but much gained, by keeping tools, ready at hand, to do all the little jobs, and remedy the little breakings liable to occur on a farm.

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