

Editor's Cable.

LIFE OF SILLIMAN.

FISHER. Life of Benjamin Silliman, M.D., LL.D., late Professor of Chemistry, Mineralogy, and Geology in Yale College. Chiefly from his Manuscript Reminiscences, Diaries, and Correspondence. By Geo. H. Fisher, Professor in Yale College. Vols. I and II, 12mo., pp. 407 and 408. New York: Chas. Scribner & Co. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Phila.

Nowhere in the world, perhaps, will there be found a more striking illustration of the power of true Christian gentility to give influence, and to make way for a reputation almost entirely devoid of the elements of greatness, than in the life sketched in these volumes. Prof. Silliman was no *svava* in the highest sense of the word, and never claimed to be one. His great achievement was to master and present to students the results of other men's original investigations. Yet in this work he stood, and perhaps will long stand, unrivalled among American instructors. He was the pioneer of the science of chemistry in America, as Moses Stuart was the pioneer of scientific Exegesis. But it was the rich geniality of his character, the fine glow of Christian gentility, the almost courtly charm and grace of his manners, that shone through and above his scientific attainments, and that made him so marvellously popular with the learned and the rude, with the freshmen in his lecture-room, and with all the leading men of science in his day. We do not believe he would have been counted eloquent, or would have been considered a memorable personage to posterity, without that fascination of manners and that unflinching sympathy with his audience, to which such ample testimony is given in these volumes.

The materials for telling the story of a life so long, so bright, so calm, so beautiful,—a very Sabbath of peace and devotion, amid the din of scientific unbelief and noisy personal ambition, in which he had no share,—are abundant, and of the most satisfactory sort. The old man eloquent tells his own story in the sweet and winning words so natural to him. A very rich store of letters from some of the most distinguished personages of contemporary history, especially from the leading scientific men of his day, are also drawn upon by the biographer. For more than three-quarters of a century, we trace, by their aid, the career of one whose sympathies are so many and so varied, that he gives and receives light on every hand. We learn something new of almost every place and person with whom he comes in contact, so that the volumes become a valuable addition to the social, scientific, and even political history of the times to which they belong. With unpretending simplicity and sincere purpose to let Prof. Silliman's character and works truly appear, yet with severe labor in arranging his material, the biographer has left little to be desired in the manner in which he has done his work. We give two extracts:—

THE QUAKERS AND THE SABBATH IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1802. The week being filled with lectures, Dr. Barton proposed that we should go, by special permission of Mr. Peale, [to his Museum,] on Sunday, as that was a day of leisure, and then we should not be interfered with by the usual visiting company. The proposition was no sooner made than it was adopted by general silent consent. With some hesitancy I rose, and in the most respectful terms stated that I regretted to interfere with the wishes or convenience of the professor and the class, but that for myself I had other occupations on the day proposed, and if that were to be the time, I must lose the instruction. After a moment's pause, the professor named Saturday afternoon, which was adopted. A few days after, when passing down Market street, I met Dr. Parrish, a young Quaker physician, who caught me by the hand, and said:—"Friend Silliman, I was glad to hear that he had objected to visiting Peale's Museum on First-Day, when it was proposed by Dr. Barton."

First-Day is not sacred time with the Quakers, but they generally hold meetings on that day, and partake to a degree, of the general reverence for the Sabbath entertained in most Christian countries. SCIENCE AND SCRIPTURE. "Now, at eighty-two and a half years of age, still, by God's forbearance and blessing, possessing my mental powers unimpaired, and looking over the barrier beyond which I must soon pass, I can truly declare that, in the study and exhibition of science to my pupils and fellow men, I have never forgotten to give all the honor and glory to the Infinite Creator—happy if I might be the honored interpreter of a portion of his works, and of the beautiful structure and beneficent laws discovered therein by the labors of many illustrious predecessors. For this I claim no merit. It is the result to which right reason and sound philosophy, as well as religion, would naturally lead.

"While I have never concealed my convictions on these subjects, nor hesitated to declare them on all proper occasions, I have also declared my belief that, while natural religion stands as the basis of Revelation, consisting as it does of the facts and laws which form the domain of science, science has never revealed a system of mercy commensurate with the moral wants of man. In nature, in God's creation, we discover only laws—laws of un-deviating strictness, and sure penalties annexed for their violation. There is associated with natural laws no system of mercy. That dispensation is not revealed in nature, and is contained in the Scriptures alone.

volumes of revelation, and both being records of the will of the Creator, both may be received as constituting a unity declaring the mind of God, and therefore the study of both becomes a duty, and is perfectly consistent with our highest moral obligations. "I feel that, as the subject respects my fellow-men, I have done no more than my duty, and I reflect upon my course with subdued satisfaction, being persuaded that nothing that I have said, or omitted to say, in my public lectures, either before the College classes, or before popular audiences, can have favored the erroneous impression that science is hostile to religion. "My own conviction is so decidedly in the opposite direction, that I could wish that students of theology should be also students of natural science—certainly of astronomy, geology, natural philosophy, and chemistry, and the outlines of natural history."

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SCHAFF. The Person of Christ; The Miracle of History. With a Reply to Strauss and Renan, and a Collection of Testimonies of Unbelievers. By Philip Schaff, D.D. New York: Chas. Scribner & Co. 18mo., pp. 375. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Phila.

Truly this is a gem of a book. From ponderous tomes, from learned and elaborate essays, from recondite philosophies, we turn with surprise and refreshment to this brief and complete vindication of the claims of Jesus to be recognized as divine, grounded upon the analysis of his human character. Here every vital question as to the person and character of Jesus is stated in the light of modern, as well as ancient, discussions, and every doubt which ineluctably arises, is fairly, and we think convincingly, met. We very much question whether there has appeared in modern literature a more valuable or more readily available defence of Christianity from the point just now most violently and skillfully assailed, than this little manual. It is greatly enriched by critical notes, and the appendix, containing a collection of testimonies of unbelievers, from Pilate and his wife down to Frances Power Cobbe, is unique and striking.

We quote a paragraph from the body of the work:—

And yet this Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of any orator or poet; without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art and sweet songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times. Born in a manger, and crucified as a malefactor, he now controls the destinies of the civilized world, and rules a spiritual empire which embraces one-third of the inhabitants of the globe. There never was in this world a life so unpretending, modest, and lowly in its outward form and conditions, and yet producing such extraordinary effects upon all ages, nations, and classes of men. The annals of history produce no other example of such complete and astounding success, in spite of the absence of those material, social, literary, and artistic powers and influences which are indispensable to success for a mere man. Christ stands, in this respect also, solitary and alone among all the heroes of history, and presents to us an insoluble problem, unless we admit him to be more than man even the eternal Son of God.

KIRKLAND. Patriotic Eloquence: Being Selections from One Hundred Years of National Literature. Compiled for the Use of Schools in Reading and Speaking. By Mrs. C. M. Kirkland. New York: Chas. Scribner & Co. 12mo., pp. 334. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Phila.

A former edition of this book has been enlarged by additions from speeches and messages of Presidents, during and since the rebellion. It seems to us these last are exceedingly inadequate and unsatisfactory. Andrew Johnson's declaration that it is not competent to extend the elective franchise, is given, with no word or line from the advocates of a contrary policy. These are not the sentiments we care to have our boys conning over and repeating in their declamations. There is room for something far better in this line.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS. THE PRESBYTERIAN MONTHLY FOR MAY, has what we expect and hope is but

the first instalment of reports of the trials, labors, and successes of our Home Missionaries from their own pens. This is the material for which such a magazine is chiefly needed. The Foreign Missionary department of the magazine is very defective in this respect.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, JUNE, 1866.—Contents: Quicksands; In the Hemlocks; Last Days of Walter Savage Landor, III.; The Dead Ship of Harpswell; Doctor Johns, XVII.; Tied to a Rope; Giotto's Tower; Passages from Hawthorne's Note-Books, VI.; The Mountain; The Chimney Corner for 1866, VI.; A Pioneer Editor; Griffith Gaunt, or Jealousy; Doctor Bad Symptoms; Reviews and Literary Notices. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Philadelphia: A. Winch, T. B. Peterson & Brother.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MANAGERS OF THE Old Man's Home, with a list of the Officers, Managers and Contributors. For the year 1865.

THE NATIONAL PREACHER AND THE Prayer-Meeting, May, 1866.—Contents: The Gospel and its Successful Preacher; The Man to Win Souls; The Christian's Duty in Respect to the Temperance Cause. New York: Conducted and Published by W. H. Bidwell.

THE THREATENING RUIN. A Discourse for the Times. By Joseph A. Seiss, D.D. New Edition. Philadelphia: Smith, English & Co.

THE THEOLOGICAL ECLECTIC, Monthly, April, 1866. A Series of Theological Papers, Chiefly Selected from the Periodical and other Literature of Great Britain, France, Germany, and Holland. Edited by George E. Day, Professor in Lane Theological Seminary.—Contents: The Theory of an Incarnation without a Fall. Cincinnati: William Scott.

THE MAIDEN AND MARRIED LIFE OF MARY POWELL, afterward Mistress Milton. New York: M. W. Dodd. 18mo., pp. 271. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store, Philadelphia.

FARQUHARSON. Black Steve; or, The Square Warning. By Martha Farquharson. 18mo., pp. 83. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New York: A. D. F. Randolph.

LEWELLYN. What to Do. For the Little Folks. By E. L. Lewellyn. 18mo., pp. 113. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New York: A. D. F. Randolph.

SOCIAL HYMN BOOK. Being the Hymns of the Social Hymn and Tune Book. For the Lecture-room, Prayer-meeting, Family, and Congregation. 18mo., pp. 395. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New York: A. D. F. Randolph.

BARNES. The Apostolic Church; an Inquiry into its Organization and Government, Particularly with Reference to the Claims of the Episcopacy. By Albert Barnes. 18mo., pp. 252. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New York: A. D. F. Randolph.

BAROOK. Dutch Tiles; or, Loving Words about the Saviour. By Emma S. Barook. 18mo., pp. 171. Phila.: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New York: A. D. F. Randolph.

NIFF AND OTHER TALES. Containing Niff and his Dogs, The Young Soldier, Uncle Johnson. 18mo., pp. 84. Phila.: Presbyterian Publication Committee. New York: A. D. F. Randolph.

THE LITTLE DOORKEEPER; or, Patience and Peace. By S. T. C., author of "Waggie and Wattie," etc. 18mo., pp. 231. Philadelphia: J. P. Skelly & Co.

SAM BOLTON'S COTTAGE, and What kept his Wife from Church. By the author of the "Dove on the Cross." 18mo., pp. 198. Phila.: J. P. Skelly & Co.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE. AMERICAN ANNOUNCEMENTS.—John Wiley & Son, New York: The American Catalogue of Publications in the United States, 1861-1866; by James Kelley.—W. B. Braddish, New York: The New Golden Chain. Book of Worship (Hymns and Tunes); by Rev. L. W. Bacon.—D. Appleton & Co., New York: Geography of the Holy Land; by Carl Ritter. The Divine Life in Man; by Rev. James Baldwin Brown. The Exodus and Pilgrimage of the Children of Israel; by the same.

Carleton, New York: The Apostles; Translated from the French of Ernest Renan, author of "Life of Jesus."

Messrs. Ticknor & Fields, the eminent Boston publishers, have made arrangements by which they will receive in advance proof sheets of the best English magazines, in order to cull their most interesting articles for "Every Saturday," their weekly periodical.

FOREIGN.—The second volume of Napoleon's Caesar has appeared in Paris.—The sixth edition of M. Guizot's eight vol., 8vo. edition of Shakespeare in French, has been published.—Herr Grosse, a Berlin publisher, has been sentenced to a month's imprisonment for insulting the French Emperor, in a novel published by him, and entitled "Louis Napoleon; or, the Struggle between Destiny and the Imperial Crown."—The printer of Proudhon's Bible, notorious for its profane annotations, whose sentence to imprisonment was recently mentioned, has had his sentence entirely remitted.—M. Lacroix, the publisher of M. Victor Hugo's later works, has just paid the latter \$50,000 on account.—Prince Louis Lucien Bonaparte, the learned philologist, has just returned from a residence of several months on the frontiers of Spain, where he has been engaged in investigating the formation of the Basque dialect.—The first volume of the "Life of Beethoven," by A. W. Thayer, is in the press in Berlin. Mr. Thayer is a native of Boston, and at present occupies the position of United States Consul at Trieste. He had been engaged on the work now announced for fifteen years.

Royal Authorship.—At the present moment authorship seems to be the fashionable pastime at the courts of Europe. It is tolerably well known that Queen Victoria has been for some time engaged upon a series of compositions—of the essay form, we believe—which are to be published, or at least privately printed, and which shall deem them sufficiently complete. The Crown Prince of Prussia is engaged upon a history of the Electoral Prince of Brandenburg. The ex-King of Greece (Otho of Bavaria) is translating the Iliad of Ho-

mer; and his father, Louis, ex-King of Bavaria, is at Nice, giving the last touches to a new volume of poems. King John, of Saxony, has just issued the third and last volume of Dante's "Divina Commedia," translated by himself into German. The literary labors of the Emperor of the French are well known.

Chateaubriand, it appears, had a virago for a wife. But if the reports of conversations held with her, now becoming public through statements of his private secretary, are true, the conduct of the husband was sufficiently calm and exemplary. We quote from the Paris correspondence of *Childs' Literary Gazette*: "Another cause of trouble was his wife, whose causticity sometimes annoyed the husband and his secretary. She would tease them both, and say to her husband: 'You really have no brains, and I really cannot imagine what put it into your head to write.' Chateaubriand would reply, with a capital game: 'Neither can I, my dear, and I am very sorry the idea ever entered my head. I am punished for it as severely as you are. I would I had never written two lines. If you did not inspire me, I would not write another word.' At other times Mme. de Chateaubriand would exclaim against the heavy taxes imposed by the ministry: 'Patience, dear, was her husband's reply, 'we only pay 2,000,500,000 francs taxes, and we are informed France can pay 4,000,000,000 francs, and will pay them.' 'Not I! I will not pay them. I will refuse to pay taxes, though they sell my clothes by auction in the street.' 'You seem to me, my dear, to be a Hamden legitimist.' 'You mean to say I am a Republican! What is to prevent me from being so? I have no past political career; I can accept the Republic the moment it appears; and depend upon it you statesmen of the present and past have done and do so many stupid things the Republic will be sure to come.' 'My darling, you have the gift of second sight; you speak and prophecy like the great Druidesses whose voices raised the sea and produced tempests. But by your refusal to pay taxes nobody would trouble you, nothing would be said to you. I would be put in prison.' 'What do I care for that? You have friends. Besides, you have been in gaol often enough, and that has not killed you.'"

Celtic Literature.—Matthew Arnold, says *The Nation*, has lately published three papers on "The Study of Celtic Literature," which are among the best things that he has written, being excellent specimens of intelligent and judicious criticism, and containing, in small space, a deal of curious and interesting matter. The Myvyrian manuscripts alone, now deposited in the British Museum amount to forty-seven volumes of poetry, of various sizes, containing about 4700 pieces of poetry, in 16,000 pages, besides about 2000 englynion or epigrammatic stanzas. There are also in the same collection fifty-three volumes of prose, or about 15,300 pages, containing a great many curious documents on the various subjects. Besides these, which were purchased of the widow of the celebrated Owen Jones, the editor of the "Myvyrian Archaeology," there are a vast number of collections of Welsh manuscripts in London and in the libraries of the gentry of the principalities." The stock of Irish literature, printed and unprinted, is, if anything, larger than that of Welsh, and the work of cataloguing and describing it has been admirably performed, Mr. Arnold says, by Mr. Eugene O'Curry, a remarkable man, who died the other day. An idea of its extent may be gathered from his lectures, which were delivered at the Catholic University in Dublin, and in which he states that the great vellum manuscript-books belonging to Trinity College, Dublin, and the Royal Irish Academy, have between them matter enough to fill 11,400 closely printed quarto pages; that other vellum manuscripts in the library of Trinity College and the Royal Irish Academy together would fill 30,000 such pages more.

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