## Correspondence.

LETTER FROM SYRIA.

SHEMLAU, MOUNT LEBBANON, NEAR ) BEIRUT, SYRIA, July 19, 1866.

EDITOR OF AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN: The burning heats of the plain have driven me to the mountain for a few days, and I must fulfil my promise to write a few lines to you. "Burning heats," I have said, and yet the mercury has not risen above eighty-six degrees in the shade this summer. It is tor. eighty-six degrees by day and eighty uniform and wearing that it is debilitating to a Western constitution, and we are thankful that a horseback ride of centre of a large and opening district. invite to pass a dreamy hour in watchthree hours will bring us to a cool mountain height 2000 feet above the sea. From this village you look down upon poor, and cannot build or buy an edifice draulic prisoner pounds day and night in patriotism, the public spirit, the Christhe plain and the city below, and far out large enough to accommodate them. We his watery dungeon at the foot of the tian liberality of country people, are due to the blue Mediterranean. "You will are just preparing a statement to lay be- grassy slope. In the distance, north- to their well-informed and hard-worklove Mount Lebanon," said the lament- fore the American Board, in order to se- ward and southward, the whole valley ed Dr. De Forest to me in 1855, during cure the necessary funds. Building is is fooded with exuberant vegetation; the first interview I had with him; and quite expensive there, as all the stone here and there are seen white farmno one can live in Syria without loving and lime have to be brought several houses islanded in an ocean of verdure; Lebanon. Its scenery is beautiful beyond description. It is safe and quiet plain. Three thousand dollars would with green woods; and on the afterwhen the great plains North, East and | build them a large and substantial edi-South are infested with the restless and fice, and give Protestantism a permanent wander in white flocks along the mounvillainous Bedouin. You can travel over it without a guard and alone from one end of the range to the other. It is a health-retreat in the summer season, and its cool nights, and sparkling good one. But in this case, it is necest he splendors of pictured galleries and cold water, and crystal atmosphere invigorate the body and revive the spirits to give this people the plainest kind of a great city. And nothing can better reof one wilting and wearied under the toils of the plain.

There is no finer climate in the world than just this part of Syria. You may winter in Beirut, with the mercury ranging from thirty-eight degrees to sixty-five degrees, and when the summer begins, remove a few miles up the mountain range to one of these quiet villages, where the mercury stands at from sixty-nine degrees to seventy-five degrees the whole summer through. Invalids are beginning to learn the favorable effect of this climate on the health, and the Paris physicians expressed their amazement at its effects in a recent case, which they had little hope would be relieved by Paux or Naples.

We have great reason for gratitude this year in our entire exemption, thus far, from the scourge of the cholera. One year ago it was desolating Syria. Now there is not a case, as far as I can learn, nearer than the vicinity of Mosul on the Tigris, and there it is not raging as it did last year.

Our Sabbath congregations in Beirut are very large, but it is not an easy task to preach two Arabic sermons in this hot weather, and the afternoon service has been dispensed with for the rest of the summer. Although the mercury does not rise above eighty-six degrees, the heat is oppressive, and more than one service on the Sabbath is not profitable. The need of a new church edifice in Beirut is more and more apparent break ground for its erection, although the Board itself. sufficient funds are not yet secured. The native congregation will give one thousand dollars, the American Board one thousand and the site, and the English and American residents in Beirut fifteen hundred the Kirk of Scotland two thousand, and the cost of the edifice will be ten thousand dollars. A strong building, capable of holding five hundred persons, and built in the plainest manner, cannot be built for less than ten thousand dollars.

The girls' school building is nearly finished. Some important details will require to be omitted for want of funds. but we hope to have it ready for use by the first of October.

The annual examination of the school was held three weeks since. About sixty girls were examined during three days, in three languages, and in twentytwo different branches.

The promptness and accuracy of the replies would have done credit to the pupils of any school in America. In Biblical History and Chronology, and in a knowledge of the Messianic prophecies, I doubt whether any female seminary in any land would surpass it.

Addresses were made at the close by several native gentlemen, and by Dr-Thomson and Rev. Mr. Bird; and Dr. T. stated that he knew of no school in America where so great progress had and sweltering sewers of the great city been made in the past few years as in this. The Government official Arabic cating dream of the past. At this disjournal in Beirut pronounced the exami- tance, it seems strange that hundreds of world keep its news until the mail comes spects, be just as meritorious. nation the best examination of a girls' thousands can live through all the year, school ever held in Syria. A large congregation of the friends and relatives | walking upon streets where the smallest | dent, of passion and policy, of strugof the pupils and teachers of other tuft of grass is a forbidden growth, look- gling parties and conflicting opinions, is schools was present, and gave good at ling up to the open heavens from betention throughout. Not the least tween brick walls that divide the fairest history, to pass judgment upon its prinbenefit of a boarding school like this, in sky into strips and patches of blue, cipal actors, not to share their conflicts a great city like Beirut, is the influence sleeping at night with the tramp of feet or responsibilities. upon the parents and the community at and the clatter of hoofs and the dronlarge. When it was first instituted, the ing sound of car-wheels within hearing calls at the door; no charitable enterteachers, who are all native Syrians, through all the weary hours. And yet prise solicits our subscription; no sick the past eight months. The most emiwere harassed, night and day, by the I, myself, a week ago, had become so or poor or afflicted are heard of to be nent and reliable authorities for nearly interference and complaints of the par- much habituated to the choking atmosents, and at the public examinations phere of midsummer in the city, as to dance; no plans for general instruction they were noisy and uncontrollable. think lightly of the returning opportu- or beneficence are to be discussed or and such late discoveries, facts, and argu-This year they were quiet, and listened nity to look again upon the green fields executed; no committee men are to be ments collected, as seem to throw light patiently throughout the three days. Many of them, who are members of the the music of running brooks and the rain soned or persuaded into giving or doing cate or direct to a general principle of various religious sects, learned more of pattering upon the cottage roof and the anything; no excuses are to be made practice. The book is written for the Gospel truth than they would otherwise fluttering leaves; and to see the dome for refusal or failure, for nothing is asked profession, and they are of course the have learned throughout the year.

Syris is a steady growth. Men do not emblazonry of stars, and resting visibly mind and heart and conscience keep up THE HIDDEN SIN. With numerous Illusleaven sinks into individual hearts, and | zon of eternal hills. thence spreads, gradually, through the In the city, we are always looking for up to action every day in the city. And villages and communities. The sale of changes and improvements. Here, it is if nothing else were gained by such select list of the Messrs. Harper.

A few years ago, a young mountaineer

The system of building large and expen- wind." sive edifices for native congregations, sary to expend three thousand dollars architectural streets and squares in the building which will accommodate them. store the jaded mind to its heathful tone. to hear the Gospel, and are paying a stes it anew every year. portion of their pastor's salary. There is no Church Erection Fund to call upon, hausted with his work in the crowded unless the American Board shall give a synagogue and the stifling streets of Cafew hundred dollars. There are no pernaum, he stole away to refresh himhave in Philadelphia, whose private mu- or among the neighboring hills of Galinificence can rear churches as with a lee. And he had just come forth from magic wand, in the needy and growing such retirement when he delivered the suburbs and outposts.

Protestantism is surrounded by enemies here on every side. Its adherents, though increasing in numbers, are poor. While it would be wrong to erect for them expensive structures, it is not wrong to aid them in providing them a nights of rest in that quiet mountain decent house of worship in the most village, during the swift and hurried economical manner possible.

This whole question of providing suitable church edifices in the mission field, is one of the most difficult the foreign missionary is called upon to decide. The ground taken by the American Board of Missions in requesting their unconquerable energy in action, the American Churches not to contribute to private appeals for the erection of church buildings in foreign lands, is wise and necessary. But the Board is not opposed to the erection of such buildings, and has acted with the greatest liberality in giving aid where it can be done legitimately and safely. every day, and next week we are to It is important that such aid go through

The annual examination of the Preparatory Department of the Syrian Protestant College is now in progress. The boys, one hundred and twelve in numfor two weeks in this hot weather. The Board of Managers of the College have Professors.

The political state of Syria is as usual. Yusef Keram, the Maronite Rebel in Northern Lebanon, is keeping up a private guerrilla warfare on the Turkish to arrest him. The Turks are going the collection of taxes to the highest bidder, and the poor people begin to groan under the new exactions and out- along before they came into it, and what are now in a state of bitter hostility to the Sultan, and curse him openly in the streets. The taxation is becoming intolerable. In any other country such a state of things would produce a revolution. Yours, truly, H. H. JESSUP.

FROM THE COUNTRY.

BY REV. E. E. ADAMS, D.D.

Once more in the country, and the hot pavements and glimmering walls are remembered as a feverish and suffobreathing air from which the life is gone. Then, the daily tale of crime and acciand the grand old woods; to listen to met or consulted; nobody is to be read on the subject, or in any degree to indiof the sky frescoed with the pomp of and nothing attempted. Surely one best judges of the rationality of the con-The progress of the Lord's work in clouds, and the glory of noon, and the must have reasons of his own, if his clusions drawn. often move in masses here. The Gospel in every direction, upon its waving hori- a healthful activity when shut off so

where God's Word enters it gives light. fore has not been marred by man's at understand how much his labors and from the village of Ain Zehalteh went | runs before the cottage door as it ran a | are due to the fact that there he is beset on a marauding excursion with his fel- year ago, shining as brightly with its with calls, and opportunities for usefullow-villagers. Among the spoils was silvery eascades in the morning sun, ness are thrust upon him every cay. an Arabic Bible, which fell to his lot. and singing, like a summer shower, with I do not see how country people could He read it, believed it, embraced the the same slumberous voice through all keep up their interest in the great enter- Westminster Quarterly Reviews.—Contruth, preached it to others, and a few the night. The natural hedge of alders prises of Christian work and charity, if weeks since we had a special ecclesi- and ivy and virgin-bower hides the it were not for the weekly visits of city | Storm Warnings; Annals of the Hugueastical gathering in that village and or- moss-covered wall; the seven old maples newspapers and the ceaseless labors of nots; Mill's Examination of Sir William ward, the Queen's librarian. The articles ganized an Evangelical Church of about stretch forth their wrinkled and patricountry pastors. If I were to keep this Hamilton's Philosophy; Baker's Explora- are, as formerly, signed, and cover a broad a dozen members, and ordained this archal arms in benediction over all that cottage home for a whole year, with no tion of the Albert Nyanza; The American young man named Kaleel as its first pas- come and go; the delicate leaves of the neighbor within half a mile, and no re-The church in Hums has grown up | wind; the birds build their nests un- | if the good minister at the village failed within a few years, and has an able and scared in the low shrubbery beside the to call forth my thoughts and sympathies city of 2500 inhabitants, and in the upon the knarled roots of the old trees afraid that in the end I should feel little miles, the city being built on an alluvial the bordering heights are all crowned noons of these bright days, fleedy clouds center in all the borders of Hamath. tain sides, "shepherded by the gentle

All these are as they were, and being above their tastes and habits, is not a so, are beautiful exceedingly, above all They are poor. There is not a man in and brace the weary nerves with renewthe Protestant community there who is ed vigor, after ten months of toil and worth a thousand dollars, and the ma- study in the city, than to come forth and jority are day laborers, barely earning look on the green world of flowers and their bread. But they come in crowds foliage and springing grass, as God cre-

When the Divine Teacher was exstrong central churches, such as you self in the grassy solitudes of Bashan, thousands in the desert. He came up to Bethany from the retired places beyond Jordon, when he raised Lazarus from the dead. He spent two days and week of his passion; and it was by such repose that he prepared himself for the torture and provocation of his trial and the final agony of the cross.

who have astonished the world with his subsequent death. have understood well the art of repose. own master, and madness or death must follow the want of rest. Convictions of duty become excited and inflamed by continued effort and sacrifice in the great conflicts of life. To keep such convictions alive and controlling, and highly creditable. yet free from morbid and fanatical excess, is no easy task. And yet it must needs be done by those who would prove safe guides to others, or would choose a safe path for themselves, in the hot and just had a meeting and elected Medical and conflict. It is necessary for most, it is wiser for all, to retire at times and pitiable delusion of some noble and service, "and retire apart and rest anxieties of some great and good men, rages. The Moslem population of Syria will become of the world when they influence, as a reward. leave it.

It must be admitted, however, that this "country living" is not very quickening to mind or conscience for the time being, to one who has been accustomed daily papers are thurst under doors station is half a mile off, and by going down there we can get a paper when the train passes at eight o'clock in the morning. But after two or three calls upon the newsboy passing in the early train, we become content to wait and let the to the house, at four in the afternoon. already old. We read it as we read

The whole week passes, and no beggar visited; no public meeting invites attencompletely from the calls which stir us

the Arabic Scriptures continues, and a joy to find that what was perfect be- retirement, it would at least help one to tempts to make it better. The brook gifts for the good of others in the city

> locust shiver and rustle in the gentle ligious newspaper during the week, and interest in the prayer—"Thy kingdom ing ministers. Every Sabbath service, suitably conducted, in the humblest village in the land, awakens desires. hopes and sympathies, that encompass the whole earth and the whole family of

Brook's Vale, Conn., August 16, 1866.

Editor's Cable.

AN ADDITION TO OUR COMMITTEE'S

GILLETT. England Two Hundred Years Ago. By E. H. Gillett. Author of John Huss and His Times. Philadelphia: Pres byterian Publication Committee. 16mo., pp. 353.

In every sense a good book. Superintendents, librarians and parents in the tedious search for a truly wholesome, solid, and yet sufficiently attractive work for the young, may be gratified here in finding one specimen, at least, of what they want. Dr. Gillett has taken a period of English history of the deepest interest to the Church of Christ, espe-"Act of Uniformity," 1662, and has described its leading events and characsermon on the Mount, and where he historic warp, a very slight woof of ficwrought the mighty miracle of feeding tion, which is not sufficient to obscure the great facts, and which but helps to illustrate the great principles which he would commend. All the Puritan leaders are introduced to us, but the interest centres in a character not at all New York: Charles Scribner & Co. familiarly known, yet well deserving to For the most part, the great workers, tion and imprisonment at Ilchester, and

It is freshly and tersely written. It will hold the attention without difficulty When that art is lost, work becomes of children of twelve and perhaps impossible, the mind is no longer its younger. Its descriptions of historical scenes and personages are vivid, its groupings of events artistic; altogether, it is a most creditable addition to the valuable list of our Committee.

The illustrations are numerous and

MELVILLE. Battle Pieces and Aspects of the War. By Herman Melville. New York: Harper & Brothers. 12mo., pp.

Much like Milton's image of sin, this ber, are being examined four hours a day hasty work of revolution and reform book, by the author of certain volup-Few attain such high self-command as tuous and corrupting novels, begins with to be able to rest in the midst of toil many fair and well-constructed patriotic verses, but ends in a prose supplement which might have served for the Adleave the great battle of life to go on dress of the late Convention of sham without them. It is a strange and Unionists, which met two weeks ago in our city. Mr. Melville has come out as hard-working spirits, that they think they | the poet-advocate of the new party, and troops, who have thus far tried in vain can never safely leave the post of active is putting into verse the lessons of such table of contents. The Home Department eminent patriots and pure-minded men has a particularly fine engraving and ground back to the old system of farming out awhile." Judging by the feelings and as Thurlow Weed, H. J. Raymond, and Andrew Johnson. He probably expects we should wonder how the world got a Consulship on some of the South Sea ber, 1866. T. S. Arthur & Co., Philadel-

Mr. Melville's poetry is readable, often elegant, sometimes almost Browning-like in ingenuity, though never hopelessly intricate in thought; it is an addition to our lyrics of the war. But to the fervid life of the city. Here, no there is an affectation of neutrality about the book as a whole, a want of moral before breakfast, and no cries of startling earnestness and conviction, that detracts news are heard in the streets before we from its value. It is neither good poetry political designs, and it must fairly be written down a failure. The people will never give it a place by the firm trumpet tones of Boker, although the noetry in and of itself may, in many re-

WHITNEY. - Asiatic Cholera: A Treatise on its Origin, Pathology, Treatment and Cure, By E. Whitney, M. D., and A. B. Whitney, A. M., M. D. 18mo, pp. 214. New York: M. W. Dodd. For sale in Philadelphia by Smith & English.

This book is the result of investigations, and the collection of facts and arguments from a great variety of sources, originally made and presented in aid of the discussions on the subject, during half a century, including the late reports from India, have been carefully examined.

trations. New York: Harper & Brothers. 8vo., pp. 189.

A work of fiction, belonging in the

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS.

American Tract Society. THE EDINBURGH REVIEW, July, 1866. American Edition. Republication of the London, Edinburgh, North British, and

tents: Mahomet; Weather Forecasts and after a brief but meritorious career, has been Navy in the Late War; Precious Stones; chiefly men who do not belong to the real-Charles Lamb; The State of Europe. New York: The Leonard Scott Publishing very profuse, are the best point of the Company. For Sale by W. B. Zieber, magazine. Those in the first number of Philadelphia.

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT. Boston Ticknor & Fields.—The number for August 25th has the following Table of Contents: ture in Mr. Stuart's possession; Raphael's They have no church edifice, and though ing the play of shadows and sunshine strong in numbers, they are all very in the waving branches above; the hyperor; The Story of a Burglary; The and St. John," the Pitti "Ecce Homo," Theory of Flirtation; Choosing a House; Perugino's "Ascension," together with some The Atlantic Telegraph; Foreign Notes; minor works, initial letters, and the like. The Sundew; Les Noyades. The readers of this periodical will notice with satisfaction the announcement that, with the number for September 1st, it will be enlarged from 32 to 40 pages—an indication of popularity and prosperity. The counductors propose hereafter to introduce as a feature their continued publication of articles Serial Stories, selecting only those of a having a tendency subversive of law and first-class character, and of readable quality; social order, and their antagonism to reand also to continue to present the most readable, interesting, and valuable stories, essays, sketches, and poems, from the foreign journals and periodicals. Translations from the French periodicals will form a regular and important feature. A most thrilling story from the French of Edmond About, will be given in September. Hours AT Home, September, 1865.

Edited by J. M. Sherwood.—Contents: The Fossil Remains of Vermont, by J. W. Phelps; Forests, by Prof. M. Schele de Vere; The Little Preacher; Porphyrion, with anguish—when they read the followby Alfred B. Street; The Harmonies of ing, from 'Drift, and other Poems, by Nature; Whose Fault is it? by Mrs. Prof. George Arnold,' just published in Bos-S. S. Robbins; Jane Gurley's Story, by ton: of England, by Prof. Noah Porter; Forever and For Evermore, by Miss Helen Brown; cially in this country—the time of the The Faithful Star, by the late Miss Mary Harvey Gill; Recollections of Hannah More, by Mrs. S. C. Hall, (England); Stuters in a most graphic, impressive, and dent Life in Germany, No. 2, by G. M. truthful way. He has woven with the Towle, U. S. Consul at Nante; De Rebus Ruris, No. 4, by Donald G. Mitchell, ("Ik Marvel"); A Theft for Life, by Miss S. J. Pritchard; Unforgotten; Patriotic Record of Bowdoin College, by J. H. Thompson What is the German's Fatherland? by Prof. W. Wells, (Union College); The Lost Cause, by the Editor; Books of the Month.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, September be-Joseph Alleine. Around him the 1866.-Contents: The Surgeon's Assiststory revolves. We follow him from ant; On Translating the Divina Commedia; his early career, as a lay preacher to Woman's Work in the Middle Ages; Pas the heathen of England, to his persecu- sages from Hawthorne's Note-books, IX. University Reform; The Voice; Life Assurance; A Distinguished Character; The Bobolinks; Griffith Gaunt, or, Jealousy, X; The Chimney-Corner for 1866, IX An Italian Rain Storm; Incidents of the Portland Fire; My Little Boy; Lake Champlain; Yesterday; The Johnson Party; Reviews and Literary Notices; Recent American Publications. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. Philada.: A. Winch, T. B. Peterson & Bro.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE, No. 1159. Sir Brook Fossbrooke, Part XIV.; Cobbett's Political Works; To Esther, No. II.; The Minister Painter; Miss Rossetti's Poems; The War in Europe and its Consequences; The Policy of France in the New Position; True "Moderation" in Prussia; and a variety of shorter articles in prose and poetry. A tempting bill, and one which does not deceive in the performance.

GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK. September, 1866. Louis A. Godey, Philadelphia. Twenty-one Embellishments, including patterns and fashion plates, and an extensive plan for a country residence. ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE. Septem-

Islands not yet reached by missionary phia. Six Illustrations, including a fine steel-plate engraving and fashion plates; a piece of music, and the usual variety of

> OUR YOUNG FOLKS, for September .-Boston: Ticknor & Fields.

> > LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

NEW PERIODICALS.—The American Numismatic and Archæological Society have recently begun the publication of a bulletin rise in the morning. The railway nor good politics It is an attempt to called the American Journal of Numiscombine pure art with very impure matics. It is an eight-page, double column octavo, with a cover, published monthly, and is devoted entirely to the description and cataloguing of coins, and to the journals of the different numismatic societies. There is hardly enough matter in American numismatics to fill even a journal of this size. If more space were devoted to the archæology of the country, which is a great field for explorers, the journal would be greatly increased in value. One of the best and most thorough papers recently written on American archæology is the essay by Prof. O. C. Marsh, F. G. S., in the July number of the "American Journal of Science," on the exploration of one of the ancient mounds at Newark, Ohio.

PROGRESS.—It is one of the signs of the increase of travel, and the rapidity of intercourse between nations, that a guide-book for China should be published, a region that four or five years ago, was as inaccessible as the North Pole, or the sources of the Nile. The first Chinese "Murray" appears in the shape of a neat pamphlet of about seventy pages, entitled "Notes for Tourists in the North of China, by N. B. Dennys," and is published by Messrs. A. Shortrede & Co. of and "He is our peace" who hath taken Hong Kong. The pamphlet contains very away sin by one sacrifice. Instead of hating full descriptions of Tien-tsin, Pekin, and God for his holiness, the forgiven man the surrounding country, with valuable instinctively loathes the evil of his own notes on the productions, objects of curi- heart, and looks with longing for the day osity, public buildings, etc., of the capital of when all things in it shall be made new. China, besides itineraries from Pekin to the | Such is the blessed fruit of pardon, when Mongolian frontier and the passes of the it comes to a sinner through the blood of Great Wall. Mr. Dennys has resided for two Christ.—Arnot's Laws from Heaven for or three years at Pekin as an officer in the Life on Earth.

British consular service, and has had the Frety-Second Annual Report of the best of opportunities for familiarizing him-American Tract Society. Presented at self with the peculiarities of the Province Boston, May 30, 1866. Boston: The of Chih-li. His work is a very useful vade. mecum, and is illustrated with several serviceable plans of Pekin and of the rout between that city and the sea.

"THE FINE ARTS QUARTERLY REVIEW," London, which unfortunately died out, revived under the editorship of Mr. Woodvariety of topics. The writers are now istic school. The illustrations, which are the new series are Jehan Foncquet's "Coronation of the Virgin" (in gold and colors); Reynold's portrait of himself, from the pic.

CENSORSHIP IN RUSSIA.—Two of the chief Russian reviews, the "Covremenik" (Contemporary) and "Russkoe Slovo" (Russian Word,) have recently been suspended after the proper number of warn. ings. The ground of their suspension was ligion and good morals.

A CHICKEN SENT HOME TO ROOST .-Ticknor & Field's Every Saturday Night has the following: -We find the following paragraph in the columns of a London newspaper:--

"The new generation of American poets do not mean, it would appear, to be confined in the old metrical grooves. Our rhymesters must surely assume the wellknown attitude of the British lion-put their tails between their legs and howl

" BEER." " Here With my beer While golden moments flit: They pass Unheeded by: And, as they fly, Being dry, Sit, idly sipping here My beer.'''

The British lion is altogether too sensitive and hasty. The quaint measure (of "Beer") which so offends him is none of Mr. Arnold's invention, but rather a study of one of England's choicest lyrical poets -Robert Herrick. We commend the 'Hesperides' of that delicious old gentleman to the British lion's consideration.

REPLY TO RENAN. -Soon after the publication of M. Renan's late work, "Les Apotres," the walls of Paris were covered with large posters announcing the publication of a work in answer to the author. The title of the book refuting the author of "Les Apotres" is "Christ Crucified, by Ernest Renan."

## THE RELIGIOUS NEWSPAPER,

I was spending a day, not long since, in a pleasant farm-house, which was fitted August 18. Littell, Son & Co., Boston. up with a taste and neatness not always und in such homes. The farmer down in the parlor, and conversed with ease and intelligence on various topics of interest in the religious and literary worldshowing a perfect familiarity with what was doing in the great world outside the bounds of his little farm. He was a man of only common education, yet his information was far more extended than is customary in the people of his calling. The secret of his superiority became very apparent in the course of the conversation. was frequently referring to some remark or paragraph in his religious newspaper which bore upon the subject upon which we were speaking—sometimes taking up a recent number, which was just at hand, and reading a few lines. One could not listen to him without obtaining valuable information and food for after thought.

An excellent religious newspaper was the educator that made this farmer so much superior to those whose lands lie upon either side of him, and who were content to jog on year after year, in the same dull round of monotonous duties, without a thought of anything beyond them. He had taken this paper many years,

and what was more important still, he read it every week thoroughly and carefully. Cut off from much society, he had a little world of his own in the pleasant family sitting-room, where he experienced the most delightful intellectual enjoyment.

What a blessing that religious newspaper was to him, and wnat a blessing such a paper is in every circle where it is introduced. You cannot do a greater kindness to any family than to send such a messenger of good things into its fold fifty-two times a year. I wonder that newspapers are not oftener presented as New Year's gifts to our friends; for certainly there can be none which yields such large returns of profit and happiness for so small an outlay. - S. S. Times.

## FALSE RELIGIONS.

All the false religions that have ever desolated the earth are sparks from the collision of these two hard opposites: God's hate of sin and man's love of it. As they strike in the varied evolutions of life, strange fires flash from the point of contact-fires that consume costly and cruel sacrifices. In Christ only may this sore derangement be healed. It is when sin is forgiven that a sinner can hate it. Then is he on God's side. The two are agreed,