

Editor's Cable.

AN INQUIRY IN HEBREW EXEGESIS.

KERR. The Jewish Church in its Relations to the Jewish Nation and to the "Gentiles," or the People of the Congregation in their Relation to the People of the Land, and to the People of the Lands. By Rev. Samuel C. Kerr, M. A. Cincinnati: Wm. Scott. 16mo. pp. 237. For sale by J. S. Claxton, Phila.

The object of this essay is to determine definitely the composition of the Jewish Church, and the relations of foreigners and their descendants in the land of Palestine, to the Church, and to give, as nearly as possible, the equivalents, in English, of the terms used, both in the Hebrew and in the Septuagint translation, for these classes of persons. The author, by a thorough and extended induction of instances, seems to make very clear the Scriptural grounds of the distinction between "proselytes of the gate" and "proselytes of righteousness," hitherto regarded as a matter of tradition only. Many passages of the Old Testament acquire new force, and many seeming inconsistencies are removed from the text, by observing these distinctions, hitherto overlooked and confounded by translators and commentators. The author also endeavors to show that there was a true Jewish Church within the Jewish nation, based upon a spiritual change—regeneration—well as marked by outward ordinances and relationships, whose members were "Hebrews of the Hebrews,"—the people of the congregation. The bearing of this discussion on the question of infant baptism as defended from circumcision, is important, and the author is of the opinion that it leaves no room for any such thing as slavery in the Hebrew Commonwealth.

While we doubt whether every thing regarded by the author as involved in his exegetical results is indeed to be found there, we unhesitatingly accord warm praise to his diligent efforts to elucidate from the original, important and hitherto obscure Scripture truth, and we commend his book as a highly creditable addition to the branch of scientific theology to which it belongs. The book will be sent, post-paid, for \$1.50, mailed to the author, Box 1087, Cincinnati, Ohio.

RECORDS OF FIVE YEARS. By Grace Greenwood. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. 16mo. pp. 222. For sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co.

Nothing comes from the pen of this gifted author, that is not eminently readable. Fine feeling, keen observation, freshness and vivacity, not to say boldness of style, with a choice of topics which shows a knowledge of human nature, and a soul all-ative to the grand issues which our countrymen have been settling during the five years covered by these "Records," must commend them to general regard. The piety and the wit are, however, often rather superficial; some of the pieces, perhaps we should say, parts of some, are little more than what a woman of culture and taste might expect to see in a woman's magazine conversation. The volume is divided into two parts—"In Peace," "In War."

M. F. K. SMITH. The Sparkling Stream. Temperance Melodies. Compiled by M. F. K. Smith. New York: Chas. M. Tremaine.

This is a large collection, with music in four parts, and, in some cases, with instrumental accompaniment. It includes suitable pieces for Sons of Temperance, Bands of Hope and Family Entertainment. It is handsomely executed, and appears well adapted for the important purpose contemplated.

HOUSEHOLD READING: Selections from the Congregationalist. 1849-66. Boston: Galen, James & Co. 8vo. pp. 498.

We doubt whether any religious paper in the land has contained a more uniformly readable, entertaining, stimulating and well-written run of articles on every one of its four pages, than has the Congregationalist. It has had the good fortune to secure a very large number of contributors, admirably adapted for religious newspaper writing; men and women, who have been instructive, pious, evangelical, without being ponderous and bookish; who have had command of picturesque elements, striking narratives, and raciness and vivacity of style, and, in short, have represented some of the best phases of the New England mind. During the war no newspaper, secular or religious, had a correspondent, who, all things considered, excelled Chaplain Quint. Its contributors to the Juvenile Department have been thoroughly competent to their important task. Its poetry has been of a high order, and the well-known piece entitled, "No sect in Heaven," the popularity of which is not confined to this continent, was first published in its columns. There, too, Gail Hamilton began her extraordinary and somewhat meteoric career. The volume before us is made up of selections from the more popular of these very popular pieces, and is given as a premium for subscribers to that enterprising and prosperous journal. We hope both the volume and the paper may enjoy a wide circulation.

PAMPHLETS AND PERIODICALS.

BLACKWOOD, for January, contains: Our Naval Defences, Where are They?—full of humiliating concessions and complaints, with comparisons suggested by our recent great advances in naval matters; Nina Balaka, concluded; Sir William Parker, the Admiral of the Fleet;—a biographical sketch of "the Last of Nelson's Captains," who died last November; Conington's Translation of the Aeneid, with a sketch of previous English translations, favorable to Conington, yet declining to promise a long lease of popu-

larity to the version; Cornelius O'Dowd writes some clever things on the Pope, the Fenians, Genteel Mormons, and Fiction Writers—not equal to his best; Capt. Cheney gives the Campaign in Western Germany; Women and Children in America: a very absurd tirade a la Blackwood, based upon false and exaggerated views of the somewhat unfeminine traits to be observed among the softer sex in our country. One of the assertions of the writer is; that if no seat is offered to a lady in a crowded vehicle, she goes boldly up to some gentleman in possession "and informs him, without periphrase, that she wants his seat!" Philosophising on such "facts" may be very able, but what are the results worth? "Brownlows, Part I," a New Tale; "Who are the Reformers, and what do they want?" Political.

LITTLEL'S LIVING AGE for February 9th, contains eighteen selected articles, with Poetry. "The Obstructive President," from "The Spectator," puts the case of Mr. Johnson very forcibly. THE SABBATH AT HOME for February. The American Tract Society, Boston, has issued the second number of this magazine, which is well adapted for the purpose designed; and yet might be made still more so. A sufficient number of talented writers could, we think, be secured, to make the enterprise not only laudable, but thoroughly taking. "All for the Best," "Wasted Sunshine," and "The Honorable Club," are good pieces; but several of the selections are decidedly dull. We hope the Society will improve in carrying out their idea, which is undoubtedly excellent.

LITERARY INTELLIGENCE.

GERMANY.—Theology.—"Christianity and Positivism," a small French treatise, by the anonymous author of treatises on Religion, Pure and Undeified, on Prayer, on the Religion of the Bible, &c., is highly commended as an antidote to the baneful influences of Contemism. It has been translated into German.—"Bible and Nature, being Lectures on the Mosiac History, and its Relations to the facts of Natural Science," by Dr. F. H. Reusch, Professor at Bonn; 2d Edition. The author is a Roman Catholic, but has done good service to the cause of inspiration.—Divinity, Freedom, Immortality, by L. Feuerbach Leipzig, pp. 293; Advanced Hegelianism, Pantheism, qualified with gross materialism, reproduced, after some years, in a new form, and with a new title—Pressense's "Life, Times and Work of Jesus Christ," has been translated into German.—The Second Edition of "Outlines of Church History, for the Higher Schools of Evangelical Churches," by Dr. Wipperfurth, is announced and commended.—The Confessions of Augustine, have been newly translated into German, and, with a brief sketch of his life, been published, in Frankfurt.—Dr. Burkhardt, Keeper of Archives, in Weimar, has issued anew the Letters of Luther, including what, De Wette scarcely attempted to give, the letters to Luther, necessary to a complete understanding of the Correspondence. Nearly 300 new letters are embraced in this collection.—"Memorials of the Life and Work of J. M. Rautenberg, Pastor of St. George's, in Hamburg, 1793-1857," by the Rev. of the Rough House." Besides the interest attaching to a life of Christian beauty, these memorials show their subject in connection with Twisten and Schleiermacher, and with Wichern's beginnings among the depraved youth of Hamburg, and with the Inner Mission itself. The author left some choice poetry, which has also been published.—To a very considerable German Literature on the subject of Conscience, commencing with Schenkels "System of Theology, with Conscience as a Centre," and continued by Auberlen; Kaehler, Guelder, and Vilmar, an addition has lately been made by Dr. R. Hoffman, Professor and University Preacher, at Leipsic. His book bears the title "The Doctrine of Conscience."—"Judaism in Palestine, at the Time of Christ," another work of value by a Roman Catholic Professor (Langen,) at Bonn. It aims to meet the questions now agitated about the Person and Work of Christ, and recognizes the services of Protestants in the same field.—The second edition of Ueberweg's "History of Philosophy from Thales to the Present," is announced at Berlin.—Also a second and improved edition of Dr. H. Ulrich's "God and Nature," a defence of the belief in a personal God, against the theories of Modern Science.—The second volume of Prof. J. E. Erdmann's "Plan of the History of Philosophy," embracing Modern Philosophy has been published at Berlin. It comes down to the present time. It contains 812 pp. 8vo., and is highly commended.

Rural Economy.

IMMIGRATION OF PLANTS.

Whenever a new country is settled, the character and quality of the incoming settlers vary in accordance with a tolerably definite law of progression. The settlement of Rome, of Venice, and of Virginia all illustrate the working of this law; the building up of the towns on the banks of the Mississippi, the peopling of California, and of the metalliferous territories of the Rocky Mountains, are recent instances in point. At first, a generation of horse-thieves and desperadoes of every grade—men who have most emphatically left their own countries for their countries' good—rush in. These men are commonly, but unjustly, reputed worthless, even as first occupants of a wild territory. As pioneers, they are redeemed by their intense vivacity; taken in mass, they can endure and live through vicissitudes and hardships such as are supported by no other human beings excepting galley-slaves. These first comers not only drive away or destroy the original native residents, but they bear the brunt of that inevitable warfare with an unfamiliar nature which is so harassing to colonists. Speculators, more or less honest and enterprising, quickly follow upon the horse-thief's steps, and these in turn make room for the common-place farmer with his traditions of law and habits of morality. Thus the new land soon ceases to be a Vale of Gehenna for the human refuse of the world. The United States are always cited as a

remarkable instance of this admixture of all sorts of elements poured forth from other lands: to the average English essayist on America, this country is still a simple sink wherein are gathered the scum and offscourings of other nations. The American, on the contrary, likes to think of this mass of fragments as in the act of being shaken in the great kaleidoscope of nature; there to assume incessantly new forms of beauty. Meanwhile the naturalist finds in this unwonted commingling of diverse germs and atoms a new field of research, for it was not with human life alone that the new country is freshly stocked. With man came in a multitude of plants and not a few animals. As regards animals, the laws of immigration are not obscure, for from the rats and mice in the first meal-bag up to the camels of the plains—from the huge elephant to the flea in the blanket—the imported animals are mostly more parasites, hangers-on than men wherever he may be. Man purposely carries certain animals to his new home. It is quite possible that, in the course of time, house-sparrows, and even skylarks and red-breasts, may come to us from Europe, but in all cases of the importation of animals, the direct, and usually the intentional, intervention of man is apparent. With plants, however, the case is different: their immigration is independent of man's volition. In the Eastern States of this country there have long been, firmly established some sixty or seventy species of vile weeds, which have come over to us from Europe. A list of these weeds, would include such questionable characters as the ox-eye daisy, the thistle, and the barberry bush. When shall we have the daisy proper and gorse as well? Besides the numerous representatives of pernicious classes of plants, we have a host of honest foreign grasses and clovers, and many imported flowering plants. It has been reported of late that the heather has come over to live among us, patches of it having been found wild in Massachusetts and Newfoundland.

Every where along the Atlantic border the indigenous plants of the country are rapidly yielding to the inroads of imported species, in the same way that the red man upon the frontier is disappearing before the advancing white. At the Natural History Society of Boston, Dr. Sprague descants upon the singular fact that the weeds which grow broadcast around the New Englander's door are all of foreign origin; the weeds of native growth being now confined almost exclusively to unimproved lands. At Philadelphia, on the other hand, Prof. Porter informs the Philosophical Society that foreign plants which were recently esteemed by botanists to be rare have already taken such complete possession of the valley of the Susquehanna, that the time may soon come when a large part of the flora of that region will have an essentially foreign character. A specially noteworthy locality is mentioned by Prof. Porter as existing on a reclaimed portion of the bank of the Delaware, below the Navy Yard at where at least ninety species of perhaps seventy genera of plants have been discovered, belonging for the most part to the flora of the Carolinas, Florida, and other Gulf States as far west as New Mexico, and some of them being Western plants. This colony of plants is divided into two groups, growing upon the two banks of a narrow lagoon, one bank consisting of heaps of refuse dirt from the city, and the other composed of ballast thrown from vessels trading coastwise with the port. Some of these botanical waifs have been found also growing on similar accumulations thrown upon the opposite or New Jersey shore.

The ways and methods of importation by which the foreign plants arrive and the means by which they are disseminated are manifold. Botanists have remarked the growth of strange German weeds around the hovels of newly-arrived German immigrants, and many observers have noticed the introduction of plants from the dust and rubbish obtained in cleaning foreign rags and wool at paper-mills and factories. Railroads, according to Prof. Porter appear to be one of the most active agents in the process of naturalization.

Scientific.

FORMATION OF MOUNTAINS AND CONTINENTS.

FROM AGASSIZ'S LECTURE ON SOUTH AMERICA

The oldest part of that continent is the table land of Guayana. It is as old, probably, as the northern portions of our continent. North America compares in a striking manner with South America, both in form and geological constitution, and I shall allude repeatedly to the physical features of our continent with a view of giving a more precise idea of the continent of South America, as I take it for granted that the aspect of this continent is more readily known.

The next oldest part of the continent is the table land of Brazil, the youngest is this, (pointing to the Andes.) It is of comparatively recent date, and presently I shall show you how geologists have succeeded in determining the relative age of different mountain chains. There was a time when Guayana existed as an island, when the table land of Brazil existed as an island, but when the whole range of the Andes did not yet exist. The ocean has probably swept between these two islands from the Atlantic to the Pacific, just as with us there was a time when what constitutes Canada and the whole extent of the land to the north of the great Canadian Lakes was a large island, stretching from Labrador in a direction westward to the Rocky Mountains, when no other part of the continent of North America existed.

The geologists who were charged by this Government with the survey of the mineral lands on Lake Superior have established be-

yond the possibility of a doubt, that that portion of our continent is the oldest, and that it was at one time an extensive island, oblong, narrow in the direction from north to south, extensive in the direction from east to west; that is, a large island extending in an east-westerly direction was at one time the only portion of North America which existed, or which arose above the level of the sea, and the time when it existed in this isolation was anterior to that during which our coal deposits have been formed. At a later time another tract of our Northern continent has been raised, the Alleghenies, and so the Continent of North America became, as it were an open triangle a V, the northern lands extending in an east-westerly direction (the Green and White mountains,) and the Alleghenies in a north-east south-westerly direction; but there were no Rocky mountains, the land was open and falling off toward the Pacific, just as in South America the land was open to the west, there being no Andes at that time.

You see, then, that our portion of the continent has been built by three great geological occurrences; first, by the up-heaval—and what I mean by up-heaval I shall explain presently—by the up-heaval of the lands trending in the direction of the Canadian lakes; then by the up-heaval of the land trending in the direction of the Alleghenies; and then the up-heaval of the Rocky Mountains—so the triangular shape of the continent of North America has been formed. Now you see there is something similar to that, in slightly modified proportions, in South America, Guayana corresponding to the Canadian high-land, the table land of Brazil corresponding to the Allegheny region, and the Rocky Mountains to the Andes.

The manner in which these up-heavals have taken place is well understood by geologists; and yet I fear that I might not be able to explain with sufficient precision the formation of the valley; did I not make a few general statements with reference to these up-heavals. While our earth was cooling from the state of primary igneous fusion, it naturally shrank; for every body knows that materials in a heated state are larger than when cool. A bar of iron red hot is longer than when cold, and the same bar stretches when it is heated, and contracts when it is cooled. Now suppose our earth to be cooling, the material of which it consists will contract, and the crust upon its surface will necessarily collapse; and, in consequence of this subsidence, it will shrivel; it will fold itself, and these folds will form irregularities, and these irregularities, pressing upon the materials below, which are still in a state of igneous fusion, determine a flow from within of those materials which may burst through the crust of the earth and may cause all sorts of disruptions and irregularities.

Our present mountains, outward pressure, of melted materials within, finding their way out through the solid crust, or solidified; which, in consequence of the shrinking of the surface, is thrown into wrinkles and forms and all sorts of irregularities. We can trace these changes with great minuteness, and there are some tracts of our country and some tracts of Europe in which all the details of this formation of mountains have been ascertained with mathematical precision.

The first data concerning this mode of mountain formation were traced by the greatest geologist of our age, Leopold Von Buch, a German geologist, in the Jura Mountains, on the shore of the Lake of Neuchâtel. There are these facts which indicate and illustrate the geological formation of our earth, with such a degree of neatness that those mountains may be considered as a geological museum, containing a great mass of instruction for all who may visit them. It has been, during fifteen years, my good fortune to live there, to teach geology there, and to bring my classes to the examination of those hills; and I know that any one who has once crossed the Jura must understand how mountains are formed, because the facts there are so plain that it is impossible to overlook them or to withstand their evidence.

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