

Miscellaneous.

MR. BARNES ON THE PRACTICAL VALUE OF THE PSALMS.

It is not a little remarkable that the Psalms, in the estimation of religious persons, hold substantially the same place under the clearer light of the Christian dispensation which they did under the comparatively obscure Hebrew economy, and that with all the additional light which has been imparted under the Christian revelation, the Psalms have not been superseded. The Christian looks to the Psalms with an interest as intense as did the ancient Jew; and as expressive of personal religious experience, as well as for the purpose of a manual for worship, the Psalms are selected by the Christian, from the whole Bible, and that with all the additional light which has been imparted under the Christian revelation, the Psalms have not been superseded.

The special value of the Psalms arises (a) from the fact that they are adapted to the worship of God; (b) from the fact that they are records of deep religious experience. (a) As adapted to the worship of God. For this many of them were originally designed in their very composition; to this the entire book seems to have been intentionally adapted by those who made the collection. It is not necessary to suppose that these sacred songs comprise the whole of the Hebrew lyrical poetry, for as we know that some of the books mentioned in the Old Testament, though inspired, accomplished their purpose and have been lost, so it may have been in regard to a portion of the lyrical poetry of the Hebrews. Many of the words of the Saviour, though all that He spoke was pure truth, truth such as no other man ever spoke—truth such as the Spirit of God imparted,—were lost from not having been recorded (John xxi. 25); and in like manner it may have been that truths which were written may have been accomplished their purpose, and have passed away. But, if there were such productions which have not come down to us, we have no reason to doubt, that they were of the same general character as those which have survived, and which now constitute the Book of Psalms. Now, it is remarkable that the poetry of the Hebrews is so adapted to public worship above all other poetry, and that the poetic genius of the nation took so exclusively a religious turn. In this respect the Hebrew lyric poetry stands by itself, and is unlike that of every other nation. Among the Greeks there are, indeed, hymns to the gods—hymns designed to be used in the worship of the gods; but this is by no means the general character of their lyric poetry. Among the Persians, the Arabs, the Romans, the Babylonians, there were doubtless such hymns; but this is not the prevailing character of their lyric poetry. In the early Scotch, French, Spanish, Italian, and English poetry, there are such hymns; but this is by no means the exclusive or predominant character of the early lyric compositions of these nations. Few of their lyric compositions can be used in the worship of the true God; nor is that which can be thus used always of the most exalted character as poetry. The composition of psalms and hymns is a separate, and distinct, and though there are specimens, in the hymns in these languages of the highest kind of lyric excellence, yet it is to be admitted that a large portion of that species of literature would, scarcely be regarded as even respectable, if it related to other objects than religion. Of the Hebrews, however, this is their all. They have no other poetry whatever. They have none merely matinary or pastoral which will compare with the Bucolics of Virgil, or with much of the poetry of Burns. Their poetry of the religious kind, also, is all of a high order. There is, none that can be placed on the same low level with much that is found in the hymn books of most denominations of Christians—very good; very pious; very sentimental; very much adapted, as is supposed, to excite the feelings of devotion; withal so flat, so weak, so unpoetic, that would not, in a volume of mere poetry, be admitted to a third or fourth rank, if indeed, it would find a place at all. It is for him who rejects the idea of inspiration, as applied to the Book of Psalms, to account for this.

guide of young believers; and it becomes more and more the companion, the comfort, and the counsellor, as the believer moves along through the varied scenes of life, and as gray hairs come upon him, and as the infirmities, which pre-announce the approaching close of all things, press him down. A religious man is rarely, if ever, placed in circumstances where he will not find something in the Psalms appropriate to his circumstances; where he will not find that the Hebrew sacred bard has not gone before him in the depths of religious experience. Hence, in sickness, in bereavement, in persecution, in old age, or on the bed of death, the Book of Psalms becomes so invariable and so valuable a companion; and hence, not as a matter of convenience, but as supplying a want in the minds of men, and as significant of their value, the Psalms and the New Testament are so often bound together in a single volume. Hence, also, for the aged, for the sick, for those whose powers of vision fail by disease or by years, the Psalms and the New Testament are printed in large type, and bound in convenient forms, that the truths contained in these volumes may be still accessible to the saint ripening for heaven, as the light fails, and as life ebbs away. To the end of the world the Psalms in religious experience will occupy the same place which they now occupy; to the end of the world they will impart comfort to the troubled, and peace to the dying, as they have done in the ages that are past.

Scientific.

THE BEE HIVE.

[Selected for the AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN.]

Prof. Huxley of London, has delivered at the College of Surgeons, during the past Winter and Spring, a series of very instructive and interesting lectures on the "Invertebrata"—in one of the last lectures, reported in The London Medical Times and Gazette of May 30th, devoted to the description of the class "Insecta," he furnishes some interesting information in regard to the life and habits of that familiar insect, the bee.

Speaking of the so-called social insects, bees, wasps and ants, he says: "These insects are distinguished, not only by their combining together in great numbers, but also by the species presenting itself under three or four distinct forms. Thus, in the bee we have (1) the working bee or imperfect female, (2) the drone or true male, and (3) the fertile female or queen. Sometimes in the ant, there are four distinct forms for the working ants are directed into two sets—(1) the ordinary workers, and (2) other workers exclusively concerned in defence—these are the soldier ants, they have large heads and strong mandibles.

"In regard to the bee, one point is soon made out—viz, that the drones are true males and that the queen is an indubitable female. But the true condition of the working bee is only made out after much investigation. They are simply females stunted in their development, for they possess stings (which are peculiar to females), and other features of female organization. "To follow out the history of a hive, we find in early Spring the comb of the last year containing a great mass of bees—workers and one larger than the rest, the true queen. At this period there are no males and no larvae. The first operation consists in the waking-up of the hive. The workers hilly forth and collect honey and pollen. These workers or neuters separate into two divisions—one party is employed in collecting food; the other in turning it to account when collected. These latter the well fed ones, hang themselves up in bunches in the hive and the nutriment they have received is converted into wax, which is separated from the body, and passes out between the abdominal rings. After this period of rest, they set to work and employ the wax to build up cells. The others return to the hive, and regurgitate the saccharine matter that they have collected into the cells which the other set have formed—so that, however disagreeable the idea may be, honey is really the vomit of bees. Other cells, at this period, are ready for the deposit of eggs. For this purpose the workers build up three different kinds of cells. The cells for the workers; and the drones do not greatly differ, but those for the queens, only a few in number, are larger and not hexagonal. The queen marches along the rows of cells, and drops an egg into the open mouth of each. The eggs are elongated, and stick to the bottom of the cells, so that every cell contains an egg. The larvae when they emerge from the egg, are all perfectly similar—they possess no feet, and are perfectly helpless so that they have to be fed—for this purpose, the working bees, store up in their crops a chylous substance which they regurgitate into the cells of the larvae. During the first six days the food supplied to cells is of the same character—but after this period the queen's larvae continue to be supplied with the same form of highly elaborated food, but the others are then fed on a mixture of honey and pollen.

After a time the larva changes into a chrysalis, the lid of the cells is shut down and ceases to move, and the final changes are undergoing. In the first place there is a vast number of worker-cells made up than queen-cells, and these workers emerge first, and take their share in the work of the hive. By-and-by the young queen is ready to pass out of her cell—she then makes a kind of chirping noise—at this the old queen gets into a great rage and tries to destroy the young one, but the workers assemble round their new queen and repel the attacks of the old sovereign respectfully, but firmly. Then on a sudden accession of rage the old queen descends the hive, followed by a certain num-

ber of workers who form an escort for her. This is what is known as the first swarm—the old queen with her followers found a new home. Soon after this there is a second swarm participated in by the new queen and a numerous escort—they ascend high up into the air and again returns to the hive. This ceremony installs the new queen into office, and she is prepared to perpetuate the existence of the hive, and remains in command until the birth of a new queen on the following Spring, when she, enraged at the evidences of affection which are manifested for the new-comer, leaves the hive in disgust, and founds a new home.

We have now another difficulty to solve—why is that out of a worker's cell, there always proceeds a stunted female—out of a drone's cell a male, and out of a queen's cell a perfect female? Some keepers soon found out how the difference between the neuters and the queens was brought about. It was noticed that the hive loses its queen sometimes, and then, if not six days old the living workers were able to convert any grub they chose into a feeble-grown queen, simply by altering the condition of its life—they enlarge its cell, alter its shape, and continue to supply it with highly elaborated nutriment, therefore no arrest of development takes place a perfect female insect is formed.

It is thus seen that the bees possess the power of checking the development of their young by altering the condition of their existence. This startling fact, therefore, is proved, that each working bee is a potential queen stunted in development by deprivation of nutriment.

As to the drones it was ascertained after long investigation, that they proceeded from non-fecundated ova, the queen possessing the power of interrupting the fecundation of certain ova, and of virgin reproduction. J. E. M.

WESTON & BROTHER, MERCHANT TAILORS, 900 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA. Advertisement for a new line of clothing, including suits, coats, and various styles, with prices listed.

REMOVAL FROM N. E. Corner of Seventh and Walnut Sts. TO No. 908 WALNUT STREET. E. O. THOMPSON, FASHIONABLE TAILOR.

GRIFITH'S Patent Double Self-acting Archimedeal SREW VENTILATOR AND SMOKE CONDUCTOR. Advertisement for a mechanical device for ventilation and smoke removal.

Light House Cottage, Atlantic City, N. J. Advertisement for a property in Atlantic City, mentioning its location and features.

FOR'S Sarsaparilla, Cures Scrofulous Disease, Purifying the Blood. Advertisement for a medical product claiming to cure various ailments related to blood purification.

HALL'S Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer. Advertisement for a hair care product, featuring an illustration of a woman's head and detailed text about its benefits.

BELLS, BUCKEYE BELL FOUNDRY. Advertisement for a bell foundry, listing services and contact information.

Edwin S. Johnston, Wall Paper and Linen Window Shades. Advertisement for a business specializing in interior decorations and window treatments.

JOSHUA COWPLAND, Looking Glasses, The Industrial Home for Girls. Advertisement for a business selling optical goods and providing care for girls.

SAMUEL C. PERKINS, Vice President. Advertisement for a business or organization, listing the name and role of Samuel C. Perkins.

INSURE YOUR LIFE IN YOUR OWN HOME COMPANY THE AMERICAN OF PHILADELPHIA. S. E. Cor. FOURTH & WALNUT STS. Advertisement for a life insurance company, highlighting its capital and financial strength.

HOME Life Insurance Comp'y, 258 Broadway, New York. Assets, \$1,500,000 - 9000 Policies in Force. Advertisement for another life insurance company, emphasizing its large assets and policy count.

ESTLER & COLTON, Cor. 4th & Liberty sts. Advertisement for a business or office located at the corner of 4th and Liberty streets.

PROVIDENT LIFE AND TRUST CO. OF PHILADELPHIA. OFFICE No. 111 SOUTH FOURTH STREET. Advertisement for a life and trust company, detailing its office location and services.

NEW CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENT, Aids, New Jersey, 18 Miles from Philadelphia. Advertisement for a settlement project in New Jersey, aiming to provide aid and establish a new Christian community.

Edgemoor School, PRINCETON, N. J. Advertisement for a school in Princeton, New Jersey, listing its location and educational offerings.