

Editor's Table.

Publishers will confer a favor by mentioning the prices of all books sent to this Department.

Mr. Wm. S. Rentoul (421 Walnut St.) has published an English work on a vexed question of Church practice and duty: "THE DYING COMMAND OF CHRIST; or the duty of Believers to celebrate weekly the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper." By the author of "Our Heavenly Home," "Grace and Glory," &c. The opinion advocated by the author is one that finds much countenance in the practice of the Apostolic Church, and in the judgments of good men of later days. The author has shown the former with much clearness, and collected the latter with diligence. Nor is the question, in his view, one of mere opinion, as he maintains that the Eucharist is the central act of Christian worship, and one without which "the assembling of ourselves together" is Scripturally imperfect. In our day, when liturgical questions of this sort are receiving especial attention, the work is likely to excite the interest of a large class of readers. Pp. 144. Price 75 cts.

Wm. Flint (26 South Seventh St.) sends us: "THE AGE-QUESTION: OR A PLEA FOR CHRISTIAN UNION." By Alfred Nevin, D.D. Dr. Nevin has grappled boldly with what is at least one of the questions of the age, and shrinks from no conclusion to which logic carries him on the subject. He takes advanced ground, advocating visible, organic union on the basis of the fundamental Christian doctrines, as set forth in the Apostles' Creed. He freely expresses his dissatisfaction with the system (or anarchy) handed down to us by the Reformation; vigorously, if not conclusively, answers the various objections to his theory; and adds to the force of his own reasonings the judgments of the best and wisest Churchmen of ancient and modern times. His weakness lies in his failing to point out a definite method by which existing difficulties in the way may be overcome. Like most theorists, he fails to grapple with details. We hope that the book will do good (1) in showing the over-hasty advocates of some specific union movements, what are the logical consequences of their avowed principles, and so promoting Christian sincerity and consistency; (2) in promoting that real love of the brethren, which will do much good even if plans of outward union are not successful.

A. S. Barnes and Co. send us (through the Lippincotts) another of their fine series of educational works: A FOURTEEN WEEKS' COURSE IN DESCRIPTIVE ASTRONOMY, from the pen of J. Dorman Steele, M. A., Principal of Elmira Free Academy. It is written in a lucid and attractive style, and embodies the very latest results of discovery. It is full of fine, wood-cut pictures of astronomical objects, which, with a map of the heavens, add greatly to the attractions of the volume. The author has evidently spared no pains to make a book of the first quality, and the publisher has ably seconded his efforts. It almost tempts us to take another course in this, which Comte has well called the simplest of the sciences.

Leyboldt & Holt send us (through the Lippincotts) A PSYCHE OF OUR DAY, by the author of "Who Breaks, Pays," &c. It is a story of French life, told by a master of the art. The heroine is a girl of fine but imperious disposition, undeveloped by favorable associations. The hero, who marries her, is a better artist than husband, possessing the fickle temperament which too often characterizes that class. The temporary insanity of his wife changes him into the most devoted of husbands. The book is a psychological study rather than a picture of society.

George Storrs, of New York, Editor of The Bible Examiner, sends us three pamphlets: (a) Man's Destiny. "Immortality: The Arguments from Nature and Scripture, by Rev. T. M. Post, D. D., of St. Louis, Mo," reviewed by George Storrs, (b) The Atonement by Jesus Christ: What is it? (c) Man's Nature and Destiny: or the Animal Man and the Spiritual Man. A Sermon, by Geo. Storrs. The doctrines here inculcated and defended are those of the Annihilationist wing of the Second Advent body, of which Mr. Storrs has long been the recognized leader. He may indeed be regarded as the author of the annihilationist theory, though something like it seems to have been taught in primitive times by Arnobius.

PAMPHLETS AND MAGAZINES.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY, for September, 1868. Contents:—No News; Expectations; Siberian Exiles; St. Michael's Night. IV.; On the Modern Methods of Studying Poisons; In Vacation; Sidney and Raleigh; Bill and Joe; The Impossibility of Change; The Face in the Glass; The Island of Madalena; The Man and Brother. I.; American Diplomacy; The Genius of Hawthorne. Boston: Ticknor & Fields. \$4 a year.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW for July. Contents:—The Life of David Garrick; Indian Railways; Coleridge as a Poet; Gunpowder; Marco Polo and His Recent Editors; History of Race; Sir Roderick Murchison and Modern Schools of Geology; Proverbs, Ancient and Modern; Ireland once more. Leonard Scott Publishing Co., 140 Fulton St., N. Y., \$4 a year.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

FISHERMAN'S DAUGHTERS, and Other Stories. 12mo. 195 pp. Boston: Henry Hoyt.
Miscellaneous Prose Works, by Edward Bulwer, Lord Lytton, in two volumes. 12mo. Vol. I. 425 pp. Vol. II. 368 pp. New York: Harper & Brothers. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

HOMER'S Navigation Simplified. A Manual of Instruction in Navigation as Practiced at Sea. Adapted to the wants of the Sailor. Containing all the Tables, Explanations and Illustrations necessary for the Easy understanding and Use of the Practical Branches of Nautical Navigation; with numerous examples, worked out by the American Ephemeris and Nautical Almanac, for several years ahead. Compiled at (and expressly for the Navigation Students of) Comer's Commercial College, Boston. 8vo. 163 pp. Same as above.

THE ORTUM HABIT, with Suggestions as to the Remedy. 12mo. 335 pp. Same as above.

RANDALL.—First Principles of Popular Education and Public Instruction. By S. S. Randall, Superintendent of Public Schools in the city of New York. 12mo. 256 pp. Same as above.

DRAPER.—History of the American Civil War. By John William Draper, M.D., LL.D. In three Volumes. 8vo. Vol. II. 614 pp. Containing the Events from the Inauguration of President Lincoln to the Proclamation of Emancipation of the Slaves. Published and for sale as above.

LITERARY ITEMS.

Rev. T. L. Cuyler, D.D., writes to the Evangelist: "The too-long deferred Memorabilia of Professor Addison Alexander, are in course of rapid preparation for the press. They will give a peep into the mental machinery of this remarkable recluse, which will be abundantly entertaining. His linguistic learning was something stupendous. In the diary of his reading, occur some such entries as this:—'Read to-day, so much Sanscrit and so much Zoroaster—finished a perusal of Littleton in Latin, with the old Norman notes, etc.' Other men's toils were his recreations." Mr. Dickens, in reply to a request from a French author for materials to write a biography of him, says he has long ago formed the intention of writing an autobiography.—An English paper says that 4,000,000 copies of the (moderate) High Church hymnal "Hymns, Ancient and Modern," have been sold in Great Britain within the last five years. The English edition may be had in this city for twenty-five cents.—Miss Anna E. Dickinson has completed the story upon which she has been actively employed for some months. It is announced as being reformatory in character, dealing with the questions of the hour, and is to be published early in autumn.—It is very difficult now to find anywhere at the book stores in Belgium, Germany, or England, a copy of Victor Hugo's "Napoleon Le Petit," in French, the agents of the Emperor of the French having bought up every copy they were able to lay their hands on.—Among the candidates for seats in the new British Parliament, several are or have been connected with the newspaper press, including Mr. Lowe, Mr. Baines, Mr. Roebuck, Mr. John Walter, principal proprietor of the London Times, Professor Morley, of the Fortnightly Review, Mr. Edward Miall, of the Nonconformist, Mr. Tillet, editor of the Norfolk News, Mr. Jaffray, of the Birmingham Post, and Mr. Gorrie, formerly editor of a Scotch paper.—Bishop Heber, had a brother once, who spent his entire life in collecting books. A journey of several hundred miles was often undertaken to secure a single copy. He rented houses in Paris, Antwerp, Brussels, and other European cities, and filled them from basement to attic. When he died, his library, which numbered five hundred thousand volumes, was disposed of at auction, the sale lasting two hundred and two days, and the net returns being over a million dollars.—A London religious weekly publishes a statement that three hymns commonly ascribed to ADDISON were undoubtedly composed by ANDREW MARVELL. They are the well-known pieces,

"The Lord my pasture shall prepare;"
"The spacious firmament on high;"
"When all thy mercies, O my God;"

These hymns are found in MS. volume of Marvell's poems bearing date of 1676, when Addison was four years old. They came into Addison's possession in some way, and were published by him in the Spectator, with laudatory prefaces, a circumstance which is alone sufficient to indicate that Addison could not have intended to claim for himself the authorship. He surely was not the man to pronounce his own verses "exquisite."—The N. Y. Sun says:—"Mr. Ware, a Unitarian preacher in Baltimore, is out in a tirade against the present mode of conducting newspapers. He might turn his guns with far more justice upon the present mode of preaching the gospel—his own included. He inveighs against publishing accounts of crimes. We heard him once proclaim that the greatest blessing which befell Adam and Eve was their expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Is not all crime a legitimate consequence of the first sin? Mr. Ware should be more consistent."—There are 306 religious newspapers and other periodicals published in the United States. Of these 60 are set down as Baptist, 54 Methodist, 30 Presbyterian, 29 Lutheran, 26 Episcopal, 24 Catholic, 16 Congregationalist, 11 Universalist, and the remainder scattered among the smaller societies.

Scientific.

INFLUENCE OF THE MOON ON THE WEATHER.

At the late meeting of the "Scientific Congress" in Chicago, Prof. Loomis presented a paper on this subject. He stated that from a comparison of twenty-eight years of observation in Germany, Schubler deduced a sensible influence of the moon, the number of rainy days at the time of the second octant being twenty-five per cent. greater than at the time of the fourth octant. From a comparison of observation, made at Paris, Orange, and Karlsruhe, Gasparin arrived at results not differing greatly from those of Schubler. By a comparison of sixteen years of observation at Greenwich; nine years of Oxford, and sixteen years at Berlin, Mr. Harrison of England has obtained results which are remarkably consistent with each other, and which indicate that the moon exerts an appreciable influence upon terrestrial temperature, the maximum occurring six or seven days after new moon, and the minimum about four days after full. The difference between the maximum near the first quarter, and the minimum near the last quarter is two and a half degrees of Fahrenheit. These results, which are so different from what might be anticipated,

Mr. Harrison explains by supposing that the moon really attains its greatest heat about the last quarter, but that the heat which the moon radiates to the earth is entirely dark heat, and therefore absorbed by our atmosphere. The heat raises the temperature of the air above the clouds, causing increased evaporation from their surface, by which they are dispersed, and thus there is an increased radiation of terrestrial heat to the sky, and consequently a diminution in the temperature of the air near the ground. He supposes that opposite results must occur at the period of minimum heat in the moon. In order to compare the influence of the moon with that of the sun, he had taken the average cloudiness of Greenwich, as indicated by observations made every two hours for a period of seven years, and the table shows,—the greatest cloudiness due to the moon's influence occurs about the time of the greatest heat; that is, near the third quarter, and the minimum follows about a week after the maximum, or about one-fourth the time of the moon's rotation. This disturbance of the vapor of our atmosphere gives rise to storms, during which vapor is precipitated, and a vast amount of latent heat is liberated. The motion of these storms over the earth's surface is influenced by local causes such as latitude, proximity to mountains or the ocean. The result the Professor found in the statement that the moon does influence the atmospheric phenomena in an appreciable manner; but, in ordinary parlance, the influence being so small, it may be said that there is no influence of the moon upon the weather.

BURSTING OF A GLACIER.

A correspondent of a London paper gives the following account of a singular occurrence at Chamounix, Switzerland, on July 23: "At ten minutes to five, a dark cloud overshadowed the valley of Chamounix, a peal of thunder was heard, and then a continuous roar that awakened every one in the village, caused every eye to strain itself in the direction of the Aiguille Blaitiere. At this moment no sign could be seen of the cause of so much commotion. Presently a puff of smoke, as it so appeared on the crest of the mountain that supports the Glacier des Peleries, raised the cry that the glacier had burst, bringing with it part of the moraine that had kept it within bounds. "The peasants of the valley were rushing to and fro, driving the cattle into safe quarters, and then all eyes were watching one of the most glorious and overwhelming sights the visitor to Chamounix could desire to see. My pen is too weak to describe the commotion this mighty avalanche created, every moment adding fuel to its course, tossing up clouds of spray, bringing with it pine trees, huge boulders, rude bridges, and deserted chalets, until it reached the pretty Cascade du Dard, when the noise was most deafening. The falling mass here, filling the gully, and gaining speed at every exertion, left the course the stream usually takes, and tearing down pine trees, opened an immense track, and overflowed the meadows and gardens of the Hotel Royal, destroying whole fields of barley and potatoes, and, after spending its fury for twenty minutes on meadow and peasant land, this muddy mass formed itself into a large lake, which will remain some time, to be regarded by tourists as an event which is very rare in the valley of the Chamounix."

Rural Economy.

OX OR HORSE TEAMS.

"I live eight miles from Newport and about the same distance from Fall River, and have to haul my produce to one or the other of these markets. I use a light wagon with a pair of horses and carry a light load, or two pairs of oxen and a heavy cart for a larger load. The first don't pay, and the last is slow work for these times. When I was in the army I was struck with the large wagons in use at the South, and even on the country roads about Philadelphia, drawn by four horses or mules, and carrying much larger loads than we are accustomed to. I would like to have your opinion as to the relative advantages of the two systems."

There is much to be said in favor of oxen—they are cheaply kept when not at work, and their increase of size pays in part for their food; they make a steady team for heavy work, and they are easily managed, requiring only the simplest sort of gearing for the road or the field. They are such comfortable creatures to have about that men who have been accustomed to them all their lives are very prone to give them more than their due, and to scout the idea of replacing them with horses.

Of course, in pioneer life, and in all cases where the cost of their keep is not an objection to being largely stocked with cattle, oxen are invaluable. They get an immense amount of work done at very little cost—if one has enough of them, not to overwork them, at any time, so that all of the teams may keep up a thrifty growth, and turn hay into beef at a profitable rate. On a feeding farm they are a great resource for times of heavy and pressing work. But when we have said this we have said all, and there is a dark side to the picture. The habitual use of oxen is exceedingly demoralizing to the farmer and his hands.

The ox gives the tone to the whole establishment, and sets its time—and mighty slow time it is. That in this steam age any man who cares for more than to "put in his day's work," should be satisfied to creep his slow way along at the side of four oxen, eight miles from home and back, is an evidence of the depressing influence of an ox-team on the human energies. For all road work, yes for all steady work, horses or mules (preferably the latter) are the only teams that an active man ought to be content with, whether he drive one pair or two.

For all road teaming, the large Pennsylvania wagon, drawn—with its load of three tons—by four stout horses or mules, is far more economical than our lighter wagons, which carry hardly more than one ton with two horses. The horses do full work, of course, although a larger part of it is applied to the hauling of the wagon than in the other case, while the man (giving his time to the accomplishment of one ton instead of three) is accomplishing only one-third of what he might do. We think our correspondent would do wisely were he to adopt the more effective four-horse team, keeping his oxen in rapidly growing condition, ready for any extra work on the farm.—The New York Evening Post.

NEW EDITIONS.

Several of the Books more recently published by us have proved so popular as to require New Editions within a brief time after publication. Among these we would mention

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AND

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The second editions of which are now in press, although the last named was first issued in May, less than three months since.

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