THE AMERICAN PRESBYTERIAN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1868.

Editor's Cable.

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

From the Harpers (through the Lippincotts) we have the second of the three volumes of Dra-Der's HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR. It shows no mean powers of narration, and a breadth of grasp in comprehending the philoso. phy of the subject, which eminently fit its author for the post of a popular historian. The story is not overburdened with military lore and technical disquisitions, which too often unfit such works for popularity. Yet we cannot but see that Dr. Draper shows to less advantage in this volume than in his first. Like Grote, the Historian of Greece, he is less at home now in narrative, than then in disquisition, and the work might possibly have been far more popular, had he thrown his discussion of the subject into the form of essays. Very often, indeed, he does break through the historical order and sequence of events. He tells us near the beginning of the present volume, what took place at the evacuation of Richmond, before we have heard of the disasters of Bull Run, showing that the dramatic conception of history is not his leading one,that his bump of "Time" is less prominent than that of "Causality." But even with these drawbacks the work is one of sterling value, and ought to be neglected by no one who wishes to comprehend the nature and tenor of our "late unpleasantness." The Messrs. Harper have done their best to present the work in a fitting shape. It is free from those marvellous war pictures which tell us nothing, but plentifully fitted out with maps and diagrams which tell us everything.

From the same firms comes Mr. S. S. Randall's FIRST PRINCIPLES OF POPULAR EDUCATION AND PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, a book which makes us glad that its author occupies the responsible position of "Superintendent of the Public Schools of the City of New York." The author takes the word education in the broadest sense, as the development and training of the whole man,moral, intellectual, and physical,-to be what he was meant to be. He does not, therefore, think that the elementary branches of education should be followed only by such technical instruction as will fit the child for some specific employment or handicraft. He pleads for a teaching which shall be humane in its designs and purposes, and which shall look on man as an end in himself. The book has its faults however. The style is too rhetorical in some parts, and the treatment too indefinite. A stress is laid upon "useful knowledge " which (in our judgment) is inconsistent with the main drift of the reasoning. But we are glad to see a work so loftily ethical in its drift, and so thoroughly corrective of popular errors.

From the same firms we have Bulwer Lytton's MISCELLANEOUS PROSE WORKS in two volumes. contain both his autiantiand his latest as says. The first volume embraces his contributions to the English Magazines and Quarterlies from 1830 to 1867, together with his, "Life of Schiller." The second volume comprises his volume "The Student," together with a discussion of "The Influence of Love upon Life and Literature." hitherto unpublished. Lord Lytton seems to us to deserve a high rank in the second class of essayists. He has not abandon enough to throw himself into his work like Carlyle; yet is too heavily weighted to discuss matters in the airy style of Matthew Arnold. If he were less learned, or less of a lord, he would be a better essayist. But still his productions are far superior to those of the common class of even English writers for per odicals. From the same firms we have THE OPIUM HABIT, WITH SUGGESTIONS AS TO THE REMEDY, -a book of the same absorbing interest as thrills the readers of De Quincy's famous " Confessions of an Opium Eater." The writer opens with a graphic and often humorous account of his own most painful but successful effort to abandon the habit, and then proceeds to detail the experience of others. De Quincy's story (pp. 77-132) is told in the words of his Confessions and his Suspiria, with the sad but not generally known fact that he never broke loose from the tyrant, alhough (at the expense of great suffering) he greatly reduced his daily dose. Coleridge's story (pp., 33-178) is collected from many quarcers. He also was never entirely free. Other Cases are Wm. Blair, (pp. 179-197) Rev. ____, first pastor of the first Unitarian church in Brooklyn, (pp. 198-223) Rev. G. W. Brush, (pp. (225-231), a writer in Lippincott's (pp 232-9), Robert Hall, John Randolph, and Wm. Wilberforce (pp. 240-9). The two closing chapters are from the pen of Fitzhugh Ludlow, the first by Mark Hopkins, D. D., LL. D., President of amount to the extent to which the atmos-("Whatshall they do to be Saved?" pp. 250-284.) Williams College, one vol. 12mo; "Chips from pheric semperator rises or falls." being hisarticle in Harper's Monthly; the second a German Workshop, Essays on the Science of 4. That it is an error to suppose (as is being hisarticle in Harper's Monthly ; the second W Outlines of the Opium Oure." pp. 285-335). being a sketch of 'nn ideal' "Lord's Island " establishment for the reform of victims of the Opium Habit. The whole work is designed mainly for the use of those slaves of Opium, who really wish to break loose from their bondage; Brightwood Edition of Dr. J. G. Holland's Se-but, like De Quincy's "Confessions," it will find a let Works in six volumes, 16mo., from new stere-5. That, remarkably enough, wide circle of readers. Nothing even in De Quincy excells in interest the first chapter, which is. from the compiler's own penyand that interest. Talks;" "Household Book of English Poetry," in summer. With notes, selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are with notes, selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are control of the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are control of the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are control of the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are control of the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises and falls of temperature are are selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected are selected and arranged by Trench, "6. That rises are for the selected are selected a

same firms) is a work by a writer whose previous treatises on the same subject have attained very wide popularity. It is of course too technical to be of interest to general readers, but will need no commendation with those to whose special walk in life it belongs, and who are acquainted with his larger work the "Manual of Practical Navigation." Of that work it is mainly a simplified abridgement, with the addition of examples from the "American Ephemeris."

The Presbyterian Board of Publication have issued a new edition of John Angell James' AN EARNEST MINISTRY THE WANT OF THE TIMES. The work was published some years ago in New York, but had gradually disappeared from the market, when a generous friend purchased the stereotype plates of the original edition and presented them to the Board, who now reproduce the work unaltered, and in a very neat and convenient form. It would be an anachronism to commend the book in the year 1868. We trust that it will have the opportunity to " commend itself to the consciences " of many of our brethren in the ministry, especially those of younger years.

J. P. Skelly & Co., send us another of their really excellent series of children's books THE LITTLE SLATE PICKER, AND [two] OTHER STORIES. By Mrs. E. E. Boyd. It is quite praise to say that it is equal to the previous publications of the firm. and the second

BOOKS RECEIVED.

JONES .- Life Scenes from the Old Testament, with Maps and Illustrations. By Rev. Geo. Jones, M.A., Chaplain United States Navy, Author of "Life Scenes from the Four Gospels." Pp. 496. Philadelphia: J. G. Garrigues & Co. CRUDEN-EADIE-A New and Complete Concordance to the Holy Scriptures, on the Basis of Cru-den. Edited by John Eadie, D.D., L. D., Pro-fessor of Biblical Literature to the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland. With an Introduction by Rev. Joel Hawes, D. D., Hartford, Conn. (Containing 124,000 references.) Pp. 561. Hart-

LITERARY ITEMS.

ford: O. D. Case & Co.

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The Rev. Richard Frederick Littledale, LL.D. D. C. L., " Priest of the Church of England," has at length published, with notes, his Liverpool Lecture just as delivered. He speaks of the Palmerston as a "frivolous old heathen;" Ed-ward VI is styled "a young tiger cub," who would have burnt Dr. Littledale if he had had the chance; Archbishop Cranmer " the most infamous personage in the English history," is said to have been " arrested' in his wicked career by the Divine vengeance."" The lecture is one long indictment of the men who committed the unpardonable offence of mnking the Church of England Protestant ; Latimer was a " coarse, profane, unscrupulous bully." In short, the Refor-mation martyrs provoked their fate by their crimes. True, their execution was a bad business, but then we are told "it is not strange" that their contemporories thought that "the only way

to deal with the peril, as we did with the Sepoy mutiny and the cattle plagde."' The worst of it mutiny and the cattle plague." The worst of it is that the terrible fire in which 'Grammer perish-ed, did not purge his' sins, and he has gone to it was not in the two second the of essays published in 1832 under the title of his friend, he is a Romanist .- Fifteen new pub- oxide quickens the oxidation of blood, and Scotch Presbyterians .- The cydical and often being so determinately impeded. slanderous papers on women, which have appeared in The Saturday Review, have been repub-lished by Redfield of New York, with a preface by Mrs. Lucia Calhoun .- Dean Ramsay has published a volume of anecdotes of ministers under the name Table Talk .- Beecher is too busy on his "Life of Christ" to lecture this winter." He began his literary career by editing the Farmers' column in the Indianapolis State Journal and met with such success that the publishers started an agricultural paper, and made him editor.

COMER'S NAVIGATION SIMPLIFIED (from the | and Present," a new edition, revised, 12mo.; "A | operation upon public health, when at the Text-Book of Natural Philosophy," adapted to same time the daily range of temperature use in high schools and academics, by Leroy C. is lessened, than they are when the daily Cooley, A. M., of the N. Y. State Normal School, range is at the same time increased; rises 12mo., with numerous illustrations; "Travels and Adventures in South and Central America," by Don Ramon Paez, illustrated with numerous by Don Ramon Facz, mustrated with humericus engravings, crown 8vo; "Comfort's Modern Language Text-Books," including German, French, Italian, and Spanish; "Mrs. Kirkland's Garland of Poetry," "Garland of Poetry for the Yonog," a new edition of the "School Girl's Garland of Poeory," two vols. in one, 12mo.; "The Land and its Story; or, Lectures on the

Sacred Historical Geography of Palestine," by N. C. Burt, D. D., 12mo.

Scientific.

[Prepared for our columns.] NITROUS OXIDE OR LAUGHING GAS.

This agent, which has been employed so extensively in this country, for the purpose of producing anæsthesia during the extraction of teeth, has been recently introduced to the notice of Medical Profession of London, and an attempt made to popularize its

use, by Dr. Evans, the well-known American Dentist of Paris. publication. Among these we would mention It has been administered a number of

markedly.

season.

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when it is light.

times for the purpose of extracting teetb, and in several instances, patients have been subjected to capital operations under its influence. This latter use of this agent is not new, since it was so employed at the Pennsylvania Hospital over four years ago,

by Dr. Thomas G. Morton, one of the sur-geons. At this time Dr. M. performed a number of major operations, Dr. Colton be-First: publis May last : ing present, and administering the gas.

The scientific men of London do not seem to regard its use with much favor, judging from the report of the discussion which took place at the Medical Society of Lon. don, in April, (reported in the London Lancet,) when the subject was presented. The distinguished President, Dr. B. W. Richardson, who has done so much in the special investigation of anæsthetic agents, and whose authority on these subjects cannot be questioned, gave a clear and careful summary of its action. "It was painful, (he remarked,) to see the childish excitement, with which nitrous oxide and its effects had been recently dwelt on. The gas had been treated as an unknown, wonderful, and perfectly

Reformers as a "set of miscreants," and Lord harmless agent; whereas, in simple fact, it was one of the best known, least wonderful, and most dangerous of all the substances that had been applied for the production of general:anæsthesia "No substance had been physiologically studied with greater scientific zeal or more rigid accuracy; and no substance had been more deservedly given up as unfit and unsafe for use. " It had caused death in the human sub-

iect, and on animals it was so fatal that, with the utmost delicacy in the use, it was a critical task thoroughly to narcotise an animal with the cas without actually destroying life. In some cases, also, animals died after recovering from the insensibility."

[Prepared for our columns.]

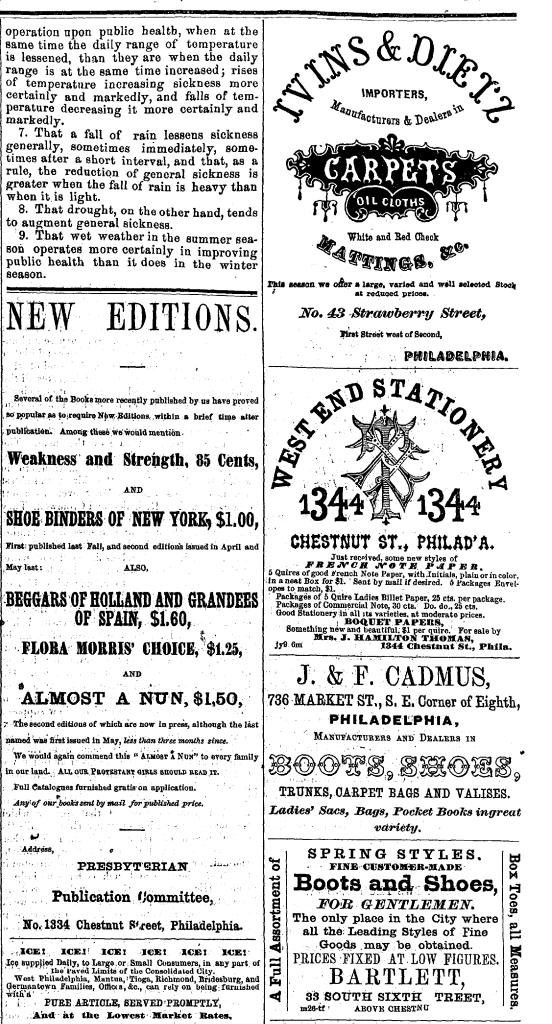
THE INFLUENCE OF WEATHER UPON THE

PUBLIO HEALTH.

Dr. Ballard in his recent Report on the

Health of Islington, England, for 1868, arrives at the following conclusions upon this

"his own place."-ARTHUR SECTORIEY is the caused the insensibility. "It acted indirectname of the most recent Englishman, who, after | ly, and the immediate stupefier was really a month's observation of America, proposes to carbonic acid. In fact nitrous oxide is an "do" us. Mr. S. is the "Mrs. Brown" of Fun, and asphyxiating agents! There are two explawas the death-bed friend of Artemus Ward. Like | nations of this. It may be that the nitrous lishing houses have started up in New York, so causes accumulation of carbonic acid in within twelve months -A Scotch firm have re- | the blood ; or it may be-and this is most published in a cheap form "The Gude and Godly probable, that it acts by checking the out-Ballatis" which played such a prominent part ward diffusion of carbonic acid. The vapor in the early days of the Scotch Reformation. density of nitrous oxide and of carbonic Tradition assigns their authorship to the broth lacid is the same-namely 22, taking hydroers Wedderburn of Dundee. Many of them are gen as unity-and as diffusion of gases into translations from Mediaeval Latin hymns, and the blood, and out of it, is governed by the from the German hymns of Luther and his co- same laws as in ordinary diffusion, to make temporaries. Others are adaptations of popular an animal breathe nitrous oxide is virtual. Scotch songs to spiritual purposes. The book ly equivalent to making it breathe carbonic shows that hymn singing is no innovation among acid itself, the diffusion of carbonic acid "The living phenomena were also in character; the arterial blood was rendered venous, that is deprived of its oxygen, by nitrous oxide-the animal temperature fell -the skin became livid, and the pulsations were rapidly and greatly increased. And although these symptoms might be induced many times without actually destroying life, they could not be sustained for any length of time without certain disaster,"



ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Charles Scribner & Co. annonnce for publication during the coming season a variety of new works and new editions, comprising "Kathrina, Her Life and Mine, in a Poem," by J. G. Holland (Timothy Titcomb), with over 70 illustra-tions, executed in the highest style of art, on

large paper, uniform with "Bitter Sweet," and "Folk Songs," small 4to; "My Farm at Edgesubject : wood," by Donald G. Mitchell, illustrated with numerous photographs and with plans, &c., &c., crease of general sickness. a limited edition, small 4to., printed on large paper; "The Human Intellect, with an introduction upon Psychology and the Human Soul," by minution of general sickness. Prof. Noch Porter of Yale college, one vol. 8vo.; "Love as a Law, a Treatise on Moral Science," 3. That, for the most part, the increase or decrease of sickness is proportional in 4. That it is an error to suppose (as is popularly held) that sudden changes in temperature are (as a rule) damaging to a German Workshop, Essays on the Science of Religion on Mythology, Traditions and Customs," by Max Muller, M. A., one vol. crown Svo. "Moral Uses of Dark Things," by Horace Bush-nell, D. D., '12mo.; "An Introduction to the Study of English Literature, "D' Prof. Day, ''L'Ami Fritz," "Histoire d'un Consort de 1813." Bajalitmond Edition of "Mae." Therese," "L'Ami Bajalitmond Edition of "Me." Therese, "L'Ami Bajalitmond Edition of "L'Ami Bajalitmond Ed 5. That, remarkably enough, these influ-

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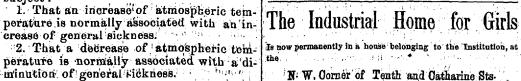
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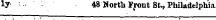
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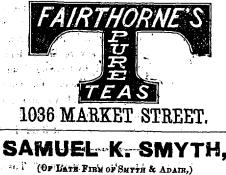
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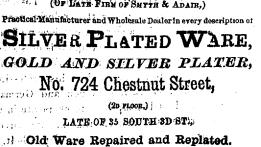
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