

No milk has been lost during the past season, though the weather has been unprecedentedly hot. The patrons, by means of taking the cream from Sunday's milk, have supplied themselves with butter, which, during a part of the season, they could not have done if their milk had been taken to the factory every day in the week.

SAMUEL BISSELL, JOEL R. PARMELE, OSCAR O. KELSEY, Committee.

Editor's Cable.

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

Messrs. SCRIBNER, WELFORD & Co., N. Y. have issued a new edition of a work of the deepest interest to theologians:—PREBENDARY LINDON'S Bampton Lectures of 1866, on the DIVINITY OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. These Lectures are addressed to that large class of doubters who, while averse from the orthodox doctrine of the Godhead of Christ, are ambitious to be pre-eminently moral, and therefore lay especial emphasis upon the beauty and perfection of Christ's human character.

Another theological work of great value is McCLINTOCK and STRONG'S CYCLOPEDIA OF BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND ECCLESIASTICAL LITERATURE, the first work of real Cyclopedial proportions in the department of theology in the English language, and resembling the celebrated work of Herzog just completed in German. As will be seen from the subjects embraced in the title, it ranges over every class of topics with which minister, student of the Bible, or inquirer into religious truth would need to be acquainted.

Messrs. J. P. SKELLY & Co., continue to add to their excellent list of Juveniles. The last two which we have received are 18mo: MARY, MORNE AND HER FRIEND, pp. 197; and LILY'S LOOKING GLASS, pp. 102, both by Mrs. E. E. BOYD, and designed for nearly the youngest class of readers. They are printed in large type and are of the best tendency, yet without that pithiness and force which leave deep impressions.

PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS. Most of the Magazines have been very early with their January issues. Besides others already noticed, we mention THE SABBATH AT HOME, the Illustrated Monthly of the Boston AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY. Many of the articles are of unusual value. In this number, the articles illustrative of Bible Lands are continued by the competent hand of Rev. W. L. Gage, perhaps, since the death of our own Robinson, the best Scripture Geographer in America. His articles are accompanied with maps and engravings. "Reminiscences of Leigh Richmond" describes the scenes and churches mentioned in the works of this writer on the Isle of Wight, and is illustrated in the most admirable manner. "Carl Rivers and what he learned at College," Chap. viii, and ix, shows no small power of description and insight into human nature; "Small Beginnings," is a story of what a faithful teacher may do directly for the spiritual good of her pupils. "Abroad or Lillian's New School," by Mrs. H. E. Brown, takes us travelling to Europe with a little girl. There are other articles, some selected; one long one on the "Mother of our Saviour," bringing in legends, and painters' notions mingled with as much, or rather as little of the truth as we know. Several of the features of the Magazine are good, but we are constrained to ask: Cannot first rate talent be procured for the writing of practical religious articles for our periodical religious literature? Boston: \$2 per annum.

HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY, for January, contains four richly illustrated articles. THE SILENT CITY at Greenwood is a fine opening poem, in which a sombre subject is covered, like Greenwood itself, with beauty. "The Buffalo Range" and "Paul du Chailu again" give us a large instalment of wild life. "South Coast Saunterings in England" carries us around the neighborhood of Salisbury, with pen and pencil. There are several other articles of the usual wide variety and popular vein. We are informed in the article on current events, that the recent elections resulted in a Democratic gain in the Senate!

BOOKS RECEIVED.

COYLER. The Empty Crib; A Memorial of Little Georgie, with words of consolation for bereaved parents. By Rev. Theo. L. Cuyler. New York: R. Carter & Bros., 520 Broadway. Phila.: Pres. Pub. Com., 1334 Chestnut st. WHITNEY. The Last Passover. An account of the closing incidents in the Life upon Earth of Our Lord Jesus Christ; a Verbal Harmony of the Four Gospel Narratives. Arranged by John R. Whitney. Phila.: Claxton, Remsen & Haffelfinger 819 and 821 Market street. GOLDEN LINKS, or Thoughts for the Hours. 8 square 16mo. pp. 144, as above. DILKE. Great Britain, a Record of Travel in English-speaking countries during 1866 and 1867, by Charles Wentworth Dilke. With Maps and Illustrations. New York: Harper & Bros. 12mo. pp. 561.

Scientific.

ARE THERE OTHER HABITABLE WORLDS?

The question whether other worlds than this are inhabited by intelligent beings is likely to be discussed till time shall end, without receiving any decisive solution. Yet certain interesting discoveries which have been made of late have a curious and instructive bearing upon a controversy which attracted much attention a few years since. Dr. Whewell, one of the parties to this controversy, in "The Plurality of Worlds," maintained the opposite to the common hypothesis, founded upon the most general analogies. An article from St. Paul's, an English magazine, reviews his position in the light of recent researches, some of the points of which we shall briefly re-state. In maintaining that we have no reason to infer that the other planets of our system are inhabited, Dr. Whewell urged that we knew nothing about their constitution, and probably never should. They might not possess a single element found in our globe, and he went so far as to maintain that Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are but "universe clouds," or "water and vapor packed into rotating masses," and the asteroids "were specks and shreds of planetary matter." At that time it seemed improbable enough that we should ever learn anything certain about the physical constitution of bodies so far distant from us. Yet such knowledge has actually been acquired by spectroscopic analysis. When a ray of light is analyzed by the prism the rainbow colors resulting are found to be crossed by hundreds of distinct lines or markings. Moreover these lines are found to vary in position and character, according to the substance consumed in the flame. Thus iron, copper, zinc, etc., each give distinct markings, and the most delicate experiments show them to be invariable. Now when applied to the analysis of the sun's light, this discovery shows, beyond dispute, that iron exists in large quantities in the solar atmosphere. So also sodium, magnesium and calcium, and in lesser quantities copper and zinc, and other terrestrial elements. The conclusion is inevitable that the constituents of the sun are much as those of the earth. When this fact is shown of the great center of the system, the conclusion as to the other members is of course greatly strengthened. Thus one difficulty, which Dr. Whewell regarded as insurmountable, has been partially compassed.

But we know more of the planets themselves than Dr. Whewell thought possible. He held it doubtful whether they have an atmosphere like that of the earth. The spectroscope seems to have solved the doubt in the case of some of them. As they shine only by reflected light, it might have been assumed that nothing could be learned of them by this instrument, for, of course, it is the sun's light we analyze in this case as in the other. But in observing Mars the spectrum was found to be crossed by lines only appearing in that of the sun when near setting, so that his light passed through a denser strata of our atmosphere. To find whether these lines arose from anything in the earth's atmosphere, the spectroscope

was at once applied to the moon, and nothing of the kind was seen. Thus it was shown that Mars has an atmosphere loaded with the very vapors which are found in the earth's. The same has been shown of Venus, Jupiter and Saturn.

Dr. Whewell doubted whether even Mars was so like the earth as had been supposed. Careful observation, however, has shown that it has certain unvarying features, regarded as lands and seas, and maps of these have been constructed like those of the earth, and we have names and boundaries for the Martial seas and continents. White caps at the poles of the planet are found to increase and decrease as snow melt in those regions with the progress of the seasons of the planet. Changing masses are observed in the atmosphere exactly corresponding to clouds. So we have land, sea, snow, clouds and atmosphere like the earth in the case of this best known of the planets.

Another of Dr. Whewell's objections has also been removed. He claimed that the interior planets would be uninhabitable on account of excessive heat, and the exterior on account of extreme cold. Experiments made by Prof. Tyndall show that the temperature of a planet will depend very much on its atmospheric envelope. A dense aqueous atmosphere admits the heat readily, but will not radiate it again, while a dry atmosphere will radiate it as readily as it is admitted. Certain gases have even a greater effect than vapor. Every one knows the effect of the rarification of the earth's atmosphere in high regions, so that the Himalayas shoot up from tropic heat and bear eternal snows on their summits. Thus the effect of distance from the sun may be modified so as to make even the most unfavorable placed planets inhabitable. Notwithstanding all this, and more that might be said, there remain important differences between the earth and other planets, as in the power of gravitation, in the seasons, the length of their years, and others which need not be specified. It is curious and interesting to remark that the progress of discovery has been to clear away the objections urged to the habitability of other planets, but we are not, and probably never will be in this life, any nearer a solution of the question whether intelligent beings are found on these globes. The argument from analogy is not satisfactory, if geology teaches truly, and yet we shall probably have to rest satisfied with this.

It is worthy of remark that the spectroscope extends its analysis beyond our own system. From it we learn facts regarding the fixed stars similar to those ascertained of our own sun, only while the sun seems closely to resemble the earth, these suns of other systems are shown to be widely different.

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