# Ariginal Communications.

## FLORIDA AND THE FLORIDIANS, III. BY H. E. C.

Do not believe all that is told you, gentle reader, in regard to this wonderful country. Papers reach us from the North, containing articles on Florida, so over-drawn that we grow indignant; and many are the poor invalids, deceived by such fine writing, who come here to a great disappointment. Some of these glowing pictures. I very much fear, are drawn by interested parties: and persons are induced to come here for permanent settlement, who are glad to get away again as soon as possible.

## FLORIDA AS A HOME.

It would not be my choice, I say frankly and firmly. I come here an invalid, and, for the but what can induce any one, without that motive, to leave a good Northern home, with all its education, and religious privilege, to settle in would ordinarily need at the North. Florida, is a great mystery to me. If health were the object, I could understand it; but when I see men coming here with their families, purchasing land perhaps along the river, hastily throwing up a house, and beginning to call it home, I am not disappointed to see them, a year later, broken with chills and fever, sadly retracing their steps northward, as from a land of graves. Again and again, as I have seen these disappointed people, I have been reminded of Chuzzlewit's Eden, and have almost expected to hear some Mark Tapley crying out, "This is a wonderfully good place to be jolly in." Such a man settled on the Indian River, that Paradise of Floridian glory, and not long since he was seen on the wharf at Jacksonville, waiting for the steamer to take him North. Sallow, emaciated, alone, he pointed to a solitary trunk near by and said, "That's all there is left."

### FLORIDA AS A WINTER RESIDENCE FOR INVA-LIDS.

This is its chief recommendation. The summer fevers once past, you have a climate, some sudden changes excepted, the most delightful that could be imagined. The winter abounds in cheerful sunshine, and you can spend much time in the open air; and such air, particularly in the morning, so grateful to the lungs, so delicious, so exhilarating, must be breathed in to be appreciated. My best idea of luxury is fulfilled when I breathe. I had almost said drink, this Florida air on a fine winter morning. If, therefore, disease has not progressed too far, an invalid often receives great benefit by a winter or two in Florida.

# JACKSONVILLE AND AUGUSTINE.

These are the most desirable places of resort. on the whole, perhaps, in the State. If you push on to Enterprise, or go out upon the Indian River, you will, indeed, be less afflicted with sudden changes of climate, but your discomforts in other respects will be greatly increased. An invalid needs a little pleasurable excitement. His mind must be diverted from himself: and at hese two places he will have sufficient society to assist in this purpose. But let him not judge either of these places by what he hears at the other. The old town and the new are rivals, and each tells naughty stories about the other. If anybody says to you at Jacksonville, that it is "manslaughter to take an invalid to Augustine." wait a little and investigate for yourself. And, if any one at Augustine expatiates upon the chills and fever at Jacksonville, treat that in the same way. For persons with extremely delicate lungs, the sea-air at Augustine is sometimes irritating; but for a large class of patients it is simply exhilarating and bracing. Jacksonville has better accommodations, however, and is a much more stirring and lively place.

# WHAT SHALL WE EAT?

A very vulgar question, but one you must answer; and one which is for an invalid sometimes a question of very grave importance. If you can rent a small building, and bring your own cook, and order provisions from New York, you will get on very well. If you hire board, and can not afford to pay very extravagant prices, you will eat hominy and tough steak, and have verv few delicacies, such as your case may perhaps require. And, as your impressions of a place always depend a good deal upon the food it furnishes, in the latter case, you will call Florida a kind of purgatory, requiring a good many prayers, and some pretty large votive offerings, for your deliverance.

# AGGRAVATING THE CASE.

That is what we are doing with ourselves here, if not upon our guard, every day. We are here by the thousand, coughing, comparing symptoms, now worse, now better, all dreadfully home-sick at times, every few days some one going home-

but here we swarm together. It can not be ness progresses. As suitable books are obtained avoided. Pity us, poor home-sick souls, and do they are sent to Treasure City by mail, as the not wonder if we sometimes say, "I would rather die at home than live in Florida."

### CHANGES OF WEATHER.

Much has been written of the equable temperature of Florida. But we are subject to changes of a very trying character. It may be different when you go up to Enterprise, or on as far as the Everglades, or somewhere else where nobody lives: but at Augustine and Jacksonville, where most of the invalids go, we sometimes pass, in a few hours, from a summer heat, to a temperature in which we need warm fires and our winter wrappings. The last winter has been particularly unfortunate in this respect; and if such fearful frosts repeat themselves as we have just had, Florida will quite lose its good name. Of course these changes are the exception, but they occur more or less every winter, and persons sake of regaining my health, am willing to put coming here for their health should be apprized up with the many unpleasant things I encounter: of them, and come prepared. No person should think of passing a winter here without securing a room in which he can have a fire, or without conveniences, wholesome food, society, means of furnishing himself as warm a winter outfit as he

Slavery has left its blight here, as in all the South. The negroes swarm about us, in some cases sadly putting to flight our airy fancies in regard to their educational aptitudes and rapid improvements. A band of great hearted teachers are among them, however, and there will be light. The poor whites are also about us, and many ignorant whites who have not usually been reckoned among the poor. Romanism also has a strong grasp upon us, particularly at St. Augustine; and, as everywhere, sets itself against free schools, and plays upon the superstitions of an ignorant people. The Redemptorist Fathers are holding a mission among us, and one of them recently reproved his congregation, who were inattentive, by telling them of a marvel he had just witnessed. "While standing at the wharf," he said, "I called the name of Mary, and the fishes leaped up out of the water and bowed their heads in plain sight." The incredulous Protestants call that a fish story.

## LIBRARIES FOR MINING TOWNS.

The devil always has a fit agent ready, in order to carry out each and every scheme of evil In the matter of selecting and appointing officials suited to the business in hand, his Satanic majesty has become, by long and varied practice, a thorough adept, in comparison with whom Gen. Grant is as nobody. It is thus that so few of his plans for the injury of our race either come to nought, or fail of their intention. Did the children of light, use but half the sagacity and discretion with the skill and energy practiced by the evil one, their efforts in behalf of righteousness would not so frequently cramp-up, dwarf, and fizzle.

# MINING TOWNS.

These strange busy hives of humanity scattered here and there through the Great American Basin-in Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, and parts of California, are still multiplying, and daily becoming of greater importance both to our Atlantic and Pacific slopes. A more distinct reflexive influence from these surging centres of our people, will at once be felt on the completion of the overland Rail Road. Our Christian communities have more at stake in the miner, than the amount of gold or silver he may chance to bring back with him.

The populations of these towns and districts are peculiar, sui generis, deeply interesting, shrewd, intelligent, active and wicked. Man gregarious nature demands for them, in each town, a place or places for evening congregating. The miners are generally without families, and their individual accommodations for passing their evenings often uninviting and cheerless. Hence, if a cheerful and comfortable place of common resort be found, where without intrusion their leisure hours may be passed, it is almost certain to be largely occupied. In every such place, Satan prompts some publican, for the love of money, to erect a large saloon, with bar, billiard and gambling tables; having it also well heated, lighted, and seated. This becomes at once the Tabernacle of Congregation for the district, and with what results, each thoughtful mind can readily imagine.

# FREE READING ROOMS.

No where else does there seem to be such a necessity for a free reading room with Christian influences, as in our widely scattered and far separated mining towns. In none of these, however, was I able to find even a beginning for so desirable a result. Were such an accommodation offered in each mining centre, it would prove a rival establishment to the saloon, and be filled every evening. This was the decided opinion of every intelligent person in these places with whom I conversed on this subject.

derstanding was had between myself and a number sible licentiousness! in a coffin. Your sympathies are being constant of earnest men more connected with mining inly worked upon. At breakfast it is " How did terests, in the new and wonderful Treasure City you rest last night?" At dinner, "Have in Nevada. The agreement being, that they in Wisconsin, that the absolute temperance is inyou taken exercise, and did it bring up your would provide suitable rooms for reading, writing pulse to a hundred?" and at tea, grumbling a letters, and congregating; and I provide the little, very weary, a poor appetite, and, if you library. This also when accomplished, to be not are a lady, a little cry for something good which only for a blessing to Treasure City, but with you used to have at home. An invalid needs to the hope that the good example would be folbe kept as far as possible from other invalids; lowed by every other mining town. This busi- sequence.

readiest and cheapest way of getting them to that far away and interior locality. As the cost of a library suited to such a place will be considerable, those desiring the pleasure of assisting can have the privilege. All, who know the goodly influences connected with the free readingrooms of our various Young Men's Christian Associations, will desire to share in such a work.

In every help sent to our Pacific slope, the Atlantic side of our continent has a ten-fold interest. "Westward the star of empire takes its way," may remain fine poetry, but is truthful no longer. As the star of the East stood when reaching Bethlehem; so the star of Empire stands on the Pacific coast. The tidal waves of human influence will ere long, from accumulated strength, roll back from West to East, vastly augmented in power, from Japan, from China; yea from every land of the East.

Are we fitly preparing for such wonderful re sults and so near in the future?

A. M. STEWART. Pittsburg, March 29, 1869.

## OUR THEATRICAL AMUSEMENTS.

If through a miracle, there were to come down on this country, a sudden delightful affluence of temporal amelioration, a universal prosperity, so that all should be placed in ease and plenty, it would require another miracle to prevent this benignity of heaven from turning to a dreadful mischief. These are the words of an estimable foreign writer. He adds, also, in substance. Every one can safely predict that, in such a conjuncture, most of us would consume one half of the time thus given to our disposal, in idleness, vanity or abomination. The truth of this assertion has been frequently demonstrated among us and in many ways, but in none more completely than in the way certain classes of our people rush to the amusement which, night after night, is prepared for them at our theatres.

A prosperity almost unknown to any other country has enabled certain classes here to follow their bent. They have appropriated, from time to time. vast sums to the construction of edifices for theatrical entertainments. Decked in purple and jewels, they throng these haunts of pleasure, to witness and enjoy whatever is presented to them. Were these resorts fountains, from which elevated ideas of men and things or even æsthetic refinements and elegancies could be drawn, there would be less reason for complaint. But on the contrary, the entertainments offered are miserably puerile, when not positively indecent. Now the marvel is, how a father can expose his daughter, or a husband his wife, to the palpable grossness they are sure to encounter at these orgies. It is true that, by the ingenuity of the caterers to the tastes of our pleasure-seeking gentry, their audiences are debauched by degrees, that in all the decline in the haunts of dissipation from bad to worse, the worst foot is not shown first. But it is also true that, at last, they have reached what, to some minds, is utterly inolerable. What would be bald nonsense or revolting abomination, if produced separately, is put forth in combinations of flashy scenes, grotesque buffoonery, music, and the dancing exploits and exposures of semi-nude women.

It is a disgrace and burning shame, that while the nastinesses of the lewd opera have been interdicted frequently at some of the theatres of Europe, they should have ever been permitted to gain a footing here.

It has come, we know, through the encouragement and influence of certain coxcombs of both genders, whose own or parental means have been this stamp, who have resided for even a few months in that worst capital of the world, take readily, nay, naturally to its frivolities, fashions and dissipations, and are the very ones to aid in the importation, and to give Parisian sanction to just such "refinements" as these in their native land. We are well aware that no remarks of ours can ever reach these characters or great numbers of their calibre and tendencies around us; our only hope must be to put on their guard some who have not, as yet, been drawn into their ignoble

and degraded vortices. It has long been charged that our ladies dress a la palais royal. Our entertainments, sadder to say, many of them, are from no better source. Our theatres, however, and whatever they may present of vapid folly or degrading immorality. after all, would fail of success among us, but for the ardent support they gain from the secular press. Our countrymen have not yet learned how unsafe, indeed, how dangerous it is, to be guided by the popular press, in anything, but especially in all matters where an advertising interest is to be propitiated. Alas! for our country, when the mercenary principle takes the reins, when the opinions of those who aspire to lead, like merchandise, can be bought and sold Before leaving the Pacific side, a general un- But above all, when the press runs into irrespon-

> Tr was resolved at a late temperance meeting dispensable to raise men to the level of other animals.

> California. The organization is sending secret circulars to all who employ Chinese laborers, warning them to desist or to expect serious con-

# Editor's Cable.

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

SERMONS PREACHED BEFORE THE UNIVER-SITY OF OXFORD, by H. P. Liddon, M.A., now in the third edition, are written from the apologetic point of view, and are designed to neet the current objections and unbelieving tone of feeling, as they would address themselves to the student class of the English Universities. They are not direct arguments against unbelief, but discourses on great moral and evangelical topics, in which there is a generous recognition of those native wants and tendencies of the human mind which error perverts and which the Gospel alone can guide and train aright, but which narrowminded religious teachers have often discouraged and denounced. Firmly adhering to the Evangelical circle of ideas, the preacher in his manner of meeting objections preserves the sympathy between himself and those whom he would warn and enlighten. He keeps up the interest of the reader by constant reference to questions of present and vital interest. His style is calm, thoughtful, and for the most part clear; without being decidedly powerful or riveting, it often rises to true and pure eloquence; lacking the condensation, the glow, the profundity and the charm of style of great sermons, they are wise, suggestive, earnest and seasonable. N. Y.: Scribner, Wel ford & Co. London: Rivington's; Philadelphia: Smith, English & Co. \$2 25.

SERMONS BY CHAS. WADSWORTH, of the Calvary Church, San Francisco, will be received with great interest by the large circle of hearers in this city, who can never forget how they crowded his church, and hung charmed upon his lips, with scarce any fluctuation in numbers or in admiration, while his labors in the Tenth Church continued. In these pages, indeed, we hear not that wonderful, melancholy-musical voice, we see not that restrained but nervous gesticulation, which added such marked interest; and while we miss them greatly in the reading, there is yet so much vigorous thought, so much finely expressed, spirited indignation at wrong, so many bold conceptions, ingenious turns, instances of the argument ad hominem, and more than all, the free play of so rich, (though scarcely a great, deep or powerful) imagination, that the Sermons make a most attractive and readable and even elevating volume. Mr. Wadsworth is quite as averse from doctrinal rigidity, as he is from dry formalism in his homiletic style. In his sermon on the "Gospel Call," which strikes us as among the most effective on its theme, we have almost ever read, he says, among many other like, emphatic things "God says these waters flow freely unto all men. And the man who dares to use any divine attribute as an obstacle to any man's salvation, perverts God's own truth and makes God a liar." A good word, in these days, to come across from the other side of the Continent. The volume is A. S. Roman & Co., San Francisco. 12mo.

PULPIT GERMS, by Rev. W. W. Wythe, is a most pains taking and praiseworthy attempt to aid the sermonizer in the preliminary stages of his work, without, however, offering a premium to laziness by the fullness of the aid rendered, but rather stimulating the mind to action by the great variety of the topics briefly treated. As to the mode of treatment of the 455 texts, every one of thoughts of the proposed sermon, we find few of what might be called fresh, striking, or ingenious sufficient to graduate them at Paris. Parties of plans, and but little attempt is made to hold up a single controlling thought or proposition to give unity and force to the sermon. Tinted paper, pp. 219 with Index. Lippincott & Co. \$1.50.

Vol. I. of the AMERICAN YEAR BOOK, published by O. D. Case & Co., Hartford, and edited and less of a kitten, and scarcely so surprising as by David N. Camp is the recommencement of an before. The highest lessons of duty are interundertaking involving so much labor and expense, and so uncertain of practical returns, that one of our best publishers and most enterprising men, Mr. Geo. W. Childs, after issuing two capital volumes, gave it up. We trust that those who give it a longer trial. Their work is more expensive and on a greater scale than that just referred to. It embraces six parts: I. Astronomical Department. II. Statistics of the United States. III. Foreign States of the World. IV. Religious Statistics. V. Essays on Agriculture, Finance, Mining, Literature. VI. Presidential Election Returns by Counties since 1836; Record of Important Events-Obituaries American and Foreign. This, it will be seen, is a wide field, and will cover interests touching almost everybody in some way. Of course accuracy in all respects is impossible, but errors must not be overlooked in criticising the volume. For example; Colleges and Collegiate Institutions Male and Female, are all grouped together in one tabular statement. Under Theological Seminaries, no mention is made of Auburn, while Blackburna mere Academy, is put down as in operation as a Seminary. The Report of Public School Expenses for Philadelphia, is given only for 1866. In the exceedingly faulty and meaningless list of THERE is an anti-Chinaman Ku-Klux-Klan in "National Societies" we find General Assemblies and Conventions put down, as well as Missionary Boards, &c. The little Mission Board of the O. S. Reformed Church (Covenanters) is named,

but not one of our denominational schemes. It seems almost a waste to give page after page of office-holders, whose places are being vacated even while the book is going into the hands of readers. But there is such a vast amount of information of permanent value, and which every one who thinks, calculates or writes, needs to have by him, all brought into manageable shape in this handsome octavo, and made accessible, with a full index, that we be peak for it a hearty welcome from

MY RECOLLECTIONS OF LORD BYRON may be described as belonging to the pamphlet class of books; being simply an extended argument in defence of Byron's character in every point in which it has been assailed by critics or compromised in his own writings. From the position and relations of the writer-the Countess of Guiccioli-it might have been expected to contain much unfit for the general reader. The unfitness is confined, we believe, solely to the fact that an adulteress should come before the public with the cool impudence which takes on itself the form of unconscious innocence. While the volume contains an extraordinary and plausible array of testimony to the unblemished virtue, ascetic habits, and undeserved persecutions of its subject. the force of all is broken by the nature of the source from which it comes. Besides, the attempt to exonerate not only the private character, but even the entire writings of Byron from the charge of impurity reveals the low standard of morality which we might expect in the writer, and serves to justify and fix the judgment long since rendered by the community as to the poet and the tone of many of his works. We prefer Kirke White to this Countess:

He might have soared, a miracle of mind, &c.

#### JUVENILES.

CHOLULA, or the Young MEXICAN, is an adventure in an entirely new region of juvenile fiction. The historical events on which the story is founded belong to the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards. The heroine is a Mexican maiden who is represented as having been led to the Saviour through the teachings of a good priest who came with Cortez. The incidents of the arrival of Cortez and the conquest of the City of Mexico are well rehearsed, and the customs and social life of the people reproduced with care. The story is unpretending, and without great invention in the plot or discrimination or force in the characters; but its novelty will commend it to young readers. It is as suitable for the Sunday School as nine tenths of the books that go there. Skelly

LITTLE FREDDIE FEEDING HIS SOUL, by Say Putnam, is one of the most captivating stories of child-progress in the knowledge and love of Jesus, that we have ever met. It is natural and healthful in every part, and doubtless pictures an actual instance of original and genuine piety in very tender years. CARTERS; for sale at the Presbyterian House.

MRS. SHERWOOD must be recognized as one of the founders of that department of literature handsomely printed and bound. Published by which has grown to such vast proportions and which is commanding such a wide and brilliant array of talent in our generation—that of juvenile books. THE LILY SERIES, just issued by CARTERS, is a republication of those choice stories, from her pen, which recall some of the happiest associations of the men and women of forty years or thereabouts. The first volume of the six, FLOWERS OF THE FOREST used to be called "in our day," the LILY OF THE VALLEY. Few. stories of modern origin can vie with it in the elements of legitimate interest and in wholesome evangelical tendency. The other five are: The Young Forester, The Little Woodman, The Little which is "opened" and divided into the leading Beggars, The Two Orphans, Joan. They are packed in a neat box, and each volume is handsomely illustrated, with full paged wood cuts. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

The inimitable BESSIE BOOKS are continued, BESSIE AT THE MOUNTAINS having just appeared. In new places and circumstances and under new joys and trials, the attractive group of young and old people is again presented to us. Bessie is still a quaint and wise little darling, but older woven with perfect naturalness in the gracefully told story. Some of the illustrations are fine specimens of wood-engraving. 18mo. pp. 356. \$1.25. Published and for sale as above.

THE CLERGY OF AMERICA, Anecdotes illustrative of the character of ministers of religion in now have undertaken it will be encouraged to the United States, is apparently a reprint of a volume somewhat antiquated. No recent incidents are recorded, and many stories are what might be called musty. Still among so many there are not a few gems, and being rendered accessible by table of contents and index, the whole, in place of a better, is worth possessing. 12mo. pp. 478. J. B. Lippincott & Co.

# PERIODICALS AND PAMPHLETS

BLACKWOOD FOR MARCH, contains: Historical Sketches of the Reign of George II., No. X., The Novelist (Richardson); Doubles and Quits, A Comedy of Errors V; New Zealand and its Gold Fields; The Northmen, Heathen and Christian; A Whist Reminiscence, by an Old Hand; Stage Morality and the Ballet, [A Cry for Reform;] The Arts in the Household. New York: LEONARD SCOTT PUBLISHING Co. Phila.: W. B. Zieber. \$4.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW for January contains: Lord Campbell's Lives of Lyndhurst and Brougham; Realities of Irish Life; Earthquakes; Mr. Gladstone's Apology; The Ultra Ritualists; Lord Liverpool and his Times: Efficiency of the Navy; Dean Milman and St. Paul's; Animals and Plants; Politics as a Profession; Published as above. \$4. Blackwood and Quarterly, \$7. The delay in issuing these reprints, is on account of the strike among the book printers of New York City

(Continued on Page 115.)