

Original 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.

FLORIDA AS A HOME.

It would not be my choice, I say frankly and firmly. I come here an invalid, and, for the sake of regaining my health, am willing to put up with the many unpleasant things I encounter; but what can induce any one, without that motive, to leave a good Northern home, with all its conveniences, wholesome food, society, means of education, and religious privilege, to settle in Florida, is a great mystery to me.

FLORIDA AS A WINTER RESIDENCE FOR INVALIDS.

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.

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 these two places he will have sufficient society to assist in this purpose.

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 very few delicacies, such as your case may perhaps require.

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—in a coffin. Your sympathies are being constantly worked upon.

but here we swarm together. It can not be avoided. Pity us, poor home-sick souls, and do 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.

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.

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 this that so few of his plans for the injury of our race either come to nought, or fail of their intention.

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.

The populations of these towns and districts are peculiar, sui generis, deeply interesting, shrewd, intelligent, active and wicked. Man's 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.

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.

Before leaving the Pacific side, a general understanding was had between myself and a number of earnest men more connected with mining interests, in the new and wonderful Treasure City in Nevada. The agreement being, that they would provide suitable rooms for reading, writing letters, and congregating; and I provide the library. This also when accomplished, to be not only for a blessing to Treasure City, but with the hope that the good example would be followed by every other mining town.

ness progresses. As suitable books are obtained they are sent to Treasure City by mail, as the 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 reading-rooms 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 results 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.

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 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 sufficient to graduate them at Paris. Parties of 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. But above all, when the press runs into irresponsible licentiousness! E. D. M.

It was resolved at a late temperance meeting in Wisconsin, that the absolute temperance is indispensable to raise men to the level of other animals. There is an anti-Chinaman Ku-Klux-Klan in California. The organization is sending secret circulars to all who employ Chinese laborers, warning them to desist or to expect serious consequences.

Editor's Table.

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

SERMONS PREACHED BEFORE THE UNIVERSITY 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 meet 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 narrow-minded religious teachers have often discouraged and denounced.

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 theurgic 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 handsomely printed and bound. Published by A. S. Roman & Co., San Francisco. 12mo. pp. 367.

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 which is "opened" and divided into the leading thoughts of the proposed sermon, we find few of what might be called fresh, striking, or ingenious 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 by David N. Camp is the commencement of an undertaking 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 now have undertaken it will be encouraged to 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 Blackburn—a 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 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 bespeak for it a hearty welcome from the public.

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 & Co.

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 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 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 and less of a kitten, and scarcely so surprising as before. The highest lessons of duty are interwoven 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 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.]

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