

Editor's Table.

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

THE NEW COMMANDMENT, OR ELLA'S MINISTRY, is a book which we cheerfully give a place in the front rank of juveniles. There is a never-failing interest in the play of character and incident; there is a dramatic power in the steady movement, and in not a few of the main facts, of the story, which are vouched for as true, and in some of which truth is stranger than fiction. We might complain of a uniformity of loveliness in the leading persons, as a little remarkable; nevertheless, there is enough of evil, and some of it of a kind far from common, to give verisimilitude to the book, and its whole influence must be of the very best sort. It is anonymous. Published by Warren & Blakeslee. Boston. \$1.50.

NELL'S MISSION is also an original, anonymous book, presenting, in a well-managed and truly pathetic story, important lessons in regard to the right management of wayward young persons, with glimpses of touching interest into the child-life of the poor. Carters.

Apparatus for S. S. Teachers. MESSRS. PERKINSON & HIGGINS, of this city, have published several little volumes of great interest to teachers: They are: (1.) MY BIBLE CLASS, consisting first of "An Essay on Bible-Class Teaching," and specimens of actual conversations, for ten Sabbaths, between the teacher and his pupils. They are thoroughly scriptural, and show a well-sustained and intelligent interest on the part of teachers and scholars, and will aid any teacher who desires to keep clear of monotony and dullness in his work. (2.) PICTORIAL TEACHING AND BIBLE ILLUSTRATIONS, (paper price 10 cts.) by Fountain J. Hartley, one of the Secretaries of the London S. S. Union, gives valuable hints, to which preachers should give heed no less than teachers, on the importance of illustrations, and the various forms of them. The teacher is shown how "to keep his Sunday-school spectacles on," as he goes about his ordinary work. (3.) MR. W. H. GROSER'S LECTURE ON "THE INSTRUMENTS: what to teach, or the Intellectual Part of a Teacher's Weekly Preparation for his Sabbath Duties," and (4.) THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL SENIOR CLASS, prize Essay of the London S. S. Union, by J. A. Cooper, each, paper, 20 cts., are also published by the same firm. The latter Essay treats of a matter of equal importance and difficulty; the retaining of older scholars in the school, and shows to what a laudable degree the Sabbath-school effort of our day is being pushed beyond its first intention of teaching the poorest and most neglected the mere rudiments of learning.

The Monthlies. THE ATLANTIC for May, has one of Parton's striking, and not unwholesome articles, on a topic (he chooses no other) in which every one feels interested: "The Clothes Mania." He fastens most of the grave responsibility of the extravagance in woman's dress in our day on Eugenie, whom he describes as saying to her husband: "You keep down the men by muzzling the press and flattering the army, and I'll fool the women by wearing the most stunning costume that ever struck envy to the female heart." "Never before," he continues, "were the treasures of a frugal and laborious people, such as the French are, wasted so wantonly. No mistress of Louis XIV., no titled harlot of the regency, not Pompadour, not Du Barry, ever squandered the money of the French with such reckless profusion, as the woman now occupying the apartments in which they dwell." He does not add, what is, perhaps, necessary to the completeness of his theory of the agency of Eugenie: that by her extravagance a larger number of the dangerous bourgeoisie are kept in employ, and so are disinclined to revolution, while the deep drafts on the purses of the court are made up by notifying them, in time, of such intended strokes of public policy as will affect the funds, thus preparing them to reap the fruits of a rise, or prevent the disaster of an unexpected fall, in stocks. "Brahmanism" is one of the series of articles, by a noted Unitarian, James Freeman Clarke, in which comparisons between Christianity and other great systems of religion are drawn. The object of the writer is, by the comparison, to show the superiority of Christianity. His propositions, as laid down in the March number, are, in substance: First, that while most other religions are those of races, Christianity alone is for all mankind. 2nd, while these race religions contain some truth, it is one-sided and defective, and Christianity alone is complete; 3rd, while all race-religions decay, Christianity, as rather a life and a spirit than a system or a form, is able to meet all the changing wants of an advancing civilization by administering fresh supplies of faith in God and faith in man. The writer by no means accords to Christianity that divine, supernatural, miraculous pre-eminence which we give it, and he does not hesitate to utter many things far more complimentary to pagan religions than we are wont to hear; but the argument is a good one, the inquiry is full of interest, and the results are of permanent value. "The Puritan Lovers" is a sweet piece of poetry, by Marian Douglass, parts of which are worthy of Keble or of Whittier. Hear her description of the religious character even of the secular joys of the Puritans:

"The temple's sacred perfume round Their week-day robes was clinging, Their mirth was but the golden bells On priestly garments ringing."

"Spring in Washington with an Eye to the Birds" is by a genuine "open-air" student of nature, who can observe and write with clearness and accuracy, and who gives us a charming picture of that part of the metropolitan population that does not go into politics. The close approach of utterly wild country to the borders of that

city, makes it a more favorable place for the study of such creatures, than perhaps any other city of its size in the world.—The mass of revolting absurdity under the title of the "Autobiography of a Shaker," which is continued in this number, has interest as any other piece of morbid anatomy; but why thrust it into a magazine of belles-lettres? It is a very great mistake. Shall we have some of the absurd revelations of Swedenborg next? or some of Andrew Jackson Davis' visions?—Bayard Taylor furnishes a curious account of the patching together of scraps of evidence, and patiently worming out and verifying a consistent narrative of one who had died, as he supposed, utterly unknown.—"The Pacific Railroad—open," by Samuel Bowles, gives us rapid glimpses of what and whom we shall be made familiar with, as the result of the completion of this truly grand enterprise—the first to span a continent from ocean to ocean.—"The Intellectual Character of President Grant" is an anonymous article, but one which, to most readers, will be the most interesting of the whole. It undertakes to allay the mistrust felt in some quarters, of his capacity for true statesmanship. Starting from his universally admitted qualities, as firmness, simplicity, patience, magnanimity, the writer would show that the occasions in which these traits were particularly conspicuous, prove that the highest intellectual qualities were behind them. That his magnanimity to Gen. Lee was not mere amiable weakness, would appear from the order he gave Sheridan to lay waste the valley of the Shenandoah. Grant's insight into character, his occasional remarkable outbursts of forcible and eloquent speech, his calm presence of mind, most manifest in the greatest crises, are well illustrated, sometimes with little-known incidents. Take the following, in reference to President Johnson's plot to rid himself of General Grant by sending him on a mission to Mexico. Grant, perceiving the object, had declined the mission a second time.

"After this, Grant was summoned to a Cabinet meeting, where his instructions, already printed, were read aloud by the Secretary of State, without any reference to Grant's previous refusal. He at once, in the presence of the entire Cabinet, declared his unwillingness to leave the country on such an errand. Johnson was roused by this persistent opposition to his wish, and abruptly asked the Attorney-General whether there were any reason why Grant should not obey—whether the General of the army could not be employed upon a diplomatic service. Grant at once started to his feet, and exclaimed: 'Mr. President, I can answer that question without appealing to the Attorney-General. I am an American citizen, have been guilty of no treason or other crime, and am eligible to any civil office to which any other American is eligible. But this is a purely civil duty to which you would assign me, and I cannot be compelled to undertake it. Any legal military order you give me, I will obey; but this is civil, not military, and I decline the duty. No power on earth can force me to it.' The plotters were electrified, and made no answer, and Grant, instead of resuming his seat, quitted the room. He was not sent to Mexico."

"The New Taste in Theatricals" keenly but delicately castigates the depraved taste now reigning in Theatres and Opera Houses all over the world. It is from the theatre-supporter's point of view, and hence may be the more effectual with the parties addressed, if any thing can be on such topics, besides an appeal to the pocket or to the law.—We observe in the Atlantic Advertiser and Miscellany, bound up with the monthly, a defence of Griffith Gaunt, copied with expressions of gratification, from the London Telegraph. This is a paper of no standing, to which so good an authority as the Atlantic would never appeal except in a dearth of the better kind of support. That the Atlantic is hard beset in the effort to prop the morality of "Griffith Gaunt," is evident from its accepting the recent verdict of six cents damages to the author against the Round Table, as a confirmation, by our courts, of the favorable judgment of the Telegraph!!

Pamphlets. The ADDRESS delivered before the PHILADELPHIA CO. MEDICAL SOCIETY, by the retiring President, Dr. George Hamilton, has recently been printed by the Society. It is a deeply interesting, thoughtful review of the present state of medical science, by a candid, but earnest and competent friend of the profession. It concedes that late investigations with the microscope have not been followed with beneficial practical effects proportioned to the eclat and expectation attending the discoveries. Much has indeed been learned of the once utterly obscure functions of tissues, glands, and blood; the minute cell-structure has been observed, and an approximation to the facts of the molecular constitution and movements of various parts of the system, as bearing on life and health, has been reached; "but it has become evident that the further these minute investigations were pushed, the more extended did the field of observation become, and the obscurity in certain directions was such as to render further advance, as regarded the time or the mode of its accomplishment, uncertain." So that the practical immediate results of the medical discoveries of this age, do not compare with those following the introduction of the practice of dissection, and the scientific study of anatomy, represented by Bichat. The benefits of late researches in molecular physiology and pathology, the doctor considers to belong rather to the department of hygiene and of prevention. Nervous diseases and disorders of the blood are treated upon different principles, and with better success as a result of these inquiries. A different type of disorders has appeared, in which the nerves play a very prominent part, and violent forms of disease, requiring "heroic" treatment, have diminished, with the decline which, in the view of Dr. Hamilton, has taken place, in the robustness of the human frame, and within the less active, more studious pursuits of men. Certain "causes of an occult character" may also "have had some influence in effecting this change," and reference is made to "changes manifest in certain vegetable organizations, and yet not susceptible of explanation," as strengthening the probability of the above supposition in reference to the human body. At all events, the fact of the prevalence of a feebler, more nervous type of disease is unquestionable, and with it has come in a more conservative method of treatment. The writer's allusions to the recent multiplication of medical schools and colleges, without corre-

ponding necessities in the community, and to the excess of supply of young physicians, especially of the ill-disciplined sort, show that he believes of his own profession, as Daniel Webster did of the law—"Plenty of room in the upper story," though overcrowded in the lower ranks. The address is remarkably clear of technicalities, and is worthy of general perusal.

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY of Pennsylvania has just issued a very elegant pamphlet containing the annual discourse, delivered by Horatio Gates Jones, Feb. 9th, upon Andrew Bradford, of Philadelphia, the founder of the newspaper press in the Middle States of America. It is accompanied with an interesting fac-simile of a bill of services and materials rendered by Mr Bradford to the Province of Pennsylvania in 1725. By the introductory note, we learn that "the annual address" has been overlooked for some time in the proceedings of the Society, the valuable address of Mr. Jones being exceptional. We are also informed that the Society, by the recent deplorable death of Mr. Geo. W. Fahnestock, a member of the Society, has come into possession of fifty thousand pamphlets, a collection of almost unexampled extent and richness in American history, bequeathed to it by the deceased. The library comprises 15,000 volumes, and 85,000 pamphlets and manuscripts, and the appeal is made for funds for the erection of a fire-proof building, in which to store these precious but perishable treasures. Edward Pennington, Jr., is the chairman of the Committee for this object.

MUSICAL MENTION. —The Coliseum for the great Peace Festival, in Boston, will accommodate an audience of 50,000 persons. When a chorus is well produced, the clapping of 100,000 hands would alone be a novelty worth hearing.

—R. L. Tabor, the organist of Williams College, Mass., has perfected an invention which, attached to a piano, is designed to print music as fast as it is played. He contemplates modifying the mechanism so that it can be applied to the organ. —The Mendelssohn Society gave an interesting concert on Thursday evening, as a compliment to their musical director, Jean Louis. The cantata "Message of Spring," and Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer," and "Autumn Song," were well rendered, and the programme was enjoyable, interspersed with solos, trios, and quartettes. There has been much talk lately of the Mendelssohn Society dying out. It seemed full of life at the concert. We hope it may continue to receive the support of the public, and that we may be privileged to hear many more such concerts by them. The existence of societies for studying and producing the music of the masters, is a help to the good morals of a community.

—Philadelphia has again taken the lead in an improvement which is destined to assist materially in the production of church music. Messrs. Standbridge, the celebrated organ builders of our city, have re-modelled and enlarged the organ of St. Augustine's R. C. church, and introduced, for the first time in this country, the use of the electro-magnetic action. By this arrangement an organist can sit at his key-board, and have the organ at the other end of the church, and still have to exert no more power in playing, than if he was performing on a piano. Surely the wonders of electricity are daily increasing.

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TESTIMONIALS. The Waters Pianos are known as among the very best.—[New York Evangelist. We can speak of the merits of the Waters Pianos from personal knowledge as being of the very best quality.—[Christian Intelligencer. The Waters Pianos are built of the best and most thoroughly seasoned material.—[Advocate and Journal. Waters' Pianos and Melodeons challenge comparison with the finest made anywhere in the country.—[Home Journal. Our friends will find at Mr. Waters' store the very best assortment of Organs and Pianos to be found in the United States.—[Oriskany Magazine. Musical Doings.—Since Mr. Horace Waters gave up publishing sheet music he has devoted his whole capital and attention to the manufacture and sale of Pianos and Melodeons. He has just issued a catalogue of his new instruments, giving a new scale of prices, which shows a marked reduction from former rates, and his Pianos have recently been awarded the First Premium at several Fairs. Many people of the present day, who are attracted, if not confused, with the flaming advertisements of rival piano makers, probably overlook a modest manufacturer like Mr. Waters; but we happen to know that his instruments earned him a high reputation long before Expositions and the "chairs" connected therewith were ever thought of; indeed, we have one of Mr. Waters' pianofortes now in our residence (where it has stood for years), of which any manufacturer in the world might well be proud. We have always been delighted with it as a sweet-toned and powerful instrument, and there is no doubt of its durability; more than this, some of the best amateur players in the city, as several celebrated pianists, have performed on the said piano, and all pronounced it a superior and first-class instrument. Stronger indorsement we could not give.—[Home Journal.

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