

Editor's Cable.

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

In the list of new juvenile books issued by this most judicious of publishing houses in this line of literature, we note THE FREED BOY IN ALABAMA, by Mrs. Anna M. Mitchell, the daughter of the worthy agent of the Freedman's Department of the Home Missionary Committee. The career of a colored lad is told, who had been happily freed from a worse than human bondage, and who, in taking up his heavy cross, i. e. abandoning hope of an education in order to obtain a livelihood, is greatly blessed to his associates, to his employer and employer's family, and attains an honorable position for himself. The story is deeply and delightfully evangelical in tone, and has a natural interest which will attract and reward every class of readers. 18mo. pp. 152. Illustrated.

BACK COURT, by the author of the Chinaman in California, shows something of the large sphere for kind Christian effort among the poor of a great city, and its special fitness for woman. pp. 222. Illustrated.

HENRY HOYT.

HE THAT OVERCOMETH; OR A CONQUERING GOSPEL, by W. E. Boardman, is a somewhat systematic view of Christian experience and activity in their higher stages, designed to stimulate Christians to far greater progress and usefulness than are at present commonly seen in the Church, and thus to confront all forms of opposition to the truth with the most convincing of arguments in its defense. The three topics treated, are:—"Life," "Work," "Results." Fresh and effective illustrations are given at almost every stage of the argument. Some of these are of the most stirring and remarkable character, and the work cannot fail to arrest the attention of the believer and rouse him to comparison and inquiry, and, we may hope, to a real re-consecration. 12mo. pp. 303.

THE VEIL LIFTED, OR THE ROMANCE AND REALITY OF CONVENT LIFE, is a very sad and very real sort of book. There is no attempt to work up a continuous and entertaining narrative; but chapter after chapter of cases is given, in which the deeply disastrous effect of the delusion of convent life, and its tendency rather to enlarge and deepen the aching void of the awakened mind, instead of filling it, are described, the very calmness of the anatomy making the picture more impressive. It is designed to aid in rousing Protestant parents to the untold mischief which is almost certain to follow from placing their daughters under the educational control of nuns and abbesses. 16mo. pp. 247.

UNDER THE CROSS is a volume of selected poetry, suitable for the meditative and the sorrowing hours of the Christian. It embodies choice pieces from almost every age, country and tongue of Christendom, forming a fragrant garden of devotional poetry, with an appropriate and beautiful exterior. The names of the authors are given, so far as known. 18mo. pp. 258.

THE MUSIC GOVERNESS, by "S. C. P." skillfully describes the power and working of saving truth upon the minds of several widely different persons and in circumstances of quiet but real interest. The lessons taught to those who would be wise to give comfort and to win souls are good. 18mo. pp. 103.

BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

THE PRISONERS, by Dr. Breed, is one of the author's best books, and he has written not a few. Bobby Baker, picked up in the city streets by a policeman, becomes the charge of a good Christian couple, whose instructions are woven with the boy's history in such a manner as to increase the interest, instead of embarrassing, as is too often the case, the course of the narrative. Pure, evangelical truth is successfully conveyed to the youthful mind, in every part of the volume. 18mo. pp. 288.

THE LITTLE STREET SWEEPER well illustrates the right and the wrong modes, both followed by well-intentioned people, of reaching and befriending the poor. 18mo. pp. 132.

THE BITTER DOSE is not a very attractive title for a juvenile book, but the story is a good one, illustrating the bitterness of covetousness and deceit. Twelve other short stories make up the rest of the volume. 18mo. pp. 216.

NATHAN, THE SILVERSMITH OF JERUSALEM, is a story of domestic life of the Jews from the concluding part of the reign of Jehoiakim, and during the Babylonish captivity. Enough range is given to imagination to excite curiosity, the chief object of the writer being to convey instruction in Old Testament history and Jewish antiquities, without dryness and formality. Children will be interested in the book, though at some points they will be tempted to exercise their privilege of "skipping." pp. 264. All the above are illustrated.

HANNAH'S TRIUMPHS, one of the Denison Series, published by Martien, is an extended and complicated story, illustrating the evil of pride as a family characteristic, and contrasting with it the quiet power and final triumph of Christian tenderness. A book of good tendency and of not a little power, but scarcely to be ranked among Sabbath School books. 18mo. pp. 374.

D'AUBIGNE'S REFORMATION.

The Fifth Volume, second series, of this, the only standard and complete work on the subject in our day, has just been issued by R. Carter & Bros. It carries the history of the Reformation in England, from the formal rupture with Rome to the death of Tyndale (1536), and that in Geneva down to the flight and return of Calvin to that city. The introduction informs us of the author's purpose to complete the work in one or two volumes more, and discusses questions, raised by European critics, of the correctness of several of his statements, which he confirms by referring to his original authorities. Among the numerous points of interest in the history, is the case of Anne Boleyn, whom our author regards as in great part the victim of Popish hatred, which could not endure her open sympathy with the Reformation, and which was strong enough in the corrupt court of Henry VIII. to work her downfall. The concluding part of this history, though not of the thrilling interest which marked its marvellous commencement, and which middle-aged men remember as one of the most vivid experiences of their youth, is of the highest value and attractiveness to the student of the progress of Christ's kingdom on earth. It is needed in a time when nominal Protestants attempt to vilify the greatest movement of modern thought and piety. Its devout spirit, its lively sympathy with the principles of the Reformation, its animated, picturesque, personal style will give it currency wherever the gospel itself is known. 12mo. pp. 470.

Letter from Harper & Brothers.

FRANKLIN SQUARE, N. Y., Sept. 7, 1869. Efforts having been made in certain quarters to excite the sympathy and compassion of the public and press on account of our issuing, from our old plates, a cheaper and better edition of GEORGE ELIOT'S NOVELS than the one published by Messrs. Fields, Osgood & Co., we think it proper to say, in explanation, and in reply to the unjust attacks upon us: That we were the first to publish these Works in this country, and that for the early sheets thereof we have paid from time to time in the aggregate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars in Gold.

LITERARY ITEMS.

Certain manuscript letters purporting to come from Newton, Pascal and Galileo, tending to show that the discoveries of the Newtonian theory of gravitation and the theories of Galileo should be ascribed to Blaise Pascal were sold to the Mathematician Chasles, who paid \$30,000 for them. Their authenticity was immediately attacked. At last Chasles disclosed the name of the person who had, as he alleged, discovered the old letters, and watch having been placed upon the suspected individual, he was detected in the act of forging the ancient manuscripts. The forger, it is stated, obtained his models of the handwriting from the public libraries of Paris, and concealed himself while at work by forming a barricade of old large folio volumes around his table.

The Italian journals announce the publication at Trieste of a translation of Dante's *Inferno* into Hebrew. The author who has undertaken to render into the language of Ezekiel the solemn accents of the great Florentine, is Chevalier Formigine. Many modern works have been translated in the same manner from Hamlet to *Telemachus*. The British Museum possesses a translation of *The Mysteries of Paris* in Hebrew.

Victor Hugo thinks Swinburne the poet of the age; Swinburne, in reciprocation, thinks Victor the poet of the ages. (The names of both of these persons, without much aid of imagination, remind the reader of an animal not renowned for cleanly habits).

The late Lady Duff Gordon, the translator of Ranke, Niebuhr, Feuerbach, Moltke, and other German works, and the author of remarkable works on Egypt, combined, it is said, more erudition with great natural ability and considerable classical attainments than any woman of the present day, excepting, perhaps, the late Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Somerville. She inherited the best of the intellect and qualities of her mother, the accomplished Sarah Austin, and her father, the well-known professor of jurisprudence. Austin's lectures on Jurisprudence are described as by far the most thorough exposition of the science of law ever written; and the preliminary investigation into "the Province of Jurisprudence" contains the ablest defence of the utilitarian theory of ethics. John Stuart Mill attended these lectures.

Robert Burns' pew in St. Michael's church, Dumfries, with his initials cut on it with his own hand, was lately offered for sale at auction, but withdrawn, only five pounds being bid for it. The pew was to be removed.

Garibaldi expected to get \$20,000 for his novel, but cannot get an offer of more than \$2,000.

A tablet to the memory of John Keble, the author of the "Christian Year," is to be placed in Westminster Abbey.

Charles Dickens, who was left executor to the Rev. Chaney Hare Townsend, a promising young poet in England, when he and Macaulay were together at Cambridge, is about publishing an account of his friend's very peculiar religious opinions.

The concluding volumes of "Kingleak's History of the War in the Crimea" cannot appear for some time, as the author is going out to the Crimea to study the ground of the battle of Inkerman.

The concluding two volumes of Froude's History of England are announced in that country.

In journalism we note that Henry W., the son of the late Henry J. Raymond, has been placed on the editorial staff of his father's paper, *The New York Times*. A new weekly illustrated journal of science, called "Nature," was announced for October 2d, by Messrs. Macmillans, London, to be edited by J. Norman Lockyer,

while Professors Frankland, Brodie, Huxley, Kingsley, Odling, Oliver, Bastian, Charles Darwin, M. A., and others, will be on its staff, which in fact unites "all the talent" of the day—that is, in scientific literature.—Henry Abquah, King of Winnebah, on the west coast of Africa, is announced as agent for *The West African Herald*, a newspaper edited and printed by natives.—The Hon. John Bigelow has resigned his office as editor of the *New York Times*. He did not succeed in giving the paper a real journalistic tone. He is to be succeeded, we hear, by Mr. Frederic Hudson, formerly the managing editor of *The Herald*. Mr. Hudson is one of the ablest newspaper writers in the country.

Ismail Pasha, Viceroy of Egypt, is establishing an academy in Cairo, which he will eventually convert into a university. Professor Brugsch, of Göttingen, who is famous for his extensive knowledge of the history and antiquities of Egypt, has requested leave of absence for some years, in order to comply with the Pasha's invitation to cooperate with him in organizing the Cairo academy.

Victor Cousin had a laundress in whom he took a great deal of interest, having known her since she was an apprentice. He one day said to her: "My dear child, have you ever read anything by me?" "No, M. Cousin." "Would you like to read something I have written?" "Oh, yes! M. Cousin." He went to a bookcase, took out a duodecimo volume, "Le Vrai, le Beau, le Bien," and gave it to the laundress, who went away delighted. At the end of the month she brought, as usual, her bill. M. Cousin examined it, and said: "Hem! total, 18f. 25c., from which we must deduct 3f. 50c. for the book you bought t'other day—balance 9f. 25c. Here are 10f.; you may keep the 25c. for yourself, my dear."

One day a poet read a new play before the Reading Committee of the French Comedy. It was unanimously refused. The poet went up to M. Sanson, the well-known actor, and said to him: "I have a right to complain of you; you voted against my piece, and yet you slept all the time I was reading it." M. Sanson wittily replied: "Sir, in literary matters, sleep is an opinion."

A curious fancy this, of a French writer, who received, it is said, \$6,000 for the manuscript of a new novel. A correspondent of *Child's Literary Gazette* says: "He sent up the manuscript in a small square oaken box, with steel edges and lock. The oak is varnished; on the lid are his initials—G. F., in black steel. The hinges are made of steel. The box is lined with wadded gray silk, spangled with scarlet rose buds. The manuscript of the new novel (whose title is *L'Education Sentimentale*) is in two volumes. They are bound in gray silk; on the back of each volume is the author's name in red letters; on the side of each volume are the initials G. F. embroidered in scarlet silk. The work is written on paper made in imitation of paper of the olden time, namely: very thick, slightly grained, and yet half-glazed. The author has written his story in a most legible hand. The titles of the chapters are written in red ink, and on each page are the initials G. F."

All literary Germany is glamorizing by the publication of Goethe's literary remains, which his grandchildren are accused of wantonly and frivolously secreting against the express testamentary wish of the poet himself. They were to have been published in 1850.

Victor Hugo accepts the office, to which he has just been elected, of President of the League of Peace and Liberty, a Congress meeting at Lausanne, Switzerland, and whose members he addresses as his "Fellow Citizens of the United States of Europe."

M. W. Dodd announces Dr. John Cumming's Manual of Bible Evidence for the People; J. B. Ford & Co. announce the second series of Beecher's Sermons; Harper & Brothers, the third volume of McClintock & Strong's Cyclopaedia; Lee & Shepard, Charles Sumner's Works; Dall's Alaska; John Todd's Trip to the Golden Gate, and a long list of excellent juveniles; Roberts Brothers, Writings of Madame Swetchine, illustrated work by Pleisch, for children; Tibbals & Co., N. Y., W. G. Blackie, D.D.'s Bible and General History.

In England, a new work of Catharine Winkworth's is announced—"Palm Leaves;" Students' Manual of the History of Ireland (a good one is badly needed); Paraday's Life and Letters; Life of Oliver Cromwell.

Miscellaneous.

MR. MULLER'S ORPHAN HOUSES.

The orphanages in connection with the "Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad" situated on Ashley Down, Bristol, constitute without doubt the most wonderful work that has been accomplished in modern times. In 1831, Mr. George Muller, a German refugee, conceived the idea of founding an institution for orphan children. A house was taken in one of the streets of Bristol, then a second, and a third. The institution flourished, and to accommodate the numerous orphans sent, it was found necessary to erect an asylum. Now there are no less than five buildings erected, costing more than £110,000. They are of plain, but neat architecture, and will accommodate more than 2,000 children. Hitherto the total sum that has been entrusted to Mr. Muller since the 5th of March, 1834, is over £430,000. But perhaps the most wonderful feature in connection with the institution is the fact that funds have invariably come in as they have been wanted. No individual is asked for a penny. Mr. Muller is a man of faith and prayer, and, looking upon himself as simply a "steward" of the Lord, devotes himself heart and soul to the carrying on of the work entrusted to him. So retiring is he in his manner, and so taken up with his gigantic work, that he is seldom seen in public, never upon the public platform, and consequently his name to those who are not familiar with his work is unknown. Children are received at Ashley Down Orphanages from all parts of the

United Kingdom, while the funds for their support come in from all parts of the civilized world. Mr. Muller has recently issued his "Brief Narrative of the Facts," in which he says: "The almost universal complaint of religious institutions and societies is the want of funds; but as to ourselves, we state joyfully to the praise of the Lord, and through Him, our Patron, we have not only had enough, but have abounded, though the expense of the last three years amounted altogether to £113,522. With regard to pecuniary supplies, I have, simply in answer to prayer, and without application to any one, obtained for this work £430,000." With this money nearly 17,000 children from all parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland have been taught in the various schools; 95,000 copies of the Bible and New Testament, and about 30,000 smaller portions of Holy Scriptures, in various languages, have been circulated, as have also 33,000,000 of tracts.—*London Freeman*.

RECREATION FOR FARMERS.

"Humph!" I hear some farmer say, "what does he mean by recreation for farmers?" I will try to tell you what I mean. At the present day it is found that all classes and conditions of men are greatly advantaged by an occasional relaxation from their daily round of duty, whatever its name or nature. None seem to be exempt from this law of our being. None can ignore it without serious loss to person and purse.

The loss to a person grows out of the fact that we cannot continue one set of muscles in work, to the neglect of others, without sooner or later overworking the one and impairing or enervating the other. Persisting in this course tends to deteriorate the whole system. This is in all probability less true of farmers than of people in most other occupations. Their necessary labor brings about all their muscular system into use. The extent of the use in their case is just where the evil comes in. Unceasing toil tells upon them to such an extent as to bring on premature old age. We see them bowed over in what should be the prime of life. They lose the buoyancy and elasticity of mind; they become taciturn in their homes. A sombre sadness seems to pervade all around.

The wife is too often overworked and partakes of the same spirit. The children growing up in such an atmosphere lose interest in home—if they ever had any interest in it—and look forward with longing eyes to the time when they can escape to the city, the West, or the sea.

Too much of the emigration from our New England farms has its cause just here. I know of individual cases in which this is true. The homes are not pleasant to them by reason of unceasing work and the want of cheerfulness in the family.

The remedy, I think, in a measure, is to be found in farmers finding out that they can accomplish more, year by year, if they devote a portion of their time to recuperate their powers by relaxation. After a season of relaxation we bring new energy into all we have to do. Work is done with a will. More of cheerfulness accompanies it. Disappointments fail to depress as formerly. Old things have passed away. The future wears a new aspect. "We have renewed our youth as the eagle."

I am aware that most farmers will say, "This is all very well; but we cannot possibly bring it round." Just here is where the trouble lies, I am ready to admit. At the same time I would urge you to seek for some way to accomplish it. Take your wife into your counsel, and also the children. You will find that they will enter into a solution of the difficulties with a will. Your combined wisdom will be sure to triumph in the end, because your interest is involved in it.

When once the matter has been put to the test, no fear of it ever being dropped. Much of seeming discontent and hardship will disappear. Try it.—*New England Farmer*.

VALUE OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

An instrument which can accomplish the registration of sunshine and cloud would furnish information of the utmost value to agriculture and some of the most important industrial pursuits of our country. We may illustrate what is here meant by taking one of the most valuable of our farm crops—the hay crop—as our example, though, as will be seen, the remarks apply to all other agricultural products. On a fertile soil the weight of grass that may be produced depends on two conditions—the supply of a sufficiency of rain, and the furnishing a sufficiency of sunlight in the eleven weeks between the middle of April and the last of June. The rain brings into the growing plants the inorganic materials they require from the soil, and of course furnishes their requisite supply of water; the sunlight forms in them their various organic and nutritive material. Now, last year (1869), during the period referred to, there was a copious supply of water, but owing to prolonged cloudy weather, an insufficient supply of light—the grass was all the time growing, as it were, in the shade. When haying came, observing farmers remarked how much longer than they expected it took to cure the grass, that is, to get rid of its water, and how great a falling off there was in the resulting weight of hay. Nor was this all. The diminished quantity of nitrogenized material it contained caused it to be less nutritive; a greater weight of it was required to fatten cattle, or even to keep them in good condition. The effect was felt by those interested in raising cattle for sale, and eventually in the quantity and cost of butcher's meat.

The object of meteorological observations is to enable us to record the past and predict the future state of the weather, and the imperfect manner in which this has heretofore been accomplished, has been

mainly due to the unreliable and unsatisfactory mode in which such observations have been made. When self-recording machinery, such as New York has now in her Central Park, shall have been established in all our large cities, the problem of predicting the weather will undoubtedly be solved. One most important agency is, however, essential to this result—it is telegraphic communication between such various observatories. A little consideration will show how this, which is at present a vague conception floating in the popular mind, can be carried into effect. Already telegraphic companies, desirous of aiding the progress of science, send over their lines without compensation brief dispatches of the state of the weather and the aspect of the sky. They report, for instance, that at St. Louis it is cloudy—at Charleston the wind is from the north. They also give the height of the thermometer. But this information is really of little use. What is wanted is a statement of changes in the weather, with the time of their beginning and end. Thus if it were stated that a rain-storm began in Raleigh, in North Carolina, at 2 A. M.; that a rain-storm began in Richmond, Va., at 11 A. M.; that the same occurrence happened at Washington at 5 P. M.; at Philadelphia at 10 P. M., the inference would be that this was in fact the same rain-storm advancing north-eastwardly, and that it would reach New York at about three o'clock on the following morning. In like manner if the time of ending were given at such successive stations, its time of ending at others not given might be foretold. If to this information were added the quantity of rain that had fallen in succession at each place, the condition of the storm, as to whether it was on the increase or decrease, could be indicated, and perhaps the point at which it would die out. Now, what is here said by way of illustration in the case of rain, applies also to wind-storms, tornadoes, periods of great heat, periods of great cold, and other atmospheric phenomena.—*J. W. Draper, in Harper's Magazine*.

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