

Editor's Table.

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

SCRIBNER & CO.

The History of Rome has been so re-written within this century, that the readers of Rollin and Goldsmith would hardly recognize it. The old myths have been scattered to the winds, but they have left bare the methods of growth and development by which a city of Italy became the "Mistress of the World." We have lost much in poetry; gained much in truth. Till Niebuhr, writers were divided into the scoffing few who believed nothing, and the many who believed everything. His scholarly insight sifted the grains of truth from the chaff of partisan slander, and patriotic falsehood, and Rome became a reality. Arnold brought to the same study his clear sympathetic insight, his keen and powerful intellect, and his experience of party government in England. And now Mommsen, a countryman of Niebuhr's, takes up the same subject with the advantage of the light cast upon it by his great predecessors, and by later ethnological, philological and historical investigators. His is the HISTORY OF ROME for our day, tracing out the slow growth by which the Roman constitution grew to its height and strength, and how this strange people quarrelled among themselves, subdued their neighbors of the other Italian cities, with what skill they made every conquest an increase of strength, how wonderfully they learnt from the peoples whom they had mastered, until Rome was the centre of culture as well as power. We are glad that Scribner & Co. have arranged to publish this work in four volumes, from the Edinburgh translation by Rev. Dr. Dickson. The first volume is before us, and is a whole argosy of information on the period down to the "Union of Italy" under Roman rule. The translator has been judicious, and if the work has not the graces of Arnold's style, it is very readable and—where that is possible in a translation from the German—thoroughly English. Pp. 635. Price, \$2 50.

The same publishers issue, in one volume of 645 pages, ANCIENT STATES AND EMPIRES, a Hand-book of Ancient History for Colleges and Schools, by Rev. Dr. Lord. The work is arranged in three divisions, Sacred, Grecian and Roman History. It strikes us as a work of very unequal execution. Dr. Lord's needs as a lecturer on Ancient History, have led him to investigate certain topics and periods very closely, and on these he writes with clearness, fullness and force. On others he knows little more than might be learnt from historical condensations such as that of Philip Smith. When any opinions are expressed they are mostly of a very conservative tone. The sentences are short and terse, but many of them repetitious and superfluous. As a text-book for colleges, it hardly fills a still vacant place. For schools it is better adapted.

FIELDS, OSGOOD & CO.

Fields, Osgood & Company have added a fourth volume to their series of Diamond Editions of the Poets. This time James Russell Lowell is the honored vates, and we are glad of the selection. Lowell is the most intensely, but not the most extensively popular poet in America. His circle of admirers is not so wide as that of Longfellow, but it is more select, more enthusiastic, and more likely to secure the accord of posterity. We so far belong to it, that we regard him as the greatest of the American poets. He has greater range of style than any of his cotemporaries. Tennyson ranges from "Amphion" up to *In Memoriam*; Longfellow is grave gayly and gay gravely; Whittier is almost always lyric. But who of them could have written the worshipful epistles of "Bird-o'-Fredum Sawin," and the "Vision of Sir Launfal"? This last, which is one of his longest, is unquestionably his finest and most characteristic work. It embodies and presents the deepest thought of his poetical works, viz:—the presence of Christ in all life to those who have the eyes to see Him, and in especial His presence in every one who is the recipient of true human love and kindness. "Inasmuch as ye did it," &c., is the one text of Scripture which Mr. Lowell preaches in all moods, and is the truth that redeems his Liberalism from the shallowness of mere Unitarianism. We regret that he has wasted so much of his powers on short poems for the magazines, where Longfellow has more wisely written long poems. We hope that the present edition of his works will do much to add to his popularity, and to introduce him to American readers. This dainty volume of 437 pages, costing \$1.25, contains an amount of keen wit, broad humor, touching pathos, beautiful thought, and fine imagery, that if beaten out in gold foil would make a whole library.

Those who wish to get a clear understanding of the giant speculating combinations and conflicts, which led to a small civil war in New York, along the lines and at the termini of some of its leading railroads, will find in the pamphlet entitled "A CHAPTER OF ERIE," by CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, a full and intelligent account of the amazing and infamous transactions. Published by Fields, Osgood & Co, Boston.

The second volume of Fields, Osgood & Co.'s household edition of THACKERAY'S MISCELLANIES contains: The Parish Sketch Book, Memories of Mr. Charles Yellowplush, The Irish Sketch Book, a Journey from Coinhill to

Grand Cairo. It is a handsome volume, in green cloth, contains 550 16mo. pages, in double column, and clear type, at the low price of \$1.25.

THE UNCLE SAM SERIES for American Children, by Fields, Osgood & Co., is a series of four thin quartos, each containing a poem, with full paged, high colored, carefully drawn, animated illustrations. The subjects are national and patriotic: as PUTNAM, by R. H. Stoddard; RIP VAN WINKLE'S NAP, by E. C. Stedman; CO LUMBUS, by J. T. Trowbridge; ABRAHAM LINCOLN, by Bayard Taylor. Such subjects, treated by writers of real merit, and presented in an attractive guise, make them worthy a wide circulation among the children. 60 cts. each.

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GEORGE GILFILLAN'S MARTYRS, HEROES AND BARDS OF THE SCOTTISH COVENANT, published by CARTERS, tells, in attractive language, and with fervid sympathy, the glorious and imperishable story of sufferings, and services for the truth during the seventeenth century in Scotland. Not only the simple story occupies these pages, but the author handles such themes as the character, literature, aims and success of the Covenanters, their treatment in after times, and kindred topics in the closing chapters, inferring, with the aid of the logic of events, the expediency of a separation of Church and State. A keen sense of the perils to faith peculiar to the present age is also expressed, but hope gleams through the sombre tints and triumphs over all. 18 mo. pp. 264.

DR. THORNWELL'S DISCOURSES ON TRUTH, preached in the chapel of South Carolina College, are well worthy to be put into the hands of our educated youth, destined to wield the controlling influences of our nation. The sentiments are noble and Scriptural; the view of truth is far removed from the utilitarianism of Paley, whose "immoral treatise on moral philosophy" is often justly condemned. Truth he defines as, essentially, conformity with the laws of the understanding, as he defines virtue to be conformity with the laws of conscience. "Here," he adds, "philosophy stops. Beyond consciousness it cannot penetrate." These discourses are not only stimulating to our higher natures; they are also a practical guide on many questions of casuistry and problems of life and conversation. 16mo. pp. 328, large type.

CARTER & BROs. have also re-issued George Borrow's remarkable and immensely popular book: THE BIBLE IN SPAIN, WITH THE ZINGALI, OR GYPSIES IN SPAIN as a concluding portion. In the present lively interest felt for this country, and in its changed and much improved condition, the contrasts exhibited by Mr. Borrow's experience as a Bible agent will be found most striking. 8vo. pp.

THE CROWN WITHOUT THE CONFLICT, or Musings on the Death of Children, by Rev. R. H. Lundie, is full of comfort tenderly offered to bereaved parents. Messrs. Carters have issued it in 24mo.; flexible covers, gilt, and handsomely printed.

AUTUMN LEAF STORIES is one of Skelly's recent juveniles. The stories are simple and brief, well told and well conveying their lessons to the reader. 18mo. pp. 126.

PRESBYTERIAN PUBLICATION COMMITTEE.

CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS is a lively story of four children laying by their small earnings to provide a Christmas entertainment for four poor children. The lessons which they learned while making the effort are woven with skill and inventiveness into the narrative. A very good and seasonable book. pp. 136. 45 cts.

TOO BIG FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL is upon a topic of great importance. It contrasts the career of two half-grown boys, one of whom went, and the other refused, as being too big, to go to Sabbath school. One of the "Virtue Rewarded" sort of books, and quite wanting in spirit and freshness. pp. 139. 45 cts.

MISCELLANEOUS.

DOCTRINE OF CLOSE COMMUNION TESTED BY SCRIPTURE AND REASON, by William Annan. Pittsburgh, Presbyterian Book Rooms. Pp. 154. 18 mo.

The respected author of this treatise has become well known by his writings on the subject of psalmody, in which he has exposed in an unsparingly manner the sophistries, fallacies, inconsistencies, and unscriptural arguments employed by those who maintain that only one hundred and fifty Psalms in the Bible should be used, and that there is at present no other proper version of these in our language than the one adopted by the Church of Scotland, and that is to be considered as inspired (!) In the discussion of the subject of communion the author shows equal ability. After giving a statement of the question, he presents a historical view of the subject, with an appeal to Scripture and Reason. The Doctrine of the Westminster Assembly is thus elucidated, and proved to have been the reverse of that which is advocated by some of those who profess the greatest respect for the Confession of Faith, and suppose that they adhere most rigidly to its teachings. After exposing the weakness of the arguments used by those who defend a restricted communion, the work closes with a remedy for division. The work gives, in a small compass, a most excellent discussion of the entire subject, and the tone of Christian courtesy, and charity, and candor which pervades it, is remarkable when contrasted with the language used by

those who have assailed Mr. Annan for his views and writings in this and other publications. We hope that those who have read only such treatises as fed and fostered the "exclusivism" which is so alien to the Spirit of Christ and so hurtful to religion, will read this excellent production. W.

Mrs. Jane Kingsford, one of the ablest critics of the Boston Peace Jubilee, has written a musical novel called THE SOPRANO, which we have found to be very entertaining reading. It is the story of a young New England girl, who is at first misled in her musical education by ignorant teachers, but who, by right methods, reaches the height of her profession. The story is interesting in itself, and is made the thread on which to string much curious information in regard to the human voice, the nature of musical sound, and the proper discipline for singers. Pp. 179. 16mo. Price 75 cents. Published by Loring of Boston, and sold by Turner, Brothers & Co., 508 Chestnut St.

REV. HOWARD CROSBY has issued, in a compact volume of 109 18mo pages, called A BIBLE MANUAL, a large amount of the sort of information which is needed by students and teachers of Scripture. It has maps, plans, chronological tables, analyses of the separate books, doctrinal summary, &c., and is well worth a place in the Sunday-school and in the closet. Dr. Crosby's publishers are THE UNIVERSITY PUBLISHING COMPANY, New York. They announce: JESUS; HIS LIFE AND WORK, by the same author; to be sold by subscription; 1 vol. 8vo., fully illustrated.

BLANCHE GAMOND is a leaf from the history of the martyr sufferings of the Huguenots—an autobiography of a faithful, heroic woman, the truth of which, if not sufficiently attested by its own simple character, is vouched for by d'Aubigne. It is far stranger than fiction, and presents wonderful illustrations of the sustaining and peace-giving power of divine grace under almost incredible trials. Handsomely printed and illustrated with an exceedingly fine wood-cut of Grenoble. 18mo. pp. 152. American Tract Society, 1408 Chestnut St.

LITERARY ITEMS.

—Rev. W. L. Gage, in a letter to the *Congregationalist*, summing up the latest and best, commends Tristram's "Land of Israel," Prof. Porter's "Hand-Book to Syria and Palestine," Rev. Samuel Clark's Bible Atlas, and Dr. Menke's Bible Atlas, the last published by Justus Perthes, of Gotha. Mr. Gage says:

Messrs. Carlton & Lanahan, of New York, have conferred an inestimable service on the American public, by reproducing in a cheap form nearly all of the most valuable maps in both of these atlases, and selling the little work at the low price of seventy-five cents. To those who are looking for a good and not expensive atlas of the Bible lands, I can say that this work, issued under competent editorial care, and published by Carlton & Lanahan, is by all odds the best in the American market. I may venture to add that I have just had made in Germany a map of Palestine in relief. Giving the mountains and depressions in such a way as to be far more readily seen, than in an engraved map, it is especially adapted to the use of those who are students in this department. The work is not published by any house, but those who desire a copy, completely framed and ready to hang, can receive one by mail on remitting a dollar to me.

—Thomas Walker, editor of the *London Daily News*, has just stepped into a fat sinecure of the so called editorship of the *London Gazette*. The *Gazette* needs no editing, as it is merely the receptacle for court and state announcements, which are simply advertisements furnished by the authorities, and the small sheet is published semi-occasionally, when the form is full. The only labor the new editor will be called upon to perform, will be to sign his name to the receipts for his salary of \$10,000, which is purely a pension for party services.

—The *Inverness Courier*, in noticing the announcement of an autobiography of Flora Macdonald, preserver of Prince Charles, now preparing for publication by Mr. Nimmo, of Edinburgh, observes: "that none of our Scottish historians or topographers, who explored so minutely the wanderings and vicissitudes of Chas. Edward, seem to have been aware of the existence of the above manuscript. Boswell and Johnson describe her, in 1773, as a little woman of genteel appearance and pleasing address. When she returned to the Highlands, her society was courted by all classes, and between three and four years afterwards she gave her hand to young Kingsburgh. In 1774 Flora and her husband emigrated to North Carolina. When the war broke out, Kingsburgh joined the Royalists, was taken prisoner, but regained his liberty, and served with the 84th in Canada. They returned, and it is related that the vessel in which Flora and her husband sailed was attacked by a French privateer, and while the Celtic heroine stood on the deck bravely animating the seamen, she was thrown down, and one of her arms was broken. She died at home at last, in her 68th year, in 1790, and her shroud was formed of part of the sheets in which Prince Charles slept at Kingsburgh."

—A Boston letter in the *New York Tribune*, says: Of all doubtful things, nothing is more uncertain than the date of appearance and the title of a new poem by Mr. Tennyson, until it is fairly bound and in the hands of the booksellers. The laureate does a great part of the revision of his books after they are in type, and has been known to change the title of one of them after an entire edition has been struck off. But there is warrant for saying that he has a new book substantially completed, even to the final polishing; ground for hoping that it will be before both the British and the American public between now and the first of January, and reason to expect that its title will be "The Quest of the Holy Grail," or something like it. The poem is similar

in manner to the "Idyls of the King," and deals with themes of the same character. It is thought to be fully equal to that work by those who have heard part of it read at the poet's residence. Strahan will publish it in London, and Fields, Osgood & Co., will of course have the right to issue the author's edition in this country.

—Of Tregelles' Greek Testament four parts have thus far been published, extending into 2 Thessalonians. The trade price of this valuable work is about thirty-seven dollars.

Miscellaneous.

[For the Am. Presbyterian.]

AN APPEAL FOR AID.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Early in the winter of 1866, being in Florida as an invalid preacher, I visited Palatka, found the Presbyterian church there vacant, and the people hungry for preaching. I agreed to supply them, as my health permitted, and on terms consistent with their extreme poverty, remained with them until May, 1867. Their first need was to get the church building in condition for services. It was then a mere wreck—the roof rotted away, the floor inside in like state, the pulpit gone, and the church Bible,—altogether it was a sad sight to look upon. By hard effort they had raised about sixty-five dollars towards a new roof. At the end of the season, however, we had the church partially but comfortably repaired, having raised and applied for repairs about \$500. In the fall of 1867 I was invited to visit them again, and also in 1868, and during this time we went on repairing and improving the building as we were able to raise the funds. Among the invalids visiting Florida from the North, we found many kind friends who contributed generously and freely. The result now is, a church as good as new; roofed, floored, weather-boarded, painted outside and in, with a new belfry and bell; as a whole, worth \$1,500 more than when we began this work of repair. My great aim, in this preliminary work, was to clear the way for having the church supplied with preaching for the entire year. My term of service with them covered but a part of the year, and then, owing to their poverty, they were compelled to close the church. Last spring they were encouraged to engage a licentiate as a regular supply, and he has thus far labored with great acceptance and usefulness. But, as a community, they are still very poor, and their chief difficulty in attempting to support a minister is the want of a parsonage. A suitable lot can be obtained for \$400, and a few hundred more will give them the building they need. This object attained they have every reason to believe they will go on independently. The ladies of the church and others are doing all they can, but they are sadly in need of help, and having obtained already kind and generous aid from this quarter, they are encouraged to make this further appeal, through me, for their last pressing necessity. Palatka is one of the leading places on the St. John's River, being the terminus of navigation from Savannah, Charleston, and New York. It must, therefore, grow rapidly. As to climate, it is one of the most popular and desirable places of resort for invalids from the North visiting Florida during the cold season. It is a matter of importance to them to find the house of God open on the Sabbath. And thus, too, North and South meet together on terms of kindest association. I trust, then, this brief appeal will meet a warm and liberal response. E. WIRTS.

Contributions for this purpose may be left at this office, or with Rev. John W. Dulles, Presbyterian House.

EAGERNESS FOR SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOOKS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

"Yesterday I organized a Sunday-school, with thirty-five scholars and five teachers, among the poor families along the French Broad River. Among the scholars are grown persons who do not know the alphabet. How they did enjoy the sight of our pretty books. They followed me out of the school-house, and the little ones climbed upon my buggy begging for primers."

"On my return home I found a gentleman waiting, who had travelled twenty-five miles, over rugged mountains, to get books for the children in his settlement. For eight months they had been making up the sum of seven dollars (\$7) by selling nuts, driving cows to pasture, &c. With a package of books in each end of a sack he started for home, the next morning, to gladden the hearts of about fifty children who wished him to 'make a hurry, and come back right quick.'"

The missionary reports that, standing before a congregation of 200 persons, he asked all who could read to hold up their right hands, and only twenty-six responded. Such are some of the destitutions which the American Sunday-school Union is called upon to supply. Such ignorance must be instructed.

Scientific.

ON CERTAIN BIOSTATIC IMMUNITIES OF THE JEWISH RACE IN EUROPE.

In decided contrast to the views expressed by Sir Duncan Gibb, in his paper upon "Longevity among the Jews," read before the British Society for the Advancement of Science, at its last annual meeting, are the conclusions arrived at by M. Legoyt, in an elaborate treatise, presented at a recent session of the Paris Statistical Society, on "Certain Biostatic Immunities of the Jewish Race in Europe," reported in the *MEDICAL TIMES AND GAZETTE*, July 10th, 1869. After discussing the various explanations of these immunities, offered by different observers; M. Legoyt states that he believes the greater longevity of this race may be explained by the following considerations:

1st. The Jews marry earlier than the Christians, and thus derive at an earlier age the advantages, which statistics show are incident to

the married state. Still, from their well-known prudence and circumspection, it is not to be supposed that they enter upon this until prepared to meet its exigencies. Among them hasty and rash marriages, which are alike hurtful to the health of parents and children, are rare.

2d. The fecundity being less, they can pay much more attention to the preservation of their children.

3d. By reason of the small number of illegitimate children they have, they escape the exceptional mortality which sweeps away such children.

4th. The Jew does not pursue any calling which demands very hard labor. He is neither an agriculturist, a laborer, mechanic, sailor, nor miner. Before all things, he is the shop-keeper, merchant, banker, artist, *savant*, man of letters, or public functionary.

5. The Mosaic law contains ordinances which, being purely hygienic, must exercise a favorable influence on the health, as for example, the verification of the condition of slaughtered animals, the frequency of ablution, the practice of circumcision, &c.

6th. The strength of the family feeling among the Jews. It is only when it is absolutely impossible, and without distinction of rank, that a Jewish woman does not suckle her child. The children, too, are the objects of incessant and most vigilant care, which, indeed, is returned by the respect and solicitude which these manifest for their parents, especially when aged or infirm. This is, probably, one cause of the rarity of suicide among the Jews.

7th. The sobriety of the Jews is incontestable.

8th. Throughout the entire Jewish community, a warm feeling of charity for the indigent and miserable prevails.

9th. The religious Jew is remarkable for his great serenity of mind, and his deep-seated faith in Providence, and the high destinies of his race. The constancy, the *perseverance* of the Jewish temperament, is well reflected in his religious faith which has remained immovable for so many ages.

10th. The morality of the Jews, as deduced from criminal statistics, seems to be real, and is only an indication of those regular habits which exercise so great an influence on the duration of life.

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