Poetry.

For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate.

Acrostic.

M ake me, O Lord, to know thy will,
A nd lead me to thy holy hill;
R eveal thy pardoning love to me,
G rant that I may from sin be free.
A midst the darkness and the day,
R emember me, O Lord, I pray;
E nable me with grace to sing
T he praises of my Christ and King.

A lmighty God, be thou my stay,
N e'er let me from thy precepts stray;
N ow let thy praise my voice employ,
E xpand my soul with holy joy.

K eep me, O Lord, from sinful ways,
E xcite my soul to humble praise;
R emember thee, and may I sing
R edeeming love to Christ my King.

Hopedale, Ohio.

Literary Notices.

A Grammar of the New Testament Diction; intended as an Introduction to the Critical Study of the Greek New Testament. By *Dr. George Benedict Winer.* Translated from the sixth enlarged and improved edition of the original, by *Edward Masson, M. A.*, formerly Professor in the University of Athens. Vol. I. Pp. 372. Philadelphia: *Smith, English & Co.* New York: *R. Carter & Bros.* Pittsburgh: *W. S. Rentoul.*

The first edition of this great work made its appearance in 1822. Its object was to lead to a correct understanding of the original language of the New Testament, and put a check to the lawless freedom with which the sacred text was still handled in many commentaries and exegetical dissertations. It was an effort to free the New Testament writers from the bondage of a perverted philology that had been imposed upon them, and to lead to the interpretation of its language as it was understood by those who used it in the days of our Lord, and in the time of his Apostles. Constant improvements have been made to the original work, until the present time, from all the advances in Biblical Criticism, by the most eminent philologists. And now it is a complete Grammar of all the peculiarities to be found in the Greek of the New Testament, and has received the highest approbation of the most distinguished scholars. The publishers have done a good work in undertaking the publication of this book, and are entitled to the thanks and patronage of all Christian scholars. We can heartily commend this work to all ministers and others who are capable of reading the New Testament in the tongue in which it was originally delivered. We hope the day is not far distant when ministers and Christian scholars will not only devote greater attention to the study of Biblical Commentaries, but especially to the study of the original languages of Scripture. Those who would study the diction of the New Testament as a living idiom, employed as the medium of social intercourse, and thereby understand more clearly and fully the mind of the Spirit, cannot apply themselves too soon to this work. The remaining volume will appear about the 1st of June, when we will have something more to say concerning its real character and high value to all who would read the Greek Testament for themselves.

Agnes Hopetoun's Schools and Holidays. By *Mrs. Oliphant*, author of "Kate Stewart," &c., &c. Boston: *Gould & Lincoln.* Pittsburgh: *W. S. Rentoul.*

This little book is written in a very pleasant and sprightly manner. The characters are true to life, not too perfect to be natural and real. How many of us have felt just as little Annie Oxenford did, when some blessing which we hardly dared to hope for has been granted us, just when we were yielding to bitter thoughts and sinful repinings, "so sorry and ashamed, because so glad;" or rather thankful. The goodness of God does lead some to repentance. How many characters we meet with like kind Uncle James; people who are always talking, and intending, too, to do many great and good things, but too indolent to go to work immediately; who "talk so earnestly at night of what they mean to do, that they wake up in the morning feeling almost as though it were done;" and thus go on till death, which waits not, but comes before half their good intentions have been executed. And all will discover, sooner or later, as Agnes did, that to be really happy and useful, they must first seek the "one thing needful." They must get a heart into their life. Our youthful readers, and those of more mature years also, may perusal this book with pleasure and profit.

The Precious Stones of the Heavenly Foundations. With Illustrative Selections in Prose and Verse. By *Augusta Browne Garrett*, author of "Musical Compositions," "Hamilton, the Young Artist," &c., &c. Pp. 328. New York: *Sheldon & Co.* Pittsburgh: *John S. Davison.* 1859.

The author of this volume seems to have passed through deep sorrows; but through the mist of tears she has seen the immortal crown held out to us. The object of this work is to raise our thoughts from the tomb, where they are so much disposed to dwell, and enliven them with bright visions of the New Jerusalem. It consists of a series of reflections on some of the figurative external beauties of the Heavenly City, by brief dissertations on the twelve precious stones on which are engraven the names of the Apostles, and which garnish the Foundations of Heaven. The significations which seem most appropriate to each, are given, together with the relative texts of Scripture, and a few precious gems of human thought, in both prose and verse, having exclusive reference to the future life. The names of the Apostles are engraven on the foundations in the order of their calling. According to this, the first foundation is Peter—*Jasper*—which signifies Divine mystery; the second, Andrew—*Sapphire*—heavenly-mindedness; &c., throughout the entire twelve. The name of each stone is supposed, by the author, to signify some corresponding quality in the Apostle whose name it bears. The design is original, and we scarcely know of any other little work that has so many sayings, in prose and verse, to encourage amid the toils of life, and to cheer the Christian heart with hope of heaven.

Motes in the Sunbeam, and Other Parables from Nature. 18mo., pp. 153.

The Circle of Blessing, and Other Parables from Nature. 18mo., pp. 153.

Proverbs Illustrated. 18mo., pp. 169.

Alice and Adolphus, or Worlds Not Realized. 18mo., pp. 164.

These four charming little books are written by Mrs. Alfred Gatty, published by *Robert Carter & Brothers*, New York, and for sale by *John S. Davison*, Pittsburgh. We would like to say a great many things about each of them, and to tell our readers the peculiarities and attractions of each, but want of space denies us this privilege. We can only say to them, that Mrs. Gatty has a fancy as delicate as any of the purest German writers, and writes under the inspiration of Christian faith and love. We can cheerfully say of these volumes, with the *Literary Churchman*, that they "stand alone in the sweetness of their stories, the truth of their moral, and the simple beauty of their language." Their perusal will benefit parents, gladden the fireside, and improve the heads and hearts of the children. We hope Mrs. Gatty will write many more such little books, that the Carters will publish them as neatly, and that the thousands of families into which the *Banner* goes, will become their possessors.

The Great Exemplar; or, The Life of Our Ever Blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ. By *Jeremy Taylor, D. D.*, Bishop of Down and Connor. 2 vols. Pp. 488, 388. New York: *Robert Carter & Brothers.* Pittsburgh: *John S. Davison.* 1859.

Jeremy Taylor has been called the "Poet of the Pulpit," and all the productions of his wondrously endowed and luxuriously imaginative mind, prove that the term is not inapplicable. After two centuries, his writings, notwithstanding their occasional prolixity, and the unnecessary display of learning, are still eagerly read and highly prized. His "Life of Christ," contained in these handsome volumes, consists of a careful examination of the historical narrative as found in the Gospels, meditations upon the incidents and doctrines, and a series of more formal discourses. And notwithstanding the breadth of view, and nicety of criticism by modern commentators concerning the externals of our Saviour's life, we know of no other work on this fruitful subject, equally rich in spiritual suggestions and contemplation. It combines, in proportions rarely seen, ponderous learning, lofty imaginings, rich instruction, and ardent devotion. It will be a valuable addition to any library.

The Testimony of Modern Science to the Unity of Mankind. By *Prof. Cabell*, of the University of Virginia, with an Introductory Notice by *James W. Alexander, D. D.* Second Edition Revised. Pp. 370. New York: *Robert Carter & Brothers.* Pittsburgh: *John S. Davison.* 1859.

The fact that a second edition of this work has been called for so soon, is not only an indication of the interest taken in the subject of which it treats, but also most decisive testimony in favor of the manner of treatment by the author. The opponents of the Scriptural doctrine of the unity of mankind may be arranged under two general divisions. The first and lower class, represented by Nott and Gliddon, deny the *specific unity* of mankind; the second, and higher class, consists of Agassiz and his followers, who, while admitting the *specific unity* of mankind, deny its *common origin*. This book is a conclusive refutation of both classes, by most conclusive proofs. It consists of a summary of the conclusions announced by the highest authorities in the several departments of Physiology, Zoology, and Comparative Philology in favor of the *specific unity* and *common origin* of all the varieties of men. This volume is the very one for those who wish to become acquainted with the present state of this important question, and to learn the abundant testimony by which the Scriptural position is maintained. This edition has been improved by an Analytical "Table of Contents," and an "Index" of authors cited.

Lectures on Metaphysics and Logic. By *Sir William Hamilton, Bart.*, Professor of Logic and Metaphysics in the University of Edinburgh; Advocate, A. M., (Oxon.) Corresponding Member of the Institute of France; Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; and of the Latin Society of Jena, &c., &c. Edited by the *Rev. Henry L. Mansel, B. D.*, Oxford, and *John Veitch, M. A.*, Edinburgh. In two volumes. Vol. I., Metaphysics. 8vo., pp. 718. Boston: *Gould & Lincoln.* 1859.

This is one of the most valuable contributions to the department of Mental Philosophy, which the present generation has received. The well grounded fame of the late Professor of Philosophy in the Metropolitan University of Scotland, will be consolidated and extended by the publication of these lectures. The position which Sir William occupied in the Department of Metaphysics, is well known in the literary world. When Hume, following in the wake of Bishop Berkeley, had carried the idealism of that renowned Prelate had ever contemplated, and cast a shade of doubt over the existence of the world and things therein, the Scottish mind was stirred to its inmost depths. Beattie, in his celebrated Essay on Truth, did battle against the skeptic with much shrewdness, having an eye to the especial interests of Religion. Reid, however, was the intellectual giant who grasped the Metaphysical difficulty, and in his "Inquiry into the Human Mind," boldly met the demonstrations of Hume by an appeal to actual facts. His victory was instantaneous, complete, and decisive!

Sir William aims especially at doing honor to the principles of the Perceptive Philosophy. The student of the volume before us, will have abundant proof of the author's wonderful acquaintance with the learning of antiquity, with the productions of the human mind during all the centuries of the dark ages, and with the whole circle of modern literature, Continental, Arabic, and Turkish, as well as British, since the era of the Reformation. Our space will not enable us to go into a detailed review of the positions which we might venture to controvert, and we must close by observing that, although these lectures labor under the misfortune of being posthumous, still they present the mature views of the author, who maintained the principles which are here published, until the close of his life. The duties of the editors have been discharged with great learning and much judgment. Mr. Veitch is one of the most profound students that passed through Sir William Hamilton's class; and Professor Mansel has already in his Bampton Lectures and other published works, asserted his ability to take rank with the most eminent metaphysicians of the age. We doubt not but that this work will command a deservedly great circulation.

Pamphlets on our table:

Pentecost; or, The Word of God in Philadelphia. A. D 1858. Prepared by *The Young Men's Christian Association*, with a supplement. Philadelphia: *Parry & McMillan.* 1859.

This is a new and enlarged edition of the remarkable narrative of the work of grace with which the Head of the Church has been pleased to visit his people, which we have already noticed with much favor.

A Historical Sketch of the College of New Jersey. 8vo., pp. 66. Philadelphia: *J. M. Wilson.* 1859.

An Historical Sketch of the Presbyterian Church in New Castle, Delaware. By the *Rev. J. B. Spotswood, D. D.*, pastor. 8vo., pp. 39. Philadelphia: *J. M. Wilson.* 1859.

These interesting documents display much care in their preparation, and we hail all such performances. They are invaluable as contributions to the future historian, and we should be greatly pleased to see such local essays greatly multiplied.

Infants in the Church of God, is the title of a sermon preached by a Licentiate of Columbus Presbytery. The subject is presented in its Scriptural aspect, with much earnestness, and without any pretensions to fine writing. It is well, often, to show the right of infants to Church membership, and hence to baptism; and it would be but going on rightly for ministers to dwell much upon the duties which the Church owes to her baptized sons and daughters.

The Eclectic Magazine.—The number for May, is on our table. The selections are eighteen from the most able English and Scotch Reviews. They are Philosophical, Literary, Historical, Scientific, and cannot but deeply interest the intelligent reader. Literature of France; The Roman Catacombs; Outlines of Astronomy, &c., are among the articles. The work contains one hundred and forty-four large and closely printed octavo pages, and is issued monthly, from No. 5. Beekman Street, N. Y., price $5. The present number contains two beautiful engravings.

The Bible in Common Schools.—*Rev. W. C. Anderson, D. D.*, San Francisco, gives us, in a pamphlet, the substance of four discourses, preached by him, on this subject. The discussion is able. The Bible had its right, supreme and almost undisputed, in the common schools of our country, from the days of the fathers, up to 1840. At that time the Romish priests, aided by a few politicians who were infidel in their mental tendencies, raised an opposition and endeavored to either expel the Bible, or to have government aid to schools of their own sect. They have had some success, but not very extensively. The masses of our people have too much intelligence, and too highly appreciate a sound morality to separate from the fountains of knowledge the best book of instruction which exists.

Review of a Sermon, entitled "Man, Conventional, and Christian." The sermon was preached in Erie, Pa., by J. E. Forrester, of the Universalist Church, and seems to have been an attack upon, "Creeds, Churches, established opinions, and popular Faith." The Review is by Rev. W. M. Blackburn, pastor of the Park Presbyterian church, and ably repels the assault.

Historical.

For the Presbyterian Banner and Advocate.

"The Big Runaway."

Messrs. Editors:—I visited on the 18th of February, an old lady who lives a few miles from Jersey Shore, Pa., and is now in the ninety-second year of her age. She was one of the vast crowd that thronged the way along the waters of the Susquehanna, to the interior of the settlement, in the Summer of 1778. I was interested in the history of that period, and introduced the subject. She narrated many personal incidents, and among others, that of an aged female carrying the "baby" of her daughter, who had a bealed breast, remarkably swelled. In passing a spring, she was unable to stoop or lie down to drink as others did or had to do; but the mother laid down the child, and dipped up in her hands and gave her.

The narrator's own mother, who was driving four cows, while her children took passage in a canoe, became lost in the crowd, and lived one or two days by milking in her hand and drinking.

A friend who was with me, asked what number she supposed was on their way down the river. She said she might as well attempt a guess at the number of drops falling from a cloud. Coming from the hills and valleys, the lanes and roads were filled, and at night the barns and fields. These are some of the incidents that fastened themselves on the memory of a child eleven or twelve years of age. Her opportunity of seeing "the vast multitude, was good; for, some time previous to the general runaway, her mother, with the smaller members of the family were moved down the river for safety, to a place near Northumberland, and upon the alarm, had the start, and went as far as Pfoutz's Valley, where they stopped to wait for the rest of the family; upon the arrival of which, the whole family returned to Northumberland, at which place they remained until Fall, when, as many of the citizens of the town began to return and claim their vacated houses, they removed down the river to Middletown, eight miles below Harrisburg, where they remained till the close of the war. The news of the massacre at Wyoming, hastened the flight on the West Branch. A runner was sent up at great hazard, to give information to the people who were already gathered into small forts.

It may be both interesting and profitable to the present generation, to know something of the trials and hardships of their forefathers, and I do not suppose they can be more graphically set before the mind than by the few extracts I shall make from letters of that date, preserved in the "Pennsylvania Archives," and which were published a few years ago. You will see by these extracts, that while a large majority of the people of the West Branch passed on to the interior of the settlement, some of the fugitives stopped at Northumberland—not with a view of family or personal convenience and safety, but for its defence, and were influenced by the same motives of patriotism that was common to a majority of the people of those times.

The following extracts are copied from letters addressed to the Council of Pennsylvania:

WM. MACLAY TO COUNCIL.

"Paxton, July 12th, 1778.

"*Gentlemen:*—I write you this letter with reluctance, as I am certain it must give pain to any man of sensibility, to be informed of the distressed situation of our Frontiers. I left Sunbury, and almost my whole property, on Wednesday last. I will not trouble you with a recital of the inconveniences I suffered, while I brought my family by water to this place. I never in my life saw such scenes of distress. The river and roads leading down it, were covered with men, women, and children, flying for their lives, many without any property at all, and none who had not left the greatest part behind. In short, Northumberland County is broken up. Col. Hunter only remained, using his utmost endeavors to rally some of the inhabitants, and to make a stand, however short, against the enemy. I left him with very few. I cannot speak with certainty as to numbers, but am confident when I left him, he had not one hundred men on whom he could depend. Wyoming is totally abandoned—scarce a single family remained between that place and Sunbury, when I came away. The panic and spirit of flight has reached even to this place. * * * "

COL. THOMAS HARTLY, TO COUNCIL.

"Sunbury, August 1st, 1778.

"*Gentlemen:*—I came here a few days since, with a detachment of my regiment and some Militia. * * * Upon my arrival, I have taken the command. * * * I shall dispose of the Regulars and Militia to the best advantage. * * * Four-fifths of the inhabitants fled with such effects as they could carry from this County, (Northumberland.) Many of them are returning. * * * The Wyoming Settlement is almost totally destroyed. The most of the surviving inhabitants have fled to Connecticut, or are now moving as paupers to that State. * * * "

COL. SAMUEL HUNTER, TO COUNCIL.

"Sunbury, July 12th, 1778.

"*Gentlemen:*—The calamities so long dreaded, and of which you have been more than once informed must fall upon this County if not assisted by Continental Troops or the Militia of the neighboring Counties, now appear with all the horrors attending on an Indian war; at this date, the towns of Sunbury and Northumberland are the Frontiers where a few virtuous inhabitants and fugitives seem determined to stand, though doubtful whether to-morrow's sun will rise on them fugitives, captives, or in eternity. Yet relying on the Being who never forsakes the virtuous, and the timely assistance of the Government, which they have, with zeal and vigor, endeavored to support, they say they will remain as long as they can without incurring the censure of suicide. The carnage at Wyoming, the devastations and murders upon the West Branch of the Susquehanna, on Bald Eagle Creek, in short, throughout the whole County, (the recital of which must be shocking,) I suppose, must before now, have reached your ears; if not, you may figure yourselves men, women, and children, butchered and scalped, and some scalped alive, many of them after being promised quarters, of which we have miserable instances among us. People in crowds are driven from their farms and habitations, many of whom have not money enough to purchase one day's provision for their families, which must, and has already obliged many of them to plunder and lay waste the farms as they pass along. * * * "

LIEUT. BARTREM GALBRAITH, TO COUNCIL.

"Lancaster, July 14th, 1778.

"*Gentlemen:*— * * * On Sunday morning last the banks of the Susquehanna, from Middletown up to the Blue Mountain, were entirely clad with the inhabitants of Northumberland County, who had moved off, as well as many in the river, in boats, canoes, and rafts, &c. * * * This I had from Capt. Scott, a man of veracity, who was up at Garver's Mill, for his sister, the wife of Col. Hunter, and spake with a Lieutenant of a Company that was stationed at Wyoming, and was in action; he also seen six of the wounded men that were brought down. * * * "

ABRAM SCOTT AND OTHERS, TO COUNCIL.

"Garver's Mills, July 12th, 1778.

"*Gentlemen:*— * * * The inhabitants of Northumberland are all fled but a few that make a stand with Col. Hunter, at Sunbury. The Wyoming men turned out of their Fort, and gave the Indians battle. There were about four hundred men in the action, and but about sixty got off. * * "

The suffering on the frontiers for the two following years was scarcely less distressing. President Reed writes to Gen. Washington: "That we have been by far the greatest sufferers on the frontiers, we presume cannot be doubted. If Virginia and the other States have suffered by the ravages of the Indians in any proportion to this State, the particulars have never reached us. * * "

COL. HUNTER, TO COUNCIL.

"December 13th, 1778.

"*Gentlemen:*— * * * I have had the first, second, third, and part of the fourth classes of this County Militia doing duty this two months past. * * * "

He also writes, April 17th, 1780:

"* * * We have at this time all the militia we can muster, upon duty, and constantly parties out. Yet all this will not deter these barbarians from committing murders. * * * "

These extracts are facts addressed to the understanding, selected and copied, not so much for the entertainment of your readers, as to furnish matter for reflection. J.

Guns were invented by Swartz, a German, about the year 1378, and were brought into use by the Venetians, in 1382.

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