Book Notices.

JOURNAL OF ALFRED ELY, A PRISONER IN RICHMOND. Edited by *Charles Lanman.* Pp. 360. 1862. New-York: *D. Appleton & Company.* Pittsburgh: *Robert S. Davis.*

Mr. Ely, it will be remembered, was a member of Congress captured at Bull Run. While in prison at Richmond he kept a record of his experiences and observations, which will be read with great interest.

On the whole, the superior officers seem to have treated Mr. Ely and the other prisoners with considerable kindness, but the subordinate officers were not unfrequently brutal. Among the latter, Lieut. Todd, half-brother to Mrs. Lincoln, has obtained a most unenviable notoriety. This book will be interesting to all classes of readers, from the insight it gives to life in a military prison.

FIRST LESSONS IN MECHANICS; WITH PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS, DESIGNED FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS. By *W. E. Worthen.* Pp. 192. 1862. New-York: *D. Appleton & Company.* Pittsburgh: *Robert S. Davis.*

This is an admirable school-book, treating of a subject bearing on almost all the industrial pursuits of life. And it may be read and studied with much profit by every intelligent individual, for *Mechanics* are daily becoming of greater importance in the affairs of the world. And the study of this science should not be confined, as heretofore, to Colleges and Universities, but should be introduced at once to our Academies and Public Schools, where our engineers, mill-wrights, and artisans generally receive their education. Whatever else is omitted, this branch, which is so closely connected with the life-business of most men in a greater or less degree, should not be neglected.

In the work before us the fundamental principles of *Mechanics* are most lucidly unfolded and their common applications are explained in a most attractive and instructive way; mere theories have been carefully avoided, the author confining himself to matters of general practical utility. Therefore he has treated chiefly of the simple mechanical powers, the most important machines in which they are combined, the composition and resolution of forces; the centre of gravity, motive powers, water-wheels, the steam-engine, gearing and shafting, the various kinds of pumps, and friction with its effects on machinery.

The style, treatment of subjects, and arrangement of topics, are all that could be desired. Altogether it is the very kind of elementary works on Mechanics that has long been needed in the family, the school, and the workshop.

LYRICS FOR FREEDOM; AND OTHER POEMS. Under the auspices of the Continental Club. New-York: *Carleton, 413 Broadway.* Pittsburgh: *Henry Miner.* Pp. 243. 1862.

The paper, type, and binding of this book are excellent, like all the works that comes from Mr. Carleton's hands. But what shall we say of the contents? They are simply *stuff*—and *stuff* of the poorest sort. For mean poetry is about the meanest of all mean things. "The Continental Club" had better attempt to aid freedom in some other way than by its poetical effusions.

OUR FLAG. A POEM IN FOUR CANTOS. By *T. H. Underwood.* New-York: *Carleton, 413 Broadway.* Pittsburgh: *Henry Miner.* Pp. 41. 1862.

The typography of this beautiful pamphlet is faultless, while the poetry is of a high character. In this poem a Southern man pleads with the people of the South, against the madness of secession, and the evils of oppression, in such a way as to awaken the attention and touch the heart.

THE LONDON QUARTERLY REVIEW, for April, 1862, has the following articles: I. Dorset; II. Hymnology; III. State and Prospects of Turkey; IV. Training of the Clergy; V. Life of Turner; VI. The Eastern Archipelago; VII. Stanhope's Life of Pitt; VIII. The *Merrimac* and *Monitor.*

This last article is a very able and instructive one to those interested in public defences. The author takes ground in favor of the superiority of stationary over floating fortifications. He says that the expense of a gun on a steamer is nearly four times greater than that of a gun in a fort. He also says that iron forts will be little if any more costly than those of granite, from the thinness of iron walls, and the absence of internal piers.

The *Quarterly* is $3 per annum; or the *Quarterly, Edinburgh, North-British,* and *Westminster Reviews,* with Blackwood's monthly, $10 per annum. Republished by *Leonard Scott & Co.*, 79 Fulton Street, New-York.

THE LOST JEWEL. A TALE. By A. L. O. E. New-York: *Robert Carter & Brothers.* Pittsburgh: *Robert S. Davis.* Pp. 324. 1862.

Every new book from A. L. O. E. is sure to find a welcome. The scenes of this new volume begin in London and end in the Crimean war, and are full of the interesting, touching and instructive.

"MOTHER'S LAST WORDS," AND "OUR FATHER'S CARE." Ballads for Boys and Girls. By *Mrs. Sewell.* New-York: *Robert Carter & Brothers.* Pittsburgh: *Robert S. Davis.* Pp. 173. 1862.

This is a handsome addition to Carters' Fireside Library. It is a collection of well-written poems for children; adapted to lead them in the paths of virtue and religion. The illustrations are very well executed. No less than 70,000 copies of these ballads have been sold in London in a short time.

MY NEIGHBOR'S SHOES; or, FEELING FOR OTHERS. A TALE. By A. L. O. E. Pp. 137. New-York: *Robert Carter & Brothers.* Pittsburgh: *Robt. S. Davis.* 1862.

In this little book the gifted author shows in her own unrivalled manner, the duty of feeling and doing for others, as we would have others feel and do for us.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

A Fragment.

Tenderly, soothingly
Speak to that lone one,
How many the shadows
That darken her sun;
The gladness of childhood
Hath fled with its years,
And youth's treasured visions
Have vanished in tears;
The beauty and brightness
Are gone from her brow;
Then tenderly, soothingly
Speak to her now.

Tenderly, soothingly
Point her above,
And tell her, yes, tell her
That Jesus is love;
The prayers of the tempted,
The penitent's sigh,
Though breathed 'mid earth's darkness
Are treasured on high;
Then bid her remember
The heavenly love;
Oh! tenderly, soothingly
Point her above.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Letters from the Army.

CAMP BELOW FALMOUTH,
Stafford County, Va.

MR. EDITOR:—After a stay of about three weeks at Camp Fall's Church, we were ordered on the morning of the 9th of April, to pack and take up the line of march. On this morning, and for two days previous, there fell a wet, driving snow, which rendered it a most unpropitious time for moving; but military orders are peremptory, and they were obeyed with alacrity. The boys are soon ready and in motion, bound for some point in rebeldom, the soldier knows not exactly where. In the evening we approach the ancient and somewhat renowned Fairfax, the county-seat of Fairfax County. Two battalions of our regiment quartered here for the night, in dwellings deserted by their former occupants; and the other battalion, of which Company K is a part, stopped in a neat, elegant, and commodious farm-house in the immediate vicinity. In this house were many rooms, one of which was assigned to our company, and you may well imagine that we were piled in pretty thick, and that our sleep was only the sleep of the soldier.

Of Fairfax, we may say that it is a scattered town—we will call it a town—containing perhaps one thousand inhabitants. It has an ancient and abandoned appearance; there abounds a goodly number of trees, both shade and ornamental, which, when clothed in their spring costume, will add much to the beauty and scenery of the place. The church and Court-house, renowned in history, are here. The latter is a very ancient structure, and belongs to a former generation. It is only interesting as a relic of the past. The church is a structure of comparatively modern date, but just now it is sadly desecrated, as a temple of worship. Now, no Sabbath ministrations emanate from the sacred desk. Both minister and hearers have been swept away, and are now floundering in the vortex of rebellion. How long, thought we, as we sat musing on the spectacle be ore us, will it be, when the elements of peace are again restored to their former combinations, and resume their wonted harmony! How long! Echo answers, how long!

In the morning, Thursday, we moved on to Centreville, a portion of our company being detained to accompany Major General McDowell as an escort. There was great anxiety among the boys to see this place, of which they had heard so much, and with which there was associated so many formidable associations. Upon approaching the place, about noon, we were astonished to find it naked, abandoned, and utterly defenceless. In passing, we could not repress the thought—is this the place, and are these the fortifications that here held in check, so long, the grand army of the Potomac? We could see nothing in the place or its locality, from which it could derive, on the day of battle, any decided advantage; and McDowell said on that day, after reconnoitering the ill-fated battle-ground beyond this place, on the plains of Manassas, that "we ought to have gained that battle." This conclusion he arrived at after having pointed out to him the positions of the respective forces, batteries, &c., of that engagement.

Centreville presented to us the appearance of a few scattered houses standing out in an open commons, about which the mud must have been knee-deep, trodden to the very door-sills. There is not a blade of grass, or a shrub, or any green thing to show any sign of life. But we pass on. And what we have said of Centreville, may also be said of Manassas. Instead of finding the wrecks of most formidable defences, we found nothing save the junction of two railroads. Aside from this, we could see no other combination that could give to the rebels any decided advantage in an engagement. We are decidedly of opinion that the defences, fortifications, &c., of both these places, have been altogether overrated. But though they may have been deficient in batteries, artillery, &c., there was no deficiency in the number of men, as shown by the number of huts all along the road, between the two places. These houses were nicely put up, and closely daubed, roofed and floored, with fire-places and some of the conveniences of domestic life. They were built by their negroes, (slaves,) and so numerous that they were almost a continued succession of encampments, skirting the road between the two places. An immense army must have Wintered here, and which must have looked with longing eyes toward the Federal Capital, about twenty-five miles distant. In comfort and convenience, the rebel soldiers had altogether the advantage of the soldiers for the Union. We doubt very much whether they could have Wintered as did the Federal soldiers, in canvass homes. Before leaving Manassas the rebels applied the torch, destroying almost every thing combustible, leaving only a few chimneys standing as monuments of the conflagration. Evidences of great destruction were visible all round. On our way to Manassas from Centreville we crossed the historic Bull Run—which at this point, is perhaps a little larger than Saw-Mill run at its mouth—on a very rickety old bridge, temporarily constructed by our troops for the purpose. In passing, the battle ground was pointed out to us, which lay upon our right and extended some two miles back toward the Junction. Well we remembered the memorable Sunday, and the reverse to our arms. On that day we knew that a great battle was being fought, involving momentous interests; and we felt that it was our duty to be there to coöperate with the loyal soldiers, struggling in defence of Constitutional liberty, as embodied in the Constitution.

But we fear we tarry too long in our descriptions, and yet the half is not told. We move on slowly, for the roads are very bad; and the teams often flounder in the mud, and detain the whole column.

We reach Broad run in the evening, but we find it too much swollen to ford, so we bivouac for the night on its banks, and await the falling of the stream. In the morning we cross and move on toward Catlett's Station on the Warrenton and Alexandria Railroad; some twenty miles South of Manassas, and about ten miles North of Warrenton. During this day's march we passed through a portion of the Old Dominion that pleased us better than any over which we had marched. The land was a little too flat and marshy, but there were some fine improvements; the country bore none of the marks which follow in the wake of an invading army. Toward the close of the day we reach the Station, and encamp in an adjacent wood. This was on Friday, and the next day we complete our quarters, and clean our arm and equipments, preparatory to our Sunday morning inspection. In this camp the regiment remains about two weeks, and then proceeds to Fredericksburgh. And while here a reconnoissance in force was made in the direction of this place, and resulted in the capture of several prisoners, and side arms taken from rebel pickets, whom we surprised so suddenly that they had only time to secure their own escape.

On Thursday morning, at early dawn, we start upon our famous march upon the town of Fredericksburgh, under command of Col. Bayard. On the evening previous, the order of march was read.

Our letter is sufficiently long, and hence we must defer our advance upon Fredericksburgh for our next. Hoping that you may deem this worthy a place in your columns, we close for the present, promising to improve as we advance.

The health of the boys is good, and they are in excellent spirits. They expect soon to be home and rejoin their friends in all the domestic associations of which they have been so long deprived. And may the God of all grace grant that no intervening providence may defer their expectations. D. S.

WHITE HOUSE, NEW KENT CO.,
Virginia, May 15, 1862.

DAVID MCKINNEY & CO.:—*Dear Sirs;*—I have belonged to the "Army of the Potomac" nearly a year. During that time my heart, while yearning for the comforts and enjoyments of home, has been greatly cheered by the frequent reception of letters from my friends, and of familiar and valued papers, "directed in a well-known hand." In the Spring, I was most agreeably surprised at receiving several copies of the *Presbyterian Banner,* of which I had enjoyed and prized the reading from its publication till I joined the army.

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh," and in the next letter I sent my friend, I honestly expressed my feelings at seeing my old friend the *Banner,* once more. What was my surprise afterwards to learn that she took the liberty to send an extract from my letter to you to show you that your paper was appreciated and valued and that you not only published the extract, but kindly placed at her disposal an extra copy every week, that she might send it to me. I now take this opportunity to convey to you my heartfelt thanks and to let you know that I have received the papers regularly up to May 3d.

I shall most gladly, if spared by an All-wise Providence, to return home, remit to you the price of the paper. I would do it now had I the money and the opportunity. I shall have money enough when I get what is due me from the Government. I read the papers myself and lend to all who wish to read them. I pray that God may bless you in your efforts to do good in the dissemination of religious truth and principles among the families of our land. The state of religion, I am sorry to say, is low in our regiment, but there are a few who love and endeavor to serve their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and I trust some little influence for good has emanated from them.

Religious papers and tracts are always readily taken and read even by those who seem most careless upon the subject of their soul's welfare.

I hope that *some* of the seed thus sown may eventually, by the blessing of God, spring up and bring forth fruit to his honor and glory.

We are greatly encouraged by the successes which God in his mercy has lately vouchsafed to our armies in different places.

I hope that by his blessing, peace and prosperity may soon return to our afflicted land. We hope soon to be able to direct our letters from Richmond, from which place we are now about twenty-five miles. With great respect, I remain, yours, truly,

A MEMBER OF THE SECOND REGIMENT,
N. J. VOLUNTEERS.

For the Presbyterian Banner.

Striking Passages, Illustrative of Various Scriptures.

NO. VI.

Why gaddest thou about so much to change thy way?—Jer. ii: 36. "There is nothing got by gadding."

Who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.—Heb. xii: 16. "An ill bargain—a birthright for a dish of broth!"

Wherefore hast thou stolen my gods?—Gen. xxxi: 30. "Foolish man, to call those his gods that could be stolen!"

I will be the glory in the midst of her.—Zech. ii: 5. "Israel's God is Israel's glory."

My presence shall go with thee.—Ex. xxxiii: 14. "Those that go where God sends them, shall certainly have God with them."

We will go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.—Zech. viii: 23. "It is good being in favor with those that are in favor with God, and having an interest in them that have an interest in heaven."

He shall give his angels charge over thee.—Ps. xci: 11. "What need have we to dispute whether every particular saint has a guardian angel, when we are sure he has a guard of angels about him?"

My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.—Matt. xv: 22. "With what pleasure can a child be looked upon, that can be looked upon as no other than a child of the devil."

And Judah said, Let her take it to her, lest we be shamed.—Gen. xxxviii: 23. "'Lest we be shamed,' goes farther with some, than 'lest we be damned.'" MAC.

Delivery of Sermons.

God's wisdom is seen in giving prominence to *preaching*—to the *oral* communication of his Word. And he did not ordain preaching to do what the printing press would do as well. He designed that *men* should utter the truth, with the advantage of intonation, gesture, look. And they reflect upon God's wisdom who undervalue a good manner. It is easy to sneer at oratory, and inveigh against the study and practice of the art of elocution. But why not denounce art in *singing* as well as *speaking?* If all must be left to Nature in one case, why not in the other? Nature does not despise art. It is the office of art to lead back to Nature. The rules of oratory, if right, are natural; and he who practices upon them is only conforming to Nature. It is time the vulgar prejudice against ministers learning how to be public speakers was done away with. In a very important sense *manner is matter.* And instead of less attention being given to this in ministerial training, there ought to be very much more. Neglecting this is like teaching cadets in a military school how to make powder and swords, but not teaching them how to use them. Many a minister fails, not from want of ammunition (for he has plenty of that,) but because he cannot "discharge" with effect the well loaded weapon. His sword, (to change the figure) is of the true metal, skilfully forged, and tempered, and polished, but he does not know how to stand up and wield it. Let two ministers preach precisely the same sermon. In one case the hearers are cold, unmoved, inattentive. In the other, they are attracted, convinced, melted. The difference was in the delivery. Who then will deny that, in some sense, manner is matter?

For the Presbyterian Banner.

The Appeal.

Hark! the notes of victory swell,
Sweeping o'er the land to tell
Of a battle, long and well
Fought, and nobly won.
Bow to Heaven the grateful knee,
Shout, "To God the glory be!"
While the banner of the free
Streams in triumph on.

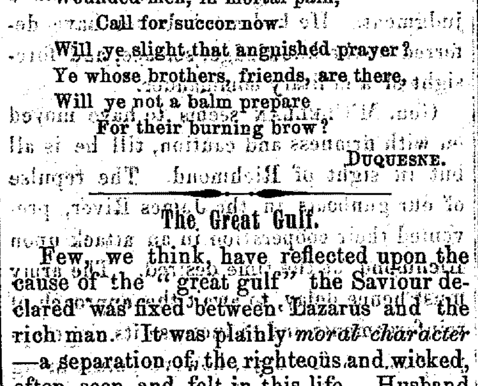
Hearken yet! from heaps of slain,
Covering all the battle plain,
Wounded men, in mortal pain,
Call for succor now!
Will ye slight that anguished prayer?
Ye whose brothers, friends, are there,
Will ye not a balm prepare
For their burning brow?

DUQUESNE.

The Great Gulf.

Few, we think, have reflected upon the cause of the "great gulf" the Saviour declared was fixed between Lazarus and the rich man. It was plainly *moral character*—a separation of the righteous and wicked, often seen and felt in this life. Husband and wife, parent and child, friend and friend, walk the opposite sides of this gulf, deeply, radically distinct, a separation often painfully conscious, in the experience of both. Death makes it *fixed,* puts the seal of eternity to destiny, and the gulf widens and deepens forever.

How precious the span of existence, in which, by the Cross of Christ, the abyss of alienation, and hastening destruction may be safely crossed!



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