

## SOME NEW BOOKS.

Messrs Harper & Brothers have just issued a revised edition of *Barnes's Notes on the Thessalonians, Timothy, Titus, and Philemon*. It is outwardly a neat, unpretending duodecimo volume soberly bound in black cloth. Of the contents it is unnecessary to speak, but we take this occasion of drawing the attention of clergymen, theological students, Sunday School, and Bible-readers generally to this very handy form of a standard work on Biblical literature. (Montreal: Dawson Bros. pp. 303. Price \$1.00.)

*Sylvia's Choice*, (New York: Harper & Brothers. Montreal: Dawson Bros.) by Georgiana M. Craik, author of 'Mildred,' 'The Cousin from India,' etc., etc., forms the 418th number of Harper's well-known series of paper-covered novels. Of the whole four hundred and eighteen it is one of the most unsatisfactory. To gain substantial success a novel should belong to one of two classes; either it must be purely and entirely sensational; or it must show originality of conception and treatment, accompanied by purity of style, vigour of expression, and a not too glaring deviation from the laws of mundane probability. Mrs. Craik's last novel belongs to neither category. The plot is far from new. Of 'situations,' those necessary adjuncts to the novel of the sensational type, there are absolutely none worth speaking of. The style, although it evinces a certain facility in writing, is painfully common-place; and the interest of the reader is, to all appearances, entirely lost sight of. Even with the meagre materials with which the author set to work an attempt might have been made to engage the reader's attention and sympathy. It is not the kind of work that evinces careful and conscientious labour. To use a painter's phrase, it bears every trace of being a 'pot-boiler'—the very worst kind of production for the fame of the producer. Of course it will be read—worse novels by far have obtained perusal before this. The demand for light reading is so great these days that the poorest work of fiction stands a chance. Hence the unlimited supply of 'pot-boilers;' and hence, too, the vitiated tastes of the majority of novel-readers. It is only fair, however, to say of Mrs. Craik's book that it contains no positively objectionable features. It is a good dull novel, spun out in an exasperating manner to the regulation length—a book the perusal of which will do no one the slightest harm, and just as certainly will give the reader no new ideas and a remarkably small amount of entertainment. (Paper, 8vo, pp. 121. Price 50 cents.)

*Salem: A Tale of the Seventeenth Century*, by D. R. Castleton, (New York: Harper and Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.) is a relation in the form of a story—a somewhat disconnected one, it is true—of the events relating to the supposed possession of the New England 'Afflicted Children.' The subject is not a new one. Most readers are familiar with the story of the bewitched children at Salem as told in Longfellow's 'New England Tragedies.' Mr. Castleton has, however, been at some pains to collect the true facts of these cruel persecutions and to incorporate them in a popular form which is likely to attract a larger number of readers than Longfellow's verse. As a story it is hardly up to the mark, and it is considerably disfigured by the introduction of a cruel amount of Scotch and negro dialect. But these are merely minor defects in a work of this kind. The story form is only used as a vehicle to convey facts of historical value; and to give a clearer idea of the little New England community as it then existed—the habits, modes of life and thought of the persons who composed it. The historical portions of the work are claimed to be strictly authentic; such portions having either been copied from the court records or carefully compiled from the most reliable historians. The book is especially adapted for family reading. The subject is one of unalloyed interest, and the mode of treatment skillfully chosen. (Cloth 12mo. Price \$1 25)

The Rev. Leonard Bacon, of New Haven, has just published a work of especial interest to students of religious history, and in the pages of which the omnivorous "general reader" may cull many a choice bit and much valuable information. In *The Genesis of the New England Churches* the author traces, step by step, from the earliest times, the events which led to the exile of the Pilgrim Fathers and their settlement at Plymouth. After first examining the condition of the local churches in the early days of Christianity he follows the gradual changes 'from the Primitive to the Papal,' and from the Papal to the Reformation. At this point he commences work in earnest, and introduces his readers to the leaders of the Puritan and Separatist parties, and narrates concisely the quarrel between these and the National Church, with the long story of persecution and trouble which blackens the page of the ecclesiastical history of the time of Queen Elizabeth. He paints in vivid colours the sufferings of the Separatist leaders, the struggles of the little colonies at Amsterdam and Leyden, and finally the voyage at the 'Mayflower' and the trials that beset the young settlement of Plymouth. The theme is one that many an author might envy, and Mr. Bacon throws his whole soul into his work. He identifies himself throughout with the pious band of Pilgrims, and his narration reads at times almost as the work of one of their number. He is evidently proud of his work and labours at it with a will, giving us as the result a book full of sound, hard reasoning, eloquent language, vivid description, and intensely interesting detail—a book that may be read and re-read with both pleasure and profit. (New York: Harper & Brothers. Montreal: Dawson Bros. Cloth. 12mo. Illustrated, pp. 4-5. Price \$2.50.)

## THE GLEANER.

A careful reader of the synoptic gospels has come to the conclusion that Jesus was a blonde. He conceives him as tall, not quite six feet high, fair and somewhat florid countenance, a hazel-eyed and fair-haired, well-formed body; soft uncalloused hands; full sized nose, mouth and chin; large chest.

A writer says tradition makes the apostle Paul of dwarfish stature, sallow complexion, ascetic, holding unspiritual views of marriage, unsympathetic, per-e-vering.

A labor reformer tersely defines money to be "a baggage check for the transfer of money."

How old governor Wentworth, of New Hampshire, married Martha Tilton, his maid servant.

Without stating his purpose to any one, he invited a number of friends, among them Rev. Arthur Brown, to dine with him at Little Harbor, on his birthday. After the dinner, when the guests were discussing their pipes, Martha glided into the room and stood blushing in front of the chimney place. The guests stared at each other and particularly at her. The Governor rising from his seat,

"Played slightly with his ruffles, then looked down,  
And said unto the Reverend Arthur Brown,  
This is my birthday; it shall also be  
My wedding day; and you shall marry me."

The rector was dumbfounded and could think of nothing cleverer to say than,

"To whom, your Excellency?"

"To this lady," replied the Governor, taking Martha Tilton by the hand.

The Reverend Arthur Brown hesitated.

"As the Chief Magistrate of New Hampshire, I command you to marry me!" cried the firm old governor. And so it was done. And so the pretty kitchen-maid became Lady Wentworth.

The value of a comma.

When the American Senate was debating the Tariff Bill in 1872, the following amendment was unanimously agreed to:

"Insert on page 25, section 5th, after line 293: "fruit plants, tropical and semi-tropical, for the purpose of propagation and cultivation."

When the Senate engrossing clerk came to write out the amendment, the word "fruit" was above the line in which "ninety-three," "plants," &c., were written; and evidently from the inverted angle before the word "plant," was meant to be written before "plants, tropical" &c. So he put it and set a comma after it, making it "fruits, plants tropical, semi-tropical, &c."

The House concurred in the amendment as it was written, with the comma in, and in that shape it went to the President, and put fruits on the free list, according to the construction of the Secretary. It is probably the largest small mistake which has ever occurred in legislation, being estimated to have deprived the revenue, up to this time, of about \$2,000,000.

It has been truly said that if there were less scruple in dress at church, people in moderate circumstances would be more inclined to attend. Also, that universal moderation in dress at church would improve the worship by the removal of many wandering thoughts.

There is a mystery about the effect of the weather on piety. Sabbath heat seems hotter, Sabbath cold colder, and rain wetter than that of any other day. We need a Sabbath almanac, calculated for churches, that will show by its weather scale when it will be safe for a vigorous Christian to expose himself on the Sabbath by going to the house of God.

Hydrophobia is not unfrequently a disease purely of the imagination, but where the virus has really been introduced, wet-sheet packs will take the poison out much more effectually than anything else.

A correspondent asks, "Why keep dogs at all, especially in cities?" Bad dogs kill more than six millions of dollars of sheep in the United States every year.

A magazine writer on character-reading, says truly that mothers should study the mental dispositions of their children, their physical constitutions, their tendency to virtue and to vice, as well as they study the fashion-plates and the luxurious cook-books.

C. C. Lord, like most men, never saves a newspaper, but he reads with a pencil in hand to mark passages or articles which he cuts out and puts away in large sized envelopes. He hopes thus to create a little private encyclopædia. Perhaps he will. But it is more likely, that as hundreds have done before him, he will one day get tired of his hundreds of bulging envelopes and consign them to the fire, with or without an oath, according as his patience is more or less exhausted.

Fine hair does not signify either a quick or a slow temper, but a fine-grained organization, a quick discernment and much susceptibility.

It hath been truly said that many young men now wasting midnight kerosene in reading ten-cent romances will be the leaders of progress—the bar-tenders and pea-nut kings of the side walk—ten years hence.

That man is voted a bore who persists in talking about himself when you wish to talk about yourself.

CANAL EXCAVATION.—It is satisfactory to know that Montreal is awakening to the importance of doing something towards improving the carrying facilities of the Lachine Canal. The works of excavation near the canal basin are progressing favourably, and will afford increased accommodation for vessels of deeper draught or increased tonnage. In connection with the enlargement of our whole canal system, these improvements are very timely indeed. Similar excavations are contemplated higher up at Point St. Charles.

## THE STORY OF THE CABBAGE.

A writer in an English magazine, says:—It is recorded that cabbages were first introduced into the North of Scotland by the soldiers of Cromwell, who is stated, in London's "Encyc. Gard.," to have been a great promoter of agriculture, and the useful branches of gardening, and encouraged his soldiers to introduce all the best improvements wherever they went; but in Johnson's "Useful Plants of Great Britain" the notion is contradicted, and an observation made that kale-yards were to be found round the Scottish houses centuries before the Round-heads crossed the Border. The colonies of German fishermen from Cuxhaven and the adjacent places, which peopled the coast of the central parts of East Scotland, are supposed to have brought with them their national love of brassica, and to have introduced some species of those plants, at a very early period, into this part of Scotland, which is more peculiarly "the land of kale." There the cabbage and open colewort are in equal favour, giving the name of kale to a soup of which they form the principal ingredients, the outside leaves and the stalks of the plants falling to the share of the cattle. Many allusions in the old Scotch songs point to the fact of the country about Aberdeen abounding with this vegetable. In recommending the good fare of the country, the poet says,—

"There's could kail in Aberdeen,  
An' castocks in Strabogie."

Cabbage-stems having the fibrous part peeled off and the remainder softened by water, were called castock. Before the introduction of turnips into Scotland, this medullary substance of the stalks of brassica was very commonly eaten by the peasantry. The "Kale-brose o' auld Scotland" is celebrated to the same tune as the "Roast Beef of old England," and though, with many other ancient peculiarities of the people, it has fallen into disuse, it is still considered a national dish. A variety called cow-cabbage was introduced some years ago from La Vendée by Comte de Puységur. The proximity of this department to the ancient province of Anjou, and the description of the plant, leaves no doubt of its identity with the Angou cabbage, a very large variety described in Mill's "Husbandry," vol. iii. In 1827 thirty-six seeds were divided among six agriculturists for the purpose of raising this useful vegetable in England; some of the seeds produced plants of luxuriant growth. But it is in Jersey they are cultivated most successfully, and where they partake of a tree-like character, a peculiarity partly owing to the custom of the peasantry removing the lower leaves almost daily to feed their cows. Thus the cabbage-gardens in Jersey have somewhat the appearance of a little grove of palms. The average height of these plants is about six feet; but when grown in the shade are much taller. They are used for a variety of purposes: the stout ones are employed as cross-spars for the roofs and thatch of small farm-buildings, cottages, &c., and, if kept dry, are said to last many years. The smaller stocks are converted into walking-sticks (Jersey canes) look very nicely when varnished, and are largely purchased by tourists to the island during the summer months. The cauliflower is the most delicate variety of the genus. This vegetable is stated to have come originally from Cyprus (where it is said to have obtained a high perfection) to Italy, from whence it moved slowly to the Netherlands, and reached England about the beginning of the seventeenth century. It was only seen at that time at the tables of the opulent. The broccoli is considered a sub variety of the cauliflower, and is scarcely distinguished botanically from that plant. The stem of the broccoli is rather longer, and the flower-heads smaller. They also possess a greater variety of colours, being sometimes quite green, as well as purple and yellow. A large number of forms are reared in our gardens. Kohl-Rabi is another singular variety; the stem is tumid and somewhat globose at the origin of the leaf, which gives it the appearance of a turnip. In its young state it is sometimes noticed as a vegetable, but is more generally grown for feeding cattle.

## HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Evening Bulletin* has been visiting Hans Christian Andersen at a suburb of Copenhagen, and writes of a dinner given by some friends with whom he was staying, as follows:

Instead of simply meeting the Melchior family and their distinguished guest, as we expected, we found quite a party of their friends on our arrival, among whom was the poet, Carl Andersen, and two other Danish poets. H. C. Andersen came forward and greeted us in his friendly, earnest manner, as though he were really pleased to see us: he wore a red and white ribbon around his neck, to which was suspended a Danish order. Though we were surrounded by strange faces we soon felt at home in this pleasant, social gathering. On being seated at the dinner-table, I observed a pretty bouquet at each plate, and was informed by our host, at whose right I sat, that Mr. Andersen made them all, that he was in the