

"FUTURE PUNISHMENT," by Wm. Cochrane, D.D. We have recently seen a copy of this work and confess that we are greatly disappointed with it. Not with the author's part of the work; that fully sustains Dr. Cochrane in his well-won position as an author. But the publisher's work is not equally satisfactory. The book seems to us to be poorly bound; the cover tastelessly decorated with profuse gilding and grotesque figures reminding one of Chinese representations of spirits in torment. The title page seems elaborately got up for display; and to crown all, there are scattered through the pages of the work a number of Gustave Dore's illustrations designed for Dante's "Inferno," and "Divina Comedia." Now, to say nothing of the fact that there seems to be no connection between the portion of the text where these appear and the illustrations, is it not rather incongruous to scatter through the pages of a popular theological work, illustrations designed for a highly imaginative poem? "Future Punishment—Illustrated," is not one of the books we would put into the hands of a person suspected of heresy on that particular doctrine.

EXCHANGES.—It is with regret that we take leave of our Exchanges for the present session. We have become attached to them, and their regular appearance on our table has given us real pleasure. They have been worthy of our respect. College journalism has advanced during the past few years. This year's exchanges are considerably superior to those received in '82. Then, too, the MONTHLY has, on the whole, been well received by our exchanges this year. Criticisms, with few exceptions, have been favorable. Some have complained of the MONTHLY as being "solid" and "sound"—terms of commendation in these days when solidity and soundness are so much needed. It is complimentary rather than otherwise to say—as one has said in the course of a somewhat caustic review—that the MONTHLY is not the kind of journal one would take up to read between lectures or when tired. Writers in the MONTHLY write because they have something worth saying, and its readers are not expected to read simply for pastime. We wrote replies, on several occasions, to some of these criticisms, but, through miscalculations on the part of the printer, they never got beyond the proof-reader. For this we are now thankful. Anybody can be cynical or sarcastic. It does not require much brains to write bitter things. Any crank can find fault. He only is helpful who shows the more excellent way. Besides, on reviewing the year's work we feel that our exchanges deserve praise, not censure. They have undoubtedly tried to do their best under the circumstances. They know their resources, and have made an estimate of their constituents. They probably know the majority of their readers, and whether they like "strong meat," or a milksop. Not knowing these things, we give no gratuitous advice, but commend whatever is good in each journal, believing that if there has been anything unworthy the editors have already found it out, and know best how and where improvement should be made. We bespeak for our successors on the Editorial Staff the same kindly consideration we have been favored with; and we assure our exchanges that, as they have been welcome visitors to us, so will they be next year, to our successors.

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