

## Literary Notices.

AIMÉE: A Tale of the Days of James the Second. By Agnes Giberne. New York: Robert Carter & Bros.

This is a touching tale of a Huguenot girl who escaped with great difficulty and danger from France to England, where she found for years a dwelling-place with distant relatives. The troubles and persecutions which occurred in the time of James the Second form an important part of the story, and we recommend it to those who wish to obtain a clear idea of the history of that period. The deliberate way in which King James, at first popular and beloved, alienated from himself the affection of his people, and the ruthlessness with which he trampled upon rights and liberty are well depicted in the course of the story. Among other matters the author gives a full account of the popular sympathy with the seven bishops who petitioned against the illegal Declaration of Indulgence which the King had ordered to be read in the churches. We copy as much of the story as our space permits. Of course our readers are aware that the Bishop Ken here referred to was the author of the beautiful Evening Hymn with which every one is familiar:

Late in the evening of Friday, the eighteenth of June, six grave and elderly men, in episcopal dress, were seen crossing the Thames to Whitehall. It was an unusual spectacle, and excited considerable wonder among lookers-on. Alleyne Men-teith, who was refreshing himself by an hour on the river, after long confinement in his brother's sick room, happened to be passing at that moment, and gazed in astonishment.

"Looks as if something was in the wind, don't it, sir?" remarked the weather-beaten boatman at his side. "Their lordships, the Bishops, don't go to court in parties of six for nothing."

"Ha! Bishop Ken. I thought so!" exclaimed Alleyne, lifting his hat, as he recognized the mild pleasant manly face, and unaffected benevolence of expression which, once seen, were not easily forgotten. "And Bishop Trelawny by his side."

Quietly the Bishops landed on the opposite bank of the river, and speedily disap-

peared from Alleyne's vision. One of their number was sent as a delegate to the Earl of Sunderland, the others waiting patiently meanwhile for the result of the interview. In no long time he returned, bearing the somewhat unexpected news that the King was ready at once to receive them. Had Lord Sunderland explained to His Majesty the purport of the petition they bore with them? No; the crafty minister had declined to have anything to do with reading it. What matter. They would see the King, and explain for themselves.

With a grave and steadfast demeanor the six prelates entered the royal closet. James stood smiling to receive them, and greeted them with unlooked-for graciousness. He received the petition which they offered him, recognizing and remarking on the handwriting, and proceeding at once to its perusal.

Ha! what was this? No mere request for a slight alteration or modification of his command, as he expected. What did their lordships mean? The King's face grew dark with passion as he read,—

"To the King's most excellent Majesty. The humble petition of William, Archbishop of Canterbury, and of divers of the suffragan bishops of that province, now present with him, in behalf of themselves and others of their absent brethren, and of the Clergy of their respective dioceses,

"HUMBLY SHOWETH,

"That the great averseness they find in themselves, to the distributing and publishing in all their churches, your Majesty's late Declaration for Liberty of Conscience, proceedeth neither from any want of duty and obedience to your Majesty; our holy mother the Church of England being, both in her principles and consistent practice, unquestionably loyal, and having (to her great honor) been more than once publicly acknowledged to be so by your gracious Majesty; nor yet from any want of due tenderness to Dissenters, in relation to whom they are willing to come to such a temper as shall be thought fit, when the matter shall be considered and settled in Parliament and Convocation; but among many other circumstances, from this especially, because that Declaration is founded upon such a Dispensing Power, as hath often been declared illegal in Parliament, and particularly in the years 1662 and 1672, and in the beginning of your Majesty's reign, and is a question of so great moment and consequence to the whole nation, both in Church and State, that your petitioners cannot in