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*Myths and Marvels of Astronomy.*

By R. A. PROCTOR. New York : R. Worthington. Toronto : Wm. Briggs. 8vo., pp. 363. Scarlet cloth, gilt top. Price \$3.25.

No man has done more, in recent times, to popularize, by his books and lectures, the marvels of astronomy, than Richard Proctor. In this volume are collected a number of the most attractive of his late contributions to various periodicals. The longest paper, one of fifty pages on astrology, exhibits the extraordinary credulity of the human mind, from the earliest to the latest times, in the influence of the stars on human destiny, and in astrology to read the future. This belief has left its impress on our very language in such expressions as disaster, good and evil stars, and mercurial, martial, jovial, saturnine, lunatic, horoscope, omen, augury, in the ascendent, and in the very names of the days of the week. By means of diagrams the author shows the methods of casting nativities, and gives, with all the jargon of the tribe, the horoscope of the Prince of Wales and other public persons. Such superstition is an anachronism in this nineteenth century, like a belated ghost of night lingering in the light of day. Yet probably no almanac in the world has such a sale as that of Zäckiel, the famous London astrologer.

Two of the essays discuss the mystery of the Pyramids, in which the author severely criticizes the sort of religion which Piazzi Smyth founds upon them, and claims that they were structures for casting the nativities of the Pharaohs. An interesting account of the famous lunar hoax of 1835, purporting to be an account of the discovery of inhabitants in the moon; the latest facts in astronomy with no respect to the sun, moon, and comets; and interesting papers on astronomical myths, paradoxes, the origin of the constellation-figures, Swedenborg's visions of other worlds, etc., are also given. Mr. Proctor has a singular

faculty for making the obscure plain, but he makes an excessive use of one word which mars his otherwise admirable style; that is the word "bizarre" which occurs in almost everything he writes

*Father Taylor, the Sailor Preacher.*

By the Rev. GILBERT HAVEN and Hon. THOS. RUSSELL. 12mo., pp. 445. New York : Phillips & Hunt. Toronto : Wm. Briggs. Price \$1.50.

For over forty years, "Father Taylor" was one of the most notable men, and his seamen's Bethel one of the most notable institutions of Boston. He has been sketched by such accomplished writers as Harriet Martineau, Charles Dickens, Frederic a Bremer, and Mrs. Jamieson; and in him Gilbert Haven found a congenial theme for his graphic pen. The Sailor Preacher was a most extraordinary man. Brought up before the mast, he was five-and-twenty before he learned to read. But he was a genius, a poet, and an orator. He was wonderfully dramatic in his preaching, full of fire and pathos, and swayed his sailor audiences as the winds the sea. He abounded in quaint oddities and queer sayings and figures—of blended wit and wisdom—and the whole was suffused with a passionate love for souls. Few men have been more lovable in their character and at the same time more strikingly original than he. In every port and on every sea the name of Father Taylor causes a glow of sympathy and love to mantle on the cheeks of bronzed veterans—"rough with the salt of the sea, brown with the brand of the sun." His good wife, "Mother Taylor," was a fit helpmate for her eccentric spouse. Their portraits, and engravings of their home and of the Sailor's Bethel grace the volume, which is one of unique and absorbing interest. We shall shortly give from a skilful pen a sketch of this remarkable man.

*Calendar of the University of Victoria College, 1881.*

The growth and development of this oldest chartered University in the Dominion is a ground of congra-