

We recommend elders, trustees, and deacons, to purchase copies of this book for the use of their ministers.

*A Voyage up the River Amazon, including a residence at Pará.* By WILLIAM H. EDWARDS. New York: D. APPLETON & Co. 12mo. pp. 256.

This is one of the volumes of Appleton's "Literary Miscellany." It is an excellent addition to the series, being instructive as well as entertaining.

Mr. Edwards sailed from New York February 9, 1846, and reached Pará, on the River Amazon, in little more than three weeks. In the following May he left Pará, on a voyage up the Amazon, which occupied him about fourteen weeks, giving him excellent opportunities for observation, and severely testing his powers of endurance. He had proceeded a thousand miles before he retraced his course: he might have proceeded a thousand more without experiencing any very serious obstacle. On his return, he made several excursions in the neighbourhood of Pará, and left that city for New York in the latter end of October. The volume before us furnishes the details of his proceedings and adventures.

The country visited by Mr. Edwards is as yet but little known either by Europeans or Americans. It may be safely predicted that not many years will pass away without effecting a great change in that respect. An almost boundless field for enterprise is there presented: the soil is fertile,—the climate is generally healthy,—the means of internal communication are ample,—and there is a constant demand for the peculiar produce and manufactures of the country. When the introduction of labor-saving machinery shall have facilitated cultivation, and steamers ply on the Amazon, and commerce, freed from vexatious restrictions, shall have excited the industrious energies of the people, the district of Pará will be the abode of wealth, civilization, and, we will hope, of religion, of which it is now deplorably destitute, as we gather from the very few and imperfect notices of the subject in this book.

The author is a zealous naturalist. He made good use of his gun, and took with him to New York a large variety

of ornithological specimens, besides beautiful shells in abundance. Many of the facts and observations recorded by him are of an interesting nature.

Ants abound, of all sizes and colours, some of them an inch or more in length. They are extremely serviceable in the removal of decaying vegetation. Armies of them, two or three feet wide, and of interminable length, are sometimes encountered in the woods. It is necessary to get out of their way, as they turn aside for no one, and the traveller may be covered in a moment, though not at all to his comfort.

It was observed that many of the birds' nests were arched over above, to keep out the sun's heat.

The *Masseranduba*, or Cow-tree, when an incision is made, yields a substance resembling cream in appearance, which may be used with tea or coffee, if real milk cannot be procured.

Mr. E. caught a spider, across whose outstretched legs none of the party could span, and whose "sharp teeth were like hawk's claws."

An "ant battle" is thus described:—

"The combatants were a species of small black ants, and a red variety, equally small. Coming in long lines from different directions, it seemed as if they had previously passed a challenge, and had selected the ground for their deadly strife. The front ranks met and grappled, toiling like wrestlers, biting and stinging; they soon fell, exhausted and in the death agony. Others fought over their bodies, and likewise fell; and still, continually, over the increasing pile, poured on the rows of survivors, fighting, for several days in succession, until a pile, of a peck or more, lay like a pyramid. They marched to certain death, and had their size been proportionate to their courage, these battle-fields had mocked earth's bloodiest."

Having observed that most of the fish they had seen "had broad flat heads, and corresponding mouths," the utility of this formation was discovered on opening the stomach of one of them, which was filled with crabs, that had been "gathered from the bottom of the river."

In the early part of the dry season, the turtles ascend the Amazon, to de-