

Literary Notices.

EARTHLY WATCHES AT HEAVENLY GATES: The False and True Spiritualism. By the Rev. John Chester, D.D., Pastor of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, Washington, D. C. There are always many people ready to be duped by spiritualism. The desire to know something of the condition and the experiences of those who have gone from the earth, and also to hold communication with them, is very apt to spring up in the hearts, especially of a certain class of bereaved people. Though spiritualism has been exposed so often yet there are always those who are silly enough to turn to it with a kind of hope. Dr. Chester's book while showing much of the absurdity of spiritualism also aims to show the nobleness of true Bible spiritualism, inasmuch as the Scriptures fully answer all proper inquiries concerning the state of the dead; and the communion of saints through Christ and the Holy Spirit yields far more real comfort than could come through any seance though communication were possible. This book contains a slight thread of story with a view to make the book more popular. It will do good. Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia. Price \$1.25. MacGregor & Knight, 125 Granville St., Halifax, N. S.

TALKS BY THE SEASHORE. By Ella Rodman Church. This is another volume added to the delightful series of "Talks" about various classes of natural objects, which this author has been giving the young people during the last few years. In some respects this will prove the most interesting of all, inasmuch as to most young people the objects explained are less familiarly known than those considered in former volumes. Then there is to most people a charm about the hidden life of the deep sea that makes any glimpse of it fascinating. This book, like its predecessors, gives its information, not in dry, scientific, school-book form, but in conversation between the bright young governess and her children. Readers will find here a large amount of knowledge, gathered from many sources, about the strange wonders of the world by itself which lies under the waves. Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication. 16mo. Fifty-five illustrations. Price, \$1.25. MacGregor & Knight, Halifax.

DR. GUTHRIE AND THE SCOTTISH SABBATH.

The habits of strict discipline and Sabbath observance which prevailed in his youth, Dr. Guthrie afterwards looked upon as a valuable means of training the young in habits of patient endurance, obedience, and self-denial, and in giving to Scotsmen that thoughtful and intellectual cast and hard-heartedness which has made them so successful in pushing their fortunes in the world.

Speaking of the sneers which had been levelled at Scotch Sabbath observance, he says: "The best answer I can perhaps furnish to these libels affecting Scotland, is to draw an honest and candid picture of the manner in which the Lord's Day was observed in the home of my youth.

Conversation about the ordinary business of life was not engaged in nor allowed. No letters were taken from the post-office, nor any but religious books read. Nor were the newspapers looked at, although in these days our armies were in the battle-field fighting the French. No walk was taken but in the garden and to church, which we attended regularly both forenoon and afternoon.

In the evening, my father, who had the Catechism—the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly of Divines—at his finger-ends, as they say, used to put us through our drill as to its questions and theology.

I think I see him still in his knee-breeches, white woolen stockings, and white cravat—his costume both on Sunday and Saturday—tall, erect, his dark, crisped hair dashed with gray, walking up and down the floor of the dining-room, as was his wont, with nine children and three women servants ranged up by the walls, each in turn having a question to answer. Besides this, the youngers had to repeat portions of the Psalms which they had committed to memory, and also the texts of the day, while an elder brother, who had a powerful intellect and gigantic memory, gave a summary of the sermons. The Sabbath passed away like a flood that fertilizes the land it overflows, leaving a blessing behind it."

At the eighth Synod of the Old Catholics in Austria, it was resolved to request the British and Foreign Bible Society to supply the body with Bibles.