

LITERATURE.

TRAVELS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. By Sir J. Alexander. London: Colburn. 2 vols. 8vo.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alexander must be known to many of our readers as the most enterprising traveller of modern times. For thirteen years his foot has scarcely quitted the stirrup, and whether warring against the Burmese, galloping through Persia, careering with the Cossacks against the Osmanlis, checking negro disturbances in the West Indies, passing at full speed through the back woods of America scattering the Caffers, or, as now, boldly making his way where the foot of white man before had never trod, we find him the same high-hearted soldier full of nationality, enthusiastic alike for his profession, his country, and his Queen. We know no traveller, except Bruce, who contrives to render his works so completely readable by omitting every-thing of no moment, and simply telling what really deserves remark. It would be difficult to abridge these volumes, for there is not a single passage we should desire to see removed. A Whig bookmaker would have expanded them into a couple of quartos.

Hitherto we had thought the Tasmanian of all savages the lowest, but from this officer's account the Bushmen of the hills are yet more debased. Worship, moral principle, or even decency, have they none, and only by skill in preparing poison do they evince the smallest portion of even animal sagacity. A singular anecdote, by the way, is mentioned of one of these beings, who, chased a lion, escaped up a tree. The mighty brute, confident of his victim, lay down at the foot. Hours passed away without prospect of relief, when at last the bough on which the African sat broke and precipitated him on the lion's head: this proved his safety. The monster, startled at the sudden shock, sprang up, bellowed awfully, and scoured away with the speed of lightning. Many of these animals fell by the carbine of Sir James, who discovered several new species, one of which is wholly white.

The lion seems, however, a contemptible foe compared to the rhinoceros, which, after receiving sixty or seventy bullets, often continues to charge, and can only be brought down by a shot passing through the eye or the carotid artery. Of this creature also a white species was discovered, but unlike its black brother, it is excessively timid, and could never be brought within rifle range.

Serpents swarmed in all quarters, yet injured none of the detachment, whose chief, however, suffered temporary lameness from the bite of a poisonous spider on his bare ankle. Snakes, serpents, scorpions, lions and leopards, appear nevertheless to have proved small annoyances compared to the want of water, which more than once seemed to insure destruction of the whole party by a lingering death. The description of their agony in the desert is most touching, and the pain displayed by the Colonel at the sight of his aged war-horse expiring on the sand, does credit to his heart.

The results of this expedition were not unimportant. After incurring more risk than in all his battles, and although a young officer he has seen many brave men fall by his side, the Colonel succeeded in ascertaining that there existed upon the banks of the Orange River a vast tract of high value and perfectly accessible, now that he has ascertained and fixed the route. Copper mines of uncommon value abound, and what is more important the land whilst enabling the colonists to rival as sheep farmers, the fortunate Australians seem likely to furnish them with the means of monopolising the wine market both at Sydney and Tasmania.

If it were just to find fault with one who has suffered so much for rational advantage, we might say that his prejudices against the Dutch boers seem unreasonably strong. It admits, however, of much excuse; for the fiery spirit of the Highland race to which danger is but play, and amuse a sport, contrast somewhat strangely with that of the cold, calculating, cautious farmers whose sole object is to grow competent with the slightest possible degree of trouble, and

who deem it the height of human happiness to devour five pounds' weight of mutton a day. The Highland aversion to fat is well known, and the opposite mode of fighting chosen by the two races is not less remarkable than the difference of their tastes in peaceful life, since the boer always uses a rifle, carrying a ball the size of a walnut to hit his enemy half a mile off whilst the Highlander loves at once, without firing, to close with steel; and we doubt whether Scotland has produced any son bearing more strongly than Sir James Alexander her distinctive marks.—*Ch. of Eng. Gazette.*

A brief History of the Church of Upper Canada, containing the Acts of Parliament, Imperial and Provincial: Royal Institutions, Proceedings of the Deputation, Correspondence with the Government, Clergy Reserves Question, &c. By the Rev. William Beltridge, B. D. Rector of Woodstock, Upper Canada, one of the Deputation from the late Bishop of Quebec, the Bishop of Montreal, &c. London—Simpkin and Marshal. 1838.

Although we have before mentioned and recommended this work in another way, we think it right to give it this formal notice, in consequence of the documentary matter which it contains, and of the profit arising from its sale being devoted to the good cause of the Church in Canada, which, like the rest of our colonies, has been most treacherously and scandalously treated by our Whig Government, who have sacrificed the interests of the Church to the demon of popery, which, with its agitation and rebellion, is driving this country to a pretty expense, in addition to the money which the priests are directly receiving in the form of annual salaries and gratuities. Newfoundland, for instance, is at this moment on the eve of rebellion through the concessions granted, on the Irish instalment system, to the Romish communion, who are clamouring and striving for ascendancy and independence there as in Ireland. However, we cannot enter here into the whole question, as our object is to recommend the pamphlet above-mentioned to the notice of Churchmen generally. As intimated above, the profits of the work are devoted to the support of the Church in Canada, and consequently, if it were not worth the price, the money would not be thrown away, but appropriated to the best purposes. The work contains a great deal of useful information on the ecclesiastical affairs of Canada, and will be read by every Clergyman and sound Churchman with great interest. Mr. Beltridge has rendered great service to the good cause which he has so warmly espoused.—*Ibid.*

THE CHRISTIAN KEEPSAKE, 1839, edited by Rev. John A. Clark: Philadelphia. W. Marshall & Co.

This Annual for 1839 is now before us. Though the editor is one of our partners and fellow-labourers in the Recorder, yet in his absence from our office we may, without indelicacy, anticipate the judgment of the public respecting this book. The Christian Keepsake for 1838 was adjudged to be the most perfect of its kind issued from the press that year. We are very sure that the volume for 1839, now before us, will be pronounced even much superior to its predecessor. The engravings are finished in the best style, and do the very highest credit to the artists. The first one is a very good likeness of the President of the House of Bishops, Bishop Griswold, of whose life and character we have a sketch in the beginning of the volume, by one who is thoroughly acquainted with him. The letter press is much superior to any specimens we have seen of other like publications. The matter we have had but little time to examine, but the names of the contributors are a warrant that in this, the work will hold the first rank in the host of annuals. It is such as a Christian may put before his family with an assurance that while the taste is pleased, the mind will be improved in the best sense. The best religious writers of our country, and some of the best in England, contribute to the work. If it should be displayed generally on the counters of our booksellers, we think that this edition will hardly be suffered to wait till presents for Christmas and New Year are wanted.—*Epis. Rec.*

a ground of hope and confidence, David here sees, that God, by the mouth of a holy prophet, spoken and promised him the success, for which prayed in the foregoing verse.

Gilead is mine and Manasseh is mine, Ephraim the strength of my head; Judah is my Lauvger.

Gilead, Manasseh, Ephraim," and the other tribes of Israel, upon the death of Ishbosheth the son of whom Abner had set over them, joined the tribe of Judah, and came in with one accord to the house of David. See 2 Sam. ii. 8. and v. 1. Ephraim," as a tribe abounding in valiant men, is called by its prince, "the strength of his head," the support of his life and kingdom; and "Judah," the seat of empire, replenished with men of wisdom and understanding, qualified to assist the throne by their salutary counsels, is dignified with the title "Lauvger." Thus are the tribes of the spiritual "kingdom" subject to Messiah, and serve him in various capacities, as the Spirit furnishes different men with different powers; some being endued with zeal and aptitude to labour and suffer; others with knowledge and discretion to instruct and govern.

Moab is my wash-pot, over Edom will I cast out, and tread my shoe; Philistia, triumph thou because of Heb. Over Philistia give a shout of triumph.

The absolute reduction of these nations under his dominion, is expressed metaphorically, by the phrases "making them his wash-pot, and extending his shoe, setting his foot" upon them. The Son of David must "reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet," 1 Cor. xv. 25. And the Christian, in these days, now declareth his hope of being enabled to do the same; to conquer through his Lord, and to triumph with him.

Who will bring me into the strong city? Who shall lead me into Edom?

Bozrah, the capital of "Idumea, or Edom," was fortified town, situated on a rock, deemed impregnable. Considering therefore the strength of the adversary, David, by this question, acknowledgeth his impotency, and the need he had of superior aid to achieve this important conquest. How great then, have we of an Almighty Saviour, who enable us to overcome our last and strongest enemies! And it is very remarkable, that Christ's victory over this very enemy is set forth by the prophesied, under the striking image of a king of Israel returning, in triumph, from the reduction of Edom. "Who is this that cometh from Edom, with garments from Bozrah," &c. Isaiah lxxiii. 1.

Will not thou, O God, which hadst cast us off? Will not thou, O God, which didst not go out with our army?

The question in the last verse, "Who will bring me into Edom?" is here answered by another question, "Will not thou, O God," &c. that is, To whom shall we have recourse, for assistance but to thee; do thou go forth with us, and we shall again rise superior to our enemy. So saith the christian soldier; to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of promise; Thou hast overcome the sharpness of death, and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES.

Conservative principles, I mean the maintenance of the prerogative of the Monarch, the maintenance of the just powers and attributes of Queen, Lords and Commons of the country, and the determination to resist every encroachment which can be made on the just right and settled privileges of one or the other of those three branches of the Constitution. By conservative principles, we mean, that co-existence with the equality of civil rights and privileges, shall be an ESTABLISHED RELIGION, paid and supported by the State; and that this established religion shall maintain the doctrines of the PROTESTANT FAITH.—*Sir R. Peel.*