

Normandy and Brittany are almost part of England in their historic associations, but with the addition of those provinces a rare charm. Another delightful excursion was up the Loire and into the volcanic Auvergne and historic Cevennes. Beautiful Provence and Vaucluse, the Alps of the Dauphine and the Jura, the Pyrenees and the Vosges, the ancient cities of Arles, Nimes, Vienne, and Avignoa; Fontainebleau, Versailles, and Paris with its memories of princely pageants, of crime and blood, are all visited and described "with pen and pencil." Many of the engravings are superb, especially those of the bewildering beauty of Beauvais cathedral, Mont St. Michel, the Grande Chartreuse, the Salles des Gardes at Dijon, the Pic du Midi in the Pyrenees, and the tower of St. Jacques at Paris. Many of these are by French artists, and have a special characteristic expression.

Lectures on the History of the Jewish Church. By ARTHUR PENRHYN STANLEY, D.D., Dean of Westminster. Third series. From the Captivity to the Christian era. 8vo., pp. xxxvi.-549. New York: Scribner & Co., and Methodist Book-Rooms. Price, \$2.50.

Although this book was published a year ago, we have not had time to read it for review till now. It is marked by the same brilliant and solid qualities as its predecessors in the series. But it will possess to most readers a superior interest, as having more numerous points of contact with the great empires of antiquity, and as bridging the interval between the Old and New Testament. Prideaux's and Davidson's "Connexions," good as they were for the time of their production, are forever superseded by these noble lectures. They are written in that pure limpid English of which Dean Stanley is such a master, and are illuminated with a thousand side-lights from his encyclopædic readings, ancient and modern. The

chapters on the Captivity and Return of the Jewish exiles are, to us, the least satisfactory portion of the book. The learned Dean makes too free, we think, with the generally accepted opinions on the authorship of the later books of the Sacred Canon, and we are by no means convinced of the correctness of his theory of the twofold origin of the prophecies of Isaiah. The remarks on the doctrines of angels and devils, as a religious evolution of the period of the captivity, are striking, in some respects startling, yet they are entitled to a careful examination, but not, we think, to such weight as has been attached to them.

With the rest of the book, there is less ground for divergence of opinion. The chapter on the life and character of Socrates, and on the reflex influence of Greek and Jewish thought, is marked by a noble eloquence and wide sympathy. The parti-coloured life of Alexandria, and its syncretic philosophy, receive luminous treatment in these pages. The heroic struggles of the Maccabees are recounted with kindling enthusiasm. The Apocryphal literature of the intercanonical hiatus is judiciously discussed. With the Roman Period and the tragic story of the ill-fated house of Herod, we are brought down to the Gospel narrative. The account of the rise of the Jewish sects, of the religious parties, and of the social life of the Jews at the time of the Advent is full of instruction and suggestion. Another series, treating the Gospel period, will, if Providence permit, worthily crown the labours of a noble and beautiful life.

The Methodist Quarterly Review for January, 1879.

This grand old Quarterly now enters upon its 61st volume. It is embellished with a life-like steel portrait of its veteran editor Dr. Whedon, looking more alert than many a man half his age. It is a portrait that very many who have never beheld him in the flesh will like to see. It is accompanied by a biographic sketch by Bishop Haven.