

LITERARY.

The eighth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" is in course of publication by Messrs. A. & C. Black, Edinburgh. Twelve volumes 4to. have already appeared. The entire work is carefully revised, copiously illustrated, and enriched by new contributions from eminent living writers—as Macaulay, Henry Rogers, Kingsley, and Dr. W. C. Alexander. Unfortunately, the cost of the Encyclopædia will keep it out of the hands of many to whom it would be of the highest service. Friends who wish to make a welcome present to a Minister of the Gospel, or to any man of literary habits and tastes, cannot do better than order, through a bookseller, this magnificent work, which is almost a Library in itself.

The same Publishers have issued a new edition of the late Dr. Kitto's Cyclopædia of Biblical Literature, edited by the Rev. Henry Burgess, L.L.D., whose competency for the task is unquestionable. Another work of the same class, in course of simultaneous publication in Britain and in the United States, attracts the attention of Biblical Students. We refer to an English translation of "Herzog's Encyclopædia," with additions from other sources, by Rev. J. H. Bomberger, D.D. It is issued in parts, and is entitled "The Protestant Encyclopædia."

The English Socinians endeavor to injure the old orthodox faith by issuing translations of German works of Neologian criticism. Among the most recent of these, we notice an English version of Von Bohlen's attack on the authenticity of the Pentateuch, edited by Mr. James Heywood, the member of Parliament, who lately moved in the House of Commons for a revision of the authorized version of the Bible. Notwithstanding the concessions made by such critics as Dr. Samuel Davidson to the views of the Neologians, we are convinced that the Orthodox have no cause to shrink from the discussion of the question—considered as one of sacred literature—"Whether Moses was the writer of the Pentateuch, or no?"

The Rev. W. G. Blaikie, A. M., of the Pilgrim Free Church, Edinburgh, is the author of a volume recently issued from the press of Thomas Constable & Co., entitled "David, King of Israel, the divine plan and lessons of his life." There was room for a new work on this instructive and interesting biographical subject—the "Life of David" by Fleury of Dublin being a very defective treatment of so great a theme.

Messrs. James Nisbet & Co. of London are about to issue, in monthly numbers, a new selection from the best pieces of the great religious writers of Scotland and England—with the title, "Our Christian Classics, or spare hours with the best Authors." The selection, if judiciously made, will be of great value to those who cannot afford to purchase, or have not leisure to read, the entire writings of the British worthies. The work will be complete in 24 numbers, each containing 72 pages, crown 8vo. The price is very low, 6d per No., and should attract a large circulation in the Colonies.

Among the most interesting new Books we place the "Edinburgh Essays—by members of the University"—uniform with the Oxford and Cambridge Essays. The volume contains nine Essays on varied topics—the first, on "Plato," being from the pen of Prof. John S. Blackie, the zealous advocate of Scottish University Reform, to whose suggestion, in all probability, we owe the appearance of this book. Alexander Smith, the young Poet, has contributed an Essay on Scottish Ballads. Dr. George Wilson, the occupant of the new Chair of Technology, has written on "Chemical Final Causes." We have no space to enumerate the others.

The Rev. Dr. John Brown, of the United Presbyterian Church, Edinburgh, who has in recent years published so many Expository Works on various parts of Scripture, has just added to these a volume of "Parting Counsels, an exposition of the First Chapter of the Second Epistle of Peter." We should be glad to have an exposition of the entire Epistle from the venerable author.

An Historical Biography of the early Scottish Reformer and Martyr, Patrick Hamilton, has just been published by Thomas Constable & Co. The author is the Rev. Professor Lorimer, of the English Presbyterian College, London, who has had access to sources of information hitherto unexplored.

Sacred Literature has to mourn the death, on the 21st December, of the Reverend Dr. Harris, an eminent Preacher, Professor, and Author, among the English Independents. His chief works—"Mammon," "The Great Commission," "The Great Teacher," "Man Primeval," "The Preadamite Earth," and "Patriarchy,"—are known and highly valued on this side of the Atlantic. He was a man of devout spirit, as well as of great mental powers.