

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly.

Rochester, N.Y.: James Vick.

The November number of "Vick's Illustrated Monthly" is well stored with useful information and advice bearing upon Floriculture, Vegetable Gardening and kindred subjects. The illustrations are very fine, especially the colored frontispiece.

Littell's Living Age.

Boston: Littell & Gay.

The numbers of the "Living Age" for the weeks ending October 19th and 26th contain articles from "The Nineteenth Century," "Blackwood's Magazine," "Fraser's Magazine," "The Spectator," "Nature," and "The Quarterly Review," with parts of two serial stories from advance sheets.

The International Lesson Hymnal.

Chicago: David C. Cook.

A copy of this book is now before us, containing 186 hymns with music. The design of the work is to provide suitable hymns for each of the lessons of the International Series for 1879. Most of the lessons have three or four hymns arranged for them, thus allowing considerable range of choice. For each hymn there is also a choice of music. At the end of the book there is an index showing tunes universally known, to which the hymns may be sung if there should not be time or opportunity for the school to learn the music to which they are set in the body of the work; but if Sabbath-schools were supplied with this hymn-book it would be found an easy matter to have the hymns and tunes for each Sabbath prepared beforehand.

The Canada Christian Monthly.

Edited by Rev. James Cameron, Chatsworth. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson.

In the October number of the "Christian Monthly" there is an editorial on "A Neglected Department of Christian Work." The department of work referred to is that of "gathering into the half-empty churches the wanderers and stragglers." This is recommended as suitable employment for young men recently converted—in most cases much more suitable than preaching. The subject is introduced by a well-told story of a half-witted but pious and zealous cow-herd who lived in an island of the outer Hebrides some fifty years ago, and who, at least on one occasion, took a spell at this work of ingathering, using as his weapon the handle of a flail. The number also contains an able sketch of the life and character of the late Dr. Hodge, of Princeton, by the Editor, a sermon of Mr. Spurgeon's; and a variety of interesting matter besides.

The Inspiration of Scripture.

A Lecture delivered at the opening of the Session of Knox College, Toronto, on 2nd October, 1878, by Rev. Prof. MacLaren. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson. Price 10 cts.

This lecture, which has already appeared in the columns of the CANADA PRESBYTERIAN, is now published in the form of a neat pamphlet of thirty-four pages. The more extended circulation which will thus be given to it cannot be greater than it deserves. In this day of lax views regarding the Scriptures it is necessary that logical proof of their divine authority as the word, not of man, but of God, should be established afresh and disseminated as widely as possible. It is not with avowed unbelievers that the Professor discusses this subject; it is with "those who accept the Scriptures as in some sense the record of a supernatural revelation." He lays down two postulates which must be granted before entering on the discussion: (1) "That there is a personal God, the Creator and Moral Governor of the Universe;" and (2) "that He has made a supernatural revelation of Himself to mankind, of which the Scriptures are a record historically true." These being taken for granted, the lecturer proceeds to prove the *Plenary Inspiration* of the sacred writings. In other words, he undertakes to prove that the writers of the different books of the Bible were not left to themselves to record, as best they could, the mysteries of divine revelation, but that they were guided supernaturally to embody correctly in human language the revelation which they had received. After an introductory, presumptive argument, based on the improbability of a revelation proceeding from the divine power, wisdom, and benevolence being permitted to be mixed up with human errors, the author satisfactorily accomplishes his proposed object

by fully and clearly establishing the following positions: (1) "The phenomenon of inspiration is undeniable;" (2) "Inspiration can manifestly be predicated very extensively of the Old Testament;" (3) "The testimony of the New Testament establishes the inspiration of the whole of the Old Testament Scriptures;" (4) "The inspiration of the New Testament is sustained by evidence not less satisfactory." Due prominence is given to the following facts: That the Jews in New Testament times firmly believed in the verbal inspiration of the Old Testament, and were not reprehended by the Saviour for doing so; that Christ and some of the apostles founded arguments, not only on facts recorded in the Old Testament, but on certain peculiarities in the wording of some passages, thus establishing the inspiration of these passages; and that inspiration is not confined to these passages, because the New Testament accords co-ordinate authority to all parts of the Old Testament and claims equal authority for itself.

The Preacher and Homiletic Monthly.

New York: The Religious Newspaper Agency.

The November number of the "Preacher" contains sermons on the following subjects: "Nature's Travail and Testimony," by Hugh Smith Carpenter, D.D.; "As it is in Heaven," by Dean Stanley; "The Finality of the Commandments," by Joseph Parker, D.D.; "The Mysterious Tree," by S. D. Burchard, D.D.; "Herod; or the Power of Conscience," by Rev. Thos. Kelly; "Grace as the Expression of God's Love," by Rev. Lewis O. Thompson; "God's Crown Jewels," by Rev. David Winters; "Hebrews," by C. H. Fowler, D.D., LL.D.; "The Prodigal's Brother," by Rev. Geo. H. Smyth; "God's Indictment of our Thoughts," by Morgan Dix, D.D.; "An Aggressive Gospel," by Justin D. Fulton, D.D.; "Be True to Thyself," by H. W. Beecher; "One Thing," by T. L. Cuyler, D.D. The following sermons are reported in brief from the English pulpit. "The Supreme Possession," by Rev. Wm. Jones; "Law and Gospel: the two Great Moral Forces in Human History," by D. Thomas, D.D.; "God's Giving and Man's Gathering," by Rev. U. R. Thomas; "Why Paul could not Help but Preach," addressed to clergymen, by James M. Ludlow, D.D.; "What Ails the Church?" by H. S. Wiles, D.D.; "Early Piety the Beauty of Youth," by W. H. Jellie. Following the sermons will be found several departments, such as Preachers Exchanging Views, Sermonic Criticisms, Hints at the Meaning of Texts, etc., all replete with valuable matter. Rev. David Winters in his sermon on "God's Crown Jewels," after giving several reasons why God's people are compared to jewels, states one reason more as follows:

"God's people are like jewels because they require so much polishing. The most precious stone is unfit for use as an ornament in its natural condition. When a diamond is taken out of the mine it is covered over with a dark, rusty coating, every particle of which must be removed. If a single speck should remain on its surface it would detract from its value. The process of polishing and cutting is both tedious and expensive. Two years of skilled labor and \$23,250 were expended upon the famous Regent diamond of France in polishing it and cutting it into a brilliant. Thirty-eight days of twelve hours each were occupied re-cutting the Koh-i-noor, a celebrated diamond owned by the Queen of England, and reducing it to a brilliant. Need I say that God's jewels require a great deal of cutting and polishing before they are fit to be set in the crown of Emmanuel? While a single stain of sin remains upon our souls we cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven; none but perfect ones are found there. And every trial which falls to our lot on earth, as well as every religious ordinance, the Spirit of God employs as a means of sanctifying us and polishing us to shine among the crown jewels of heaven. Viewed in this light, there is not the slightest reason why a Christian should complain of his trials. On the contrary, we should reckon them among the blessings for which we should give thanks to our Father who is in heaven. There is not a pain, mental, moral or physical, which we are here called to endure that is not necessary for our complete development and for the working out in us a true manhood. We may rest assured that God won't keep us upon the wheel one moment longer than is required to make us perfect, and those who are oftenest on it will, we think, have the greatest weight of glory in heaven. God, says Leighton, has many rough files and sharp-cutting instruments for polishing His jewels, and those He intends to make most resplendent He has oftenest His tools upon."

He then states God's claim of a special property in good men, describes His watchfulness and constant care over His people, and closes in the following words:

"The practice of holding international expositions has become both popular and, in many respects, profitable. Many of the most wonderful and beautiful productions of nature, science, and art are brought together to be admired and studied by people from every quarter of the globe. By-and-by an exposition will be held in which the whole universe will participate. The spectators will be from earth, heaven and hell. It will be a wonderful display. But the grandest thing which will be exhibited there will be God's crown jewels gathered out of the ruins of the fall. May we be among them on that day!"

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

SILVER POLISH.—One ounce ammonia, four ounces Paris white, dissolve the Paris white in one pint of water, boil it, when cool add the ammonia.

VEGETABLE SOUP.—Take three or four young carrots, three young turnips, and one leek, scrape the carrots and peel the turnips, and cut them in thin slices; cut each slice of turnip in four; put them in two quarts of broth seasoned with salt and pepper to taste; cover it and let them boil for fifteen minutes, then add a head of white lettuce cut small, and a bunch of parsley cut up; cover it and let them boil for fifteen minutes longer, and it is done.—*Western Rural.*

GREEN TOMATO SWEET PICKLES.—First prepare the tomatoes by laying them in salt water over night; in the morning stick them quite full of cloves. Have on the stove a large pan with the following ingredients: one pint of vinegar, one pint of water, one pound of sugar; let this come to a boil, then place a layer of tomatoes in at a time, and cook until well done, repeating this until you have used about eight pounds of tomatoes. Apples done in the same way are very fine.

JELLIED CHICKEN.—Cut up two chickens and boil in water, only enough to cover until tender. Then remove skin and bones and season the liquor, of which there would be a little less than a quart, with butter, pepper, salt and the juice of a lemon, if liked. Dissolve one-fourth box of gelatine in a little warm water, and add with the chicken to the liquor; boil up once and pour into a mold. This is very nice for tea or evening company, when cut into thin slices. A very sharp knife, however, must be used in cutting, or the slices will break into separate pieces.

SPONGE CAKE CREAM PIE.—One teacup of sugar, one teacup of flour well mixed with a level teaspoonful of baking powder, three beaten eggs. Bake in a flat, square tin, and when cold, split open and spread with cream prepared as follows: Whip a pint of sweet cream, until very smooth and stiff, sweeten and flavour to taste (those who like vanilla will like it in this case), and spread it stiff and cold upon the split sides of the cake, placing these two sides together again so that the cream does not appear, and the cake pie looks like an ordinary cake. One can hardly find a more delicate and delicious dessert dish than this.—*American Agriculturist.*

KEEPING APPLES.—Apples should not be put in the cellar until hard freezing arrives. They should be packed in clean new barrels and stored in some shed or covered with boards, exposed to the atmosphere for several weeks after picking, then removed into the grain-barn, away from the smell of stables, and allowed to remain there as long as possible and not be frozen. We throw stalks or straw over the barrels, and often defer placing them in the cellar until late in December. The fruit-cellar should be darkened and kept as cool as possible and not freeze. Place the barrels on their sides with strips of wood between them and the cellar bottom, and do not open or move until wanted for use. If the cellar is free from the scent of vegetables, when the barrels are opened a rich and tempting perfume will arise. Most cellars are too warm for the storing of fruit.

KEEPING ROSES IN BLOOM.—As soon as they have formed their first flowers in the open ground, pinch off the end of the first shoot, and as soon as the rose is fully opened, pick it off. No rose should be left to fade upon the bush, as when so left it exhausts the plant in the formation of seed. As the plants grow, pinch back the ends of the shoots when they have grown six inches, and rub out all puny shoots, thus keeping the plants in a rounded open bush form. If strong shoots alone are left to grow, they will soon control the strength of the plant and the flowers will be few and often of imperfect form. Should the season be hot and dry, a mulch of fine, fresh grass or sawdust, or moss from the woods, should be placed all over the soil, three inches deep, and at night watered thoroughly, not sprinkled, but wet like a day's rain.—*Cultivator.*

MORNING WORK.—A bad custom is prevalent in many families, especially among farmers, of working an hour before breakfast, attending to "chores," hoeing the garden, cutting wood, mowing, etc. This is convenient on many accounts, but it is not conducive to health. The prevalent opinion is that the morning air is the purest and the most healthful and bracing; but the contrary is the fact. At no hour of the day is the air more filled with dampness, fogs, and miasmas than about sunrise. The heat of the sun gradually dissipates these miasmatic influences as the day advances. An early meal braces up the system against these influences. Every one knows the languor and faintness often experienced for the first hour in the morning, and this is increased by exercise and want of food. We do not agree with the boarding-school *regime*, which prescribes a long walk before breakfast as a means of promoting health.—*Exchange.*

REMEDY FOR MERCURY AND LEAD POISONING.—A Belgian scientific jury has lately awarded to M. Melsens the Guinard prize of 10,000 francs for the best contribution to the amelioration of the condition of the working classes. The award was based upon the important discovery of M. Melsens of an effective remedy for mercury and lead poisoning, to the effects of which workmen employed in many occupations requiring the manipulation of these metals are dangerously exposed, and especially to the insidious cumulative effects resulting in chronic evils which have heretofore been obstinately incurable. The remedy proposed by M. Melsens, and which he has demonstrated to be efficacious, not only in the cure of chronic cases resulting from years of exposure to and accumulation of poisons in the system, but also in the prevention of disease from these sources, is the iodide of potassium. The action of the iodide is to transform into soluble form and to eliminate from the system the accumulation of insoluble metallic compounds, upon the presence of which the affections of the organs involved by the disease depend. The French Academy has likewise crowned this important discovery with the Monthyon prize.—*Harper's Magazine.*