

be desired to visit in Edinburgh, as well as elsewhere, those who are interested in the cause of Missions, that they might have an opportunity of contributing towards the important objects which the Society has in view. Resolved also,—That Professor Davidson and the Rev. N. Davis will be furnished with copies of this Resolution."

We have infinite pleasure in giving publicity to the above, and earnestly do we trust that every Christian throughout the land will contribute his mite towards so noble a cause. It will be a source of great gratification to us if our clerical readers will kindly communicate to us their readiness to comply with the first portion of the resolution, informing us at the same time of the particular day on which they propose making the collection. If more information is required upon this highly important subject, we shall be glad to furnish the same upon application.

We may likewise here state our readiness to acknowledge in our columns any sums transmitted to our Office, either from private individuals or from ministers, for the Society which pleads the cause of the long-neglected and down-trodden people of Central Africa; and earnestly do we trust that our contemporaries throughout the country may also be induced to lend a helping hand to this great undertaking.—*Edinburgh Post.*

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

AN APPEAL TO PRESBYTERIANS OF ALL DENOMINATIONS. By Dr. Aiton, of Dolphington. Edinburgh: Moodie & Lothian.

THIS brochure has been written by its talented author (who, it will be recollected, visited Palestine) for the purpose of reviving in the hearts of Presbyterians some interest in the purpose of sending a Presbyterian minister to Jerusalem. The pamphlet is remarkable as well for the peculiar reasons it announces as for the manner of stating them. We believe that it is impossible to read these, as set forth in the vigorous style of the author, without becoming a convert to the scheme. Dr. Aiton imparts interest to almost every subject he takes up, whether road reform or Eastern evangelization. On this occasion he is peculiarly successful: he lays down his thesis, answers, rebuts, explains, and follows up all in such a clear, forcible, manly way as to secure with perfect certainty the conviction and action he contends for.

Northern Standard.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MAGAZINE AND REVIEW FOR DECEMBER. Edinburgh; Moodie & Lothian.

WE consider the present to be an excellent number of this valuable periodical. Nearly all the topics treated of are seasonable, and they are discussed with a full amount of knowledge of the subjects treated, and with an ability and earnestness highly creditable to the authors. The opening article is a continuation of the very interesting account of the progress of the Reformation movement in Ireland, commenced in a preceding number. It is followed by an article, entitled "Sideral Theorisings," devoted to the existing controversy on the "Plurality of Worlds" question, in which the author examines the arguments alike of Whewell and of Brewster, pointing out imperfections in the reasonings of the latter, and the unguarded statements to which the learned Principal has given utterance in his attempted refutation of Professor Whewell. The pervert Wilberforce's work on the "Doctrine of the Eucharist" is subjected to searching and able analysis on the part of a reviewer who has done full justice to his theme, and has remorselessly exposed the shallow sophistries and scholastic

quibbling of the late Archdeacon of the East Riding. A review of Professor Silliman's travels in Europe—a well-written article on the "Poetical Positions of Common Life," and a notice, rather sharp and sketchy, of Mrs. Browning's poems, are included among the literary contributions in the present number. Mrs. Browning writes occasionally with much energy; but we think that her merits as a writer are over-estimated by the critic. We have, besides, a remarkably good sermon under the head of "Sabbath Evening Readings," contributed by Mr. Macmorland, of St Luke's; a discourse on the character of Onesimus, composed with much beauty, and which, when delivered, must have been singularly impressive. The paper on Missionary Intelligence this month is devoted to an account of the origin and early progress of the Church's Foreign Mission Schemes; and the literary notices comprise an estimate of the merits of a variety of recent publications, chiefly of a theological description.—*Northern Standard.*

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND MAGAZINE AND REVIEW FOR JANUARY, 1855. Edinburgh: Moodie & Lothian.—THE "Church of Scotland Magazine and Review" has now established a pretty strong hold upon the public. The deficiencies incidental to a newly started periodical appear to have been surmounted; a talented staff of writers contribute to its pages; and it appears to us to be commendable on account of the general liberality of the views promulgated through its pages, the varied nature of the topics handled, and their adaptation to the wants of the time. Its cut is sufficiently theological to satisfy the serious and intelligent portion of the community, and, if not often brilliant or eloquent, it is usually calm and judicious. Perhaps the theological element has rather an undue preponderance, and the *Review* would gain by a larger admixture of general literary matter with its other contents. We must, however, bear in mind on the other hand that it has a special object and mission—that of advocating, temperately and forbearingly, the claims not only of our National Church, but, as connected with this, those of theological orthodoxy.

The contents of the present number are varied. The opening article discusses the important topic of Christian Union; and the writer warmly advocates the endeavour at an amalgamation between the Established and (at least a portion of) the "Free" Church. There are many and serious difficulties in the way of such an arrangement, and we see, without surprise, that an editorial caveat is prefixed to the paper, the author of which is earnest in his exhortations, and forcible in his thoughts. His style, full and flowing, seems to be exquisitely adapted for the pulpit or platform. We have next an able exposure of Maurice's work on the doctrine of "Sacrifice," showing clearly that Mr. Maurice, under cover of the current orthodox theological phraseology, insinuates views widely different from those which most divines look upon as embodying the teaching of Scriptures upon this vitally important doctrine. "The War and the Government" is the heading of a pithy and vigorous onslaught on the Ministry in reference to their short-sightedness and the blundering manner in which they have acted. "Poetical Positions of Common Life" is a paper marked by refinement of thought and beauty of expression; and "Sideral Theorisings" is a continuation of the able article on the "Plurality of Worlds" controversy, in which the writer espouses Dr. Whewell's side, and exposes the defects of Sir D. Brewster's theory with unsparing hand. The article entitled "Royal Favours to the Church of God," though somewhat heavy, is learned and searching. "Scientific Memoranda," the "Chronicle of Missions," an excellent sermon for Sabbath reading by the Rev. Dr. Jamieson of Glasgow, and the usual amount of literary notices, make up, in addition to the articles specified above, a good, indeed a superior, number of this ably conducted periodical.

DIARY IN TURKISH AND GREEK WATERS. By the Earl of Carlisle. London: Longmans.

THERE are many people who, influenced by passages in the Revelation, have great faith in the near approach of a prophetic fulfilment; the Turks are to be driven from their western possessions by the Russians, and the Jews are to return to Jerusalem. Lord Carlisle is one of those who, at the time when the Eastern question was rising into importance, saw in the coming struggle the "beginning of the end;" in his own words, "I go to the memorable and mysterious East with a fixed conviction on my mind that it is about very shortly to become the theatre of completed Scripture prophecy and of a commencing new dispensation of events." The most prominent feature in the book is accordingly the view which his Lordship takes of the condition of Turkey and its people. He sees everywhere "the drying-up of the Euphrates," that is, the wasted and ruined condition of the country, and the dead apathy and listlessness of the people. Nor is the Sultan himself an exception to the want of moral energy everywhere apparent. "The impression which his aspect conveys is of a man gentle, unassuming, feeble, unstrung, doomed. No energy of purpose gleamed in that passive glance, no augury of victory sat on that stilted brow. The Sultan looked like Richard II. riding past; Bolingbroke, however, has not yet arrived."

We suspect that the last sentence is the key to the Turkish character; deserted villages, uncultivated plains, banditti-haunted mountains, torpid laws, a corrupted administration, a disappearing people, are certainly all signs of decay; and these are uniformly made significant by the sloth and *sans souciance* of the people; but their entire history, up to their present appearance in the Principalities, presents us with evidence that the Turks are capable of great energy when roused. In the progress or continuance of a nation we cannot count this peculiarity for much. We have generally seen a love of war in a people accompanied by great aptitude for moral progress in science, government, and social economy. The Turks form an exception. It seems to be a necessary consequence of a want of all those principles of thought and action which make nations great and glorious. But we are here engaged with a mere diary, and accordingly proceed to give our readers some of his Lordship's observations. Here is a curious exemplification of a fact, often stated, that the Roman Catholic religion is adverse to civilization:—

"The scenery along the Elbe continues to be pretty, but the transition from Saxony to Bohemia, with regard to the aspect of the people, of their dwellings, and of their agriculture, rather resembles the change from English to Irish landscape; not that Saxony is so well dressed as England, or Bohemia so ill dressed as Ireland. How are we to distribute the causes of difference—what to Government? what to creed? I think I may take credit to myself for wishing to look at all things with an unbigoted eye; but true it seems to be, that, as soon as you come to the crucifix on the high knolls and in the little groves, often most picturesque in effect, the appearance of comfort and well-being among the people is on the wane." *Edinb. Post.*

THE EARNEST STUDENT. †

WE know of no books which are at once so interesting and so valuable as the biographies of good men. There are some even of our contemporaries into whose inner life we long to have a peep, that we may see the secret of their superiority, and the springs of their excellence. And we feel very grateful to the author of the interesting memoir

† "The Earnest Student: being Memorials of John Macintosh." By the Rev. NORMAN MACLEOD. Edinburgh: T. Constable and Co.