

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

History of the City of New York.

By Mrs. Martha Lamb. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

Parts 3 and 4 of this eventful history are still occupied with the Dutch period, the last point attained being the commencement of the Indian war of 1663.

Barnes' Popular History.

New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

We are in receipt of parts 3 and 4 of this history of "One Hundred Years of American Independence." At the end of part 4 the narrative reaches the third year of the Revolution. The history is well-written, and more impartial than former American works of the same description.

Art Decoration applied to Furniture.

By Harriet Prescott Spofford. New York: Harper & Brothers. Toronto: Willing & Williamson. 1878.

Taste comes by nature, but it is capable of cultivation. The absolute want of it cannot be supplied, but wherever it exists, even in the smallest degree, however low and imperfect, it can be raised, trained, educated, ennobled, by study and observation. Hence the value of such works as that now before us. The instruction imparted on this subject receives a double value from being accompanied, as it is in the present instance, by well executed illustrations. In fact it would seem as if most people received their æsthetic education by looking at good pictures. No better field can easily be found for the exercise of taste than in the choice and arrangement of household furniture, be it in the palace or in the cottage. We hope the book will be extensively read.

Nine Lectures on Preaching.

Delivered at Yale College, Newhaven, Conn., by R. W. Dale, D.D., Birmingham. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co.

Dr. Dale is well-read, polished, eloquent, vivacious, and orthodox—at least these must be some of the characteristics of the author of the lectures now before us. They furnish one proof more of the discriminating care exercised by the authorities of Yale College in the appointments which they make to the Lyman-Beecher lectureship. The titles of these lectures are: (1) "Introductory: Perils of Young Preachers;" (2) "The Intellect in Relation to Preaching;" (3 and 4) "Reading;" (5) "The Preparation of Sermons;" (6) "Extemporaneous Preaching and Style;" (7) "Evangelistic Preaching;" (8) "Pastoral Preaching;" (9) "The Conduct of Public Worship: Conclusion." The book will furnish ministers and students with many hints which will be of use to them in their work; and those hearers who read it, will in many cases be considerably enlightened as to what preaching ought to be, and so be placed in a better position to exercise with justice their privilege of criticism.

The Complete Preacher.

New York: The Religious Newspaper Agency. January, 1878.

The sermons contained in this number are: "Jesus Christ, the Revelation of God," by Joseph T. Duryea, D.D.; "The Crowning of the Year," a thanksgiving sermon, by J. H. Rylance, D.D.; "A Sabbath School Sermon," by C. H. Spurgeon; "The Background of Mystery," by Henry Ward Beecher; "Eternal Punishment," by F. W. Farrar, D.D., Canon of Westminster. Most of our readers are aware that Dr. Farrar's sermon on "Eternal Punishment" is an attack on the Orthodox doctrine on that subject. It has attracted much attention throughout the world; and a good deal of discussion has taken place as to how far the learned doctor had committed himself; so the "Complete Preacher" has done well to publish it in order that its readers may see for themselves what statements were or were not actually contained in the sermon. The editor had intended publishing in the same number, a sermon affirmative of the orthodox doctrine, but was unable to secure copy in time. He promises that it will appear in the next number. The sermon on "The Background of Mystery," by Henry Ward Beecher is also decidedly restorationist. It is published in the "Complete Preacher," with a note to the effect that the editor is responsible only for the correct reporting of sermons, and not for the thoughts they contain. Mr. Spurgeon's "Sabbath School Sermon," is founded on Isaiah xi. 11: "He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom." The whole sermon is so charged with pertinent truth, tersely expressed, so full of illustrative anecdote aptly applied, so

much in this great preacher's happiest style, that it is difficult to select any thing from it as being more worthy of quotation than the rest. We place the following paragraph before our readers, because it brings out one of the most important points in the successful Sabbath School teacher's character:

"He who gathers the lambs with his arm and carries them in his bosom is the model of a Sunday School teacher. In what points? First, there should be about the teacher attractiveness in order that he may gather. You cannot gather hearts and spirits by force. The Board School may gather its children by law, but you must gather yours by love. You cannot keep a class of children around you by the fear of punishment. It must be by some attraction which will hold them with the cords of love and the bands of a man. Our Lord Jesus gathers with His arm because he is so full of love and of that which wins love. His character is so amiable that it draws men to it as a load-stone draws the needle. This is the arm with which he gathers. Oh, that all teachers had more of it! A little child one morning was eating her breakfast with a spoon, and the sun shone in upon her little mess of broth, and as she lifted up a spoonful to her mouth she said, 'Mother, what do you think? I have eaten a spoonful of sunshine.' I recommend that diet to all Sunday School teachers; take a great many spoonfuls of sunshine into your nature, and let it shine in your very face and glitter in your talk. Your master had it. The people loved to listen to him. They felt when they drew near to him as if they were like a ship that had entered into port and could cast anchor. Even when they did not receive all that he said there was a charm about His manner, His spirit, and His tone. Ask, O ye teachers, ask for yourselves that God would give you that holy charm which gathers, and pray that He may deliver you from the angry spirit which scatters. Let your charm lie in this, 'I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me.' Carry the love of Christ with you and you will not fail to gather the lambs with your arm."

A Summer Vacation.

Sketches and Thoughts Abroad, in the summer of 1877. By James B. Converse. Louisville, Ky: Converse & Co. 1878.

This book contains sketches of Belfast, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, York, Canterbury, Oxford, Paris, and Geneva, with descriptions of English castles and cathedrals, and of the Alps. The author's only apology for writing this book of travels, is, that "a single acre in England contains more to interest" the people of the United States, "than a square mile in South America or the forests of Africa." But the book is not a mere record of travel. This traveller thinks, and thinks to some purpose, as he goes along, so that the narrative is agreeably interspersed with pithily expressed remarks on various important subjects. A whole chapter is devoted to the General Presbyterian Council which met in Edinburgh on the 3rd of July. The following is the closing paragraph of that chapter:

"Calvinism has been despised; the General Presbyterian Council showed that it is not contemptible. It is not the tenet of a small and obscure body of sectaries, but of the larger part of Protestantism. The Baptists, the Calvinistic wing of the Church of England, and the Calvinism of Germany, were unrepresented in this largest of Protestant Ecumenical Councils. The purer party in the Roman Church has also been Calvinistic. The doctrine held by such a large proportion of the most learned and earnest Christians is worthy of respect. The mystery and the difficulties that surround it are not as great as those which envelope the doctrine of the Trinity. The belief that God infallibly governs all things and words and deeds, in accordance with His plans formed before the foundation of the world, so that, nothing can defeat his will, is as full of comfort as the belief that our Saviour is almighty. The world is a gainer when it realizes that this belief is above its contempt, and deserves its careful examination."

We quote one other paragraph, in which our author points out to his countrymen the radical evil which exists, and which always has existed in the American system of government. It is the first time we have met with any reference to the matter by an American writer.

"The numerous republics that have lately been formed have wisely preferred the English model of the nineteenth century to our modification of the English government of the eighteenth century. The history of the last generation is gradually shewing us that we may need to change in the same direction. The prerogatives of our presidents are a main cause of our political disease. Their vast patronage has begotten political corruption, till politics has become a trade avoided by large classes of the best people. Their absolute political power excites animosities. The interest that is felt by good citizens in the proper management of public affairs instead of being usefully expended in the election of worthy representatives who will have the power as well as the desire to reform abuses in the government, lashes itself into fury against the iron bars of presidential power that must last a definite period. The great power of the English monarchy in the last century produced the same effects. The corruption of Walpole and the partisan turbulence of Wilkes were its natural results then. The political excitement and the corruption in our land, in the present age, are the natural fruits of the vast powers lodged in the hands of our presidents. How these prerogatives and powers can best be limited, is a problem which we will have to solve. Instead of presidential government, we need parliamentary, congressional, legislative government."

SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

IF the sufferer from sore and enlarged joints in the feet will bathe the parts with iodide of ammonia, he can be relieved.

THERE is scarcely a better health-meter for men who think much than sleep. Hard mental work is beginning to kill when it interferes with sleep, and he who plies his brain with ever so much energy eight for ten hours a day, prays and plays five or six hours, and sleeps eight or nine will never die of overwork.

GLOSS ON SHIRT BOSOMS.—Take two ounces of fine white gum-arabic powder, put in a pitcher and pour on it one pint of boiling water, cover it and let it stand all night. In the morning pour it carefully from the dregs into a bottle; use one tablespoonful to a pint of starch made in the usual manner; use a polishing iron also.

FOR BURNS.—A solution of bicarbonate of sodium applied to burns promptly and permanently, relieves all pain. A laboratory assistant in Philadelphia having severely burned the inside of the last phalanx of the thumb, while bending glass tubing, applied the solution of bicarbonate of soda, and not only was the pain allayed, but the thumb could be at once freely used without inconvenience.

A SIMPLE BECHAMEL SAUCE.—Put a small lump of butter into a pan and stir in a tablespoonful of flour; cook this thoroughly, but do not let it brown. Stir into this one cupful of strong hot veal stock, a cupful of boiling cream and a little grated nutmeg; let it simmer, stirring it well, for a few minutes, then strain and serve. In making the veal stock for this sauce add the usual soup vegetables.—*Herald.*

SPANISH CREAM.—One quart milk, four eggs, half ounce gelatine. Pour one pint of milk on the gelatine, then add the other pint of milk, and stir it over the fire in a farina kettle. Beat the yolks of the eggs with three tablespoons of sugar, and stir into the milk just before it boils. When it comes to a boil take it off, stir into it the whites of the eggs beaten to a stiff froth, with three tablespoonfuls of sugar. Flavor with vanilla. Pour into molds. Use the next day.

PORK POT-PIE.—This is nice when chickens are not very plentiful; it helps to make a variety for those living on a farm. Slice nice salt pork; soak a short time—sweet milk is nice to freshen it in—boil two hours; then put in the potatoes, and a few minutes before they are done, make the dumplings as follows; one well beaten egg, one teaspoonful of sour cream, half a teaspoonful of soda, enough flour to make quite thick or they will fall to the bottom; drop the mixture in small spoonfuls and shake the kettle a few times while boiling. Before taking up put in some pepper and small lumps of butter.

SUET PUDDING.—This is sure to suit, for, if properly made, it never fails to be light: One cup suet, chopped fine; one cup molasses; one cup sour milk; one cup or more raisins; four cups flour; one teaspoonful saleratus; one teaspoonful cinnamon. Have a tin dish with a cylinder in the centre, and a tight-fitting cover. Put in a kettle of boiling water, which must be kept boiling, being replenished from the tea-kettle when it evaporates. Boil for two and a half or three hours. When done drop the tin into cold water a moment, which will loosen the pudding from the sides. Turn out, and serve with sauce.

FERTILIZING WITH CHARCOAL.—The owner of a large vineyard on Kelly's Island writes me that a neighbor of his had a large grapevine growing not far from an old cistern which had a filtering apartment filled with charcoal; and a root of the vine, having found its way into that charcoal, filled the entire mass with its ramifications; the effect on the growth and productiveness of the vine was remarkable. He intends, therefore, to try some powdered charcoal as a fertilizer. It is probable, however, that in the case of the cistern, the charcoal was saturated with fertilizing ingredients filtered from rain water, and hence comparatively little benefit may result from the application of charcoal unless mixed with richer ingredients.—*Correspondence, Country Gentleman.*

HEAT, VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE.—Prof. Tyndall has been delivering three lectures to children at the London Institution, on "Heat, Visible and Invisible." He pointed out that considering the immense quantity of carbonic acid sent out into the air by all the fires in the world, and by all the men, women, and children, and animals, one would naturally conclude that the air must become more and more contaminated, and less fit to support combustion and animal life. This conclusion was, however, wrong. The carbonic acid yielded by fires and lungs, got absorbed by the leaves of plants, and by the action of the sun's rays it was decomposed; the carbon of the carbonic acid was torn from the oxygen, and was stored up in the fibres of the tree or plant, and the pure oxygen was restored to the air.

WHAT MAKES BOW-LEGS.—The *Popular Science Monthly* says: "Bow-legs and knock-knees are among the commonest deformities of humanity, and wise mothers assert that the crookedness in either cases arises from the afflicted one having been put upon his or her feet too early in babyhood. But a Manchester (England) physician, Dr. Crompton, who has watched for the true cause, thinks differently. He attributes the first mentioned distortion to a habit some youngsters delight in, of rubbing the sole of one foot against that of the other; some will go to sleep with the soles together. They appear to enjoy the contact only when the feet are naked; they don't attempt to make it when they are socked or slippers. So the remedy is obvious; keep the baby's soles covered. Knock-knees the Doctor ascribes to a different childish habit, that of sleeping on the side, with one knee tucked under the hollow behind the other—as he has found that where one leg has been bowed inward more than the other, the patient has slept on one side, and the uppermost member has been the most deformed. Here the preventive is to pad the inside of the knees, so as to keep them apart, and let the limbs grow freely their own way. All of which is commended to mothers who desire the physical uprightness of their progeny."