

dominion, while Turkey guarantees to all subjects of the Porte, without distinction of creed, perfect equality in law. A secret correspondence has been published by the British Government, which shows that, for a length of time the Czar has been determined on the overthrow and partition of the Turkish Empire. The publication of this correspondence tells most powerfully against the Emperor of Russia, and in favour of the British Government. The Russians have crossed the Danube, and it is believed that now Austria will co-operate with the western powers. Intelligence from Europe will now be most anxiously looked for. May God in this instance make the wrath of men to praise him, and restrain the remainder thereof.

**INSPECTION OF NUNNERIES.**—Mr. Chambers has, notwithstanding the opposition of ministers, obtained the appointment of a Committee to investigate the constitution and state of nunneries.

**PRINCIPALSHIP OF ST. MARY'S COLLEGE, ST. ANDREWS.**—It is stated that this office, vacant by the death of the late Dr. Hildane, will be conferred, in all probability, either on Dr. Lee of Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh, or Rev. Dr. McLeod of St. Columba's, Glasgow.

**PROFESSOR WILSON OF EDINBURGH.**—This distinguished man died at Edinburgh, on the 3rd of April, aged 66 years.

**NATIONAL FAST DAY.**—Wednesday, 26th ult., was appointed to be observed in Great Britain as a Fast Day, in view of the war in which the Empire is about to engage. The same was observed by most of the churches in Montreal, Toronto, and some other places. It is surely becoming in us, in the solemn position in which we are placed, to humble ourselves before God, and seek His favour.

**DEATH OF REV. DR. CARLILE.**—This highly respected minister, for many years of St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin, and latterly superintendent of the Presbyterian Mission at Birr, lately died in Dublin, in the seventy-second year of his age.

**REV. DR. KING, ATHENS.**—King Otho has removed the sentence of banishment which had been passed on Dr. King. This was done at the instance of the minister of Justice, Mr. Pellican, who had formerly pleaded the cause of Dr. King.

**MISSIONARY CONVENTION.**—A missionary convention will be held in New York, early in this month, for the purpose of hearing Dr. Duff, and of conferring as to the most efficient means to be adopted for carrying on the great work.

**ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL AT WASHINGTON.**—A council of congregationalists, at Washington, resolved not to instal the Rev. Mr. Doncanson, because his doctrinal views were not in accordance with those of the Orthodox Congregational Church in some important particulars.

**AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.**—The Rev. Dr. Duff, and Rev. Mr. Kent, one of the secretaries of the British and Foreign Bible Society, have been appointed to attend the anniversary of the American Bible Society, as delegates of the B and F. Bible Society. Mr. Kent comes from New York to Toronto to attend the anniversary of Upper Canada Bible Society.

**THE NEBRASKA BILL.**—This Bill is still before the Legislature, and is exciting strong opposition. The Pittsburgh Presbytery of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, have unanimously adopted strong resolutions in condemnation of the Bill.

**BEDINI.**—A singular epistle has been sent by Bedini to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore. It is of a thoroughly Popish character. He at one time exhibits the appearance of perfect blandness and meekness, and again bursts out unto "a flash of anger," to use his own words, at the remembrance of the indignities offered to him.

#### NOTICES OF RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

**MORNING AND EVENING EXERCISES,** for April, May and June. By William Jay. New York: Carter & Brothers. For sale by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

Jay's Exercises we have long regarded as one of the best works for private devotional reading. The portions are short and pithy, and practical. There is, too, a liveliness and freshness about them which will prevent them from becoming old and uninteresting. The present volume is, we presume, the precursor of others, comprising the whole of the "Morning and Evening Exercises." This is a work which we can heartily recommend. The present edition is handsomely got up.

**DAILY BIBLE ILLUSTRATIONS.** By John Kitto, D. D., F. S. A. Concluding volume—the Apostles and Early Church. New York: Carter & Brothers. Sold by D. McLellan, Hamilton.

The present volume concludes the series of volumes of Bible Illustrations, by the learned author, Dr. Kitto. Few men of the present day are better fitted than Dr. Kitto, to produce such a book of Bible Illustrations. His learning is extensive and varied, and his style is easy and pleasing. The present volume will, we have no doubt, be appreciated by the Christian community as the preceding have been.

**FIRST PRINCIPLES—REGENERATION AND FAITH.** By the Rev. P. McArthur.

This is a tract by one of our young missionaries. Its object is to instruct the young in the two great doctrines of a scriptural creed—the one, *Regeneration*, the test of a living or dead Church; the other, *Justification by Faith*, that of a standing or a fallen Church. The errors and corruptions which defile Christianity have, for the most part, their origin in false or imperfect views of these doctrines. Mr. McArthur asserts and maintains the truth with directness, simplicity, and clearness; and his practical applications are eminently evangelical and earnest. We cordially commend the work as excellently suited to the author's design.

**THE CONFLICT OF AGES; or the Moral Relations of God and Man.** By E. Beecher, D. D.—Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co. 1853.

In the fall of 1853, the Theologians of New England were not a little surprised to find such a volume as that bearing the above designation, issuing from a divine who had hitherto occupied

a high place in the ranks of evangelical orthodoxy in New England. The Beecher Family certainly belong to the true aristocracy—the aristocracy of intellect. The author of the above volume is son to one of the most venerable and amiable of living men—a man who held up the lamp of evangelical truth in Boston, at a time when he stood almost alone amid a perfect wilderness of heresy—antinomianism and Universalism. He is also brother to Mrs. Stowe, a lady to whose genius the civilized world is proud to do honor. He is also a man of high standing as a theologian, and of most excellent and amiable qualities as a member of society. On these accounts, it is to be lamented that Dr. Beecher should have fallen into the grievous error of reviving or attempting to revive the old dogmas of Plato and Zoroaster.

The doctor attempts to find out the secret of all moral evil in the fact that every soul of every son of Adam sinned in some pre-existent state. He virtually holds the dogma of Transmigration of souls so far as the antecedent state of man is concerned, without attempting to deal with him in the future. He simply takes man as he is—a sinner and a sufferer, and instead of tracing his sins and sufferings to their proper and revealed pedigree, as Paul does, when he says, "by one man sin entered the world," &c., he attempts to ferret out some pre-existent condition in which the sinner committed his offences, and for which he endures an entail of suffering in this life. Such being a mere glance at his theory, it may be well to advert to the strange method which he adopts, for the purpose of establishing it. This is not the least extraordinary part of the treatise. He acknowledges that his doctrine is nowhere stated in the scripture, but like many other doctrines of the christian system, it is everywhere implied, and instead of making his dogmas head to revelation, he makes revelation bend to them. He in fact assumes the doctrine, and sets to work in order to find how much of the Bible and of the divine character may be explained in accordance with his assumption.

This is virtually what logicians call *Petitio Principii*, and it is at this point that a Reviewer in the *Christian Guardian*, has fallen into a mistake, in his views of the Conflict of Ages. This writer says of Dr. Beecher. "He begins with Calvinism, and whatever he has failed to prove, this at least, he does prove that Calvinism with its unreasonable dogmas, its internal divisions, and its bitter controversies has been a fruitful source of error." To this origin he traces clearly and satisfactorily Unitarianism, Universalism and even open Secularism." To this remark we have simply to say, it is not true—Dr. Beecher does not trace to Calvinism, the above mentioned evils, nor could any such sequences be fairly and logically drawn from his reasoning. Again an appeal is made to "New England, in which Calvinism has had ample opportunity to develop itself and produce its legitimate results." We admit that there are all the deadly errors in New England to which the writer refers; but surely he is not ignorant of the fact that not one of these errors ever began to show its face till after New England gave up subscription to