

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

*Harper's Magazine.*

New York: Harper &amp; Brother.

Among the contents of Harper for July we notice: "Some Landmarks of Old Virginia," with two illustrations; "Hospital Life in New York," with sixteen illustrations; "Old Flemish Masters," with four illustrations; "Owllet," with two illustrations; "Old-time Militia Masters," with eleven illustrations; "Juggernaut," with four illustrations; "A First Week in England," with nine illustrations. The editor's Literary, Scientific, and Historical Records are full of timely and important information, and the "Drawer" is entertaining as usual.

*The Fortnightly Review.*

Toronto: Rose-Belford Publishing Co.

The May number of this periodical has come to hand with the following contents: "The Eastern Crisis," by Goldwin Smith; "The French Workmen's Congress," by Frederick Harrison; "An Anniversary," by George Saintsbury; "The Political Adventures of Lord Beaconsfield," "Mazzini," by T. W. H. Myers; "Liberals and Whigs," by Hon. George Brodbeck; "Catullus," by Henry Nettleship; "Diderot at St. Petersburg," by the Editor; "Ceremonial Government," by Herbert Spencer; Home and Foreign Affairs; Books of the Month.

*The Atlantic Monthly.*

Boston: Houghton, Mifflin &amp; Co.

Among the articles in the July number of the "Atlantic Monthly," the "Will of Peter the Great" is particularly interesting. It appears that the Will in question is nothing more or less than a carefully devised programme for subjugating Europe, and in fact most of the world to Russian sway, in fulfilment of an alleged decree of Divine Providence, and that it points out the various methods of aggressive war, meddling diplomacy, and corrupting and delusive alliances by which this can be accomplished. The remaining contents are varied and attractive as usual.

*The International Review.*

New York: A. S. Barnes &amp; Co.

The following are the contents of the May-June number of the "International." "Science and Theology, Ancient and Modern," by James Anthony Froude; "The New King of Italy and the New Pope," by Professor Angelo de Gubernatis, of Italy; "War," three sonnets, by Ray Palmer; "United States Provisional Court of the State of Louisiana," by Judge Charles A. Peabody; "Reason and Sentiment," by Henry C. Pedder; "Egyptology and the Bible," by Philip Schaff; "The Gospel according to John," by Lyman Abbott; "Learned Women of Bologna," by Madame Villari; "The Moral Problem," by Mark Hopkins, of Williams College; "The Future of the Erie Canal," by John B. Jervis, C.E.; "Elements of National Wealth," by David A. Wells; Contemporary Literature.

*The Complete Preacher.*

New York: The Religious Newspaper Agency.

The June number of this publication contains: "The Voice of God in Us," by R. S. Storrs, D.D.; "Concerning Jesus as a Poet," by Thomas Armitage, D.D.; "Catholicity in its Relations to Protestantism and Romanism," by F. C. Ewer, D.D.; "The Signs of the Times—Is Christianity Failing?" by Henry Ward Beecher. The following paragraph is from Dr. Storrs' sermon on Acts x. 20: "Arise, therefore, and get thee down, and go with them, nothing doubting; for I have sent them."

"The errand on which God sends is always a practical errand, provided there be a sincere desire on our part to accomplish the errand, to do the work; and in proportion to the effort demanded, to the self-denial required, His authorship of the message concerning the work becomes more evident to the thoughtful and reflective Christian mind. We usually judge in exactly the opposite way. We say, 'That is a good work, and I can do it in a minute; therefore I will do it, that is God's errand for me. It is a good work, and I can help it by a little gift which I never shall miss. That is evidently God's plan for me.' Thus we reason: ah! but God's plan exactly reverses that. He makes duty the more obligatory the more difficult it is, because for the development of Christian energy in us, Christian generosity, Christian patience, He gives us the work to be done by us. God can do His own work without us, and when one by one the great teachers of the Church have passed away, and the Christian Church tarrying behind has felt that the horse-men and chariots of Israel had gone from its sight forever and there was no more guardianship and no more inspiration, God has raised up others to take their places, or has carried on His work without such signal and illustrious spirits to be

leaders in it, to show that He never depended upon any one human soul, upon any twenty, upon any million human souls for the accomplishment of His plan. He carries them forward by His own might as the ocean carries the log—because of its own majesty and buoyancy. God does not need our help. Why then does He ask for it? Why put us to the trouble of working for Him, why put us to the strain of giving for Him, why put us to the long endurance of patiently planning and waiting that we may accomplish His design? Because thus He develops us. This is His spiritual university in the world. Thus He applies not tests merely, but incitements, stimulants, means of instruction, to whatever is best in us. The man who has given himself to his country loves it better, the man who has fought for his friend honors him more, the man who has labored for his community values more highly the interests he has sought to conserve. The man who has wrought and planned and endured for the accomplishment of God's plan in the world sees the greatness of it, the divinity and glory of it, and is himself more perfectly assimilated to it."

*Sunday Afternoon.*

The number for July has come to hand. Were the title of this magazine changed from sacred to secular, we should then have no fault to find with it. The following extract will be interesting. It is from a "Tale of a Tornado," by Helen M. Smith; and reveals why the congregation wanted a new minister:

"Had a hard time to-day, Jennie?" inquired Esther of her junior partner, as that young lady threw herself down and tossed off her hat, with a disturbed and sour aspect.

"No worse than usual," was the reply. "I hate children; especially in such hot weather. But, Esther, Sarah Brown walked down with me this morning, and made me so furious, that I have been just boiling ever since. 'While I was musing, the fire burned,' as David says. Oh, I know he had his trials; he does speak so to the point at times. But just listen. You know that man who preached at the other church, last summer. Well, they are talking of him for papa's place."

"Why, Jennie!" cried Esther, "papa said he wasn't orthodox."

"Can't help it," replied Jennie; "probably they like him all the better; they must have novelty, you know; and maybe it's a pleasant excitement to hear a minister blaspheming in the pulpit and to try and believe what he says. They'll be tired of going to Heaven, some day, and will want to take the other place, by way of a change; and then set to work to develop themselves out of it."

"Oh, dear!" sighed Esther, "do you suppose it was last Sunday's sermon?"

"Oh, no; but it helped on; they say it was Calvinistic and doctrinal; but the real trouble is, that they want a younger man, and a live man; that means a man who hangs to the platform by one foot, while he stamps the other and throws both arms in the air, leaning over at an angle of forty-five degrees, and shouting himself hoarse; and then rushes to the other end and suddenly becomes as meek as a lamb and remarks, 'My friends, let us love each other and develop our humanity.'"

"Oh, Jennie!"

"It's true; Mr. Howe did all that, and they call him a live man."

"Poor papa!" sighed Esther again; it is hard on him."

"Yes," said Jennie, with a slight sideways nod of her head, "but it will be harder for them some day, you mark my words. If he doesn't look at them from his throne of glory across a great gulf, I'm mistaken. He is just as good as an angel. He has baptized them and married them and buried them, and brought them into the church and shown them how to serve the Lord all these years. Why, good gracious!" cried the young lady, "even if he were stupid, what words could make a sermon equal to that preached by such a holy life! And now because he quotes the Bible in his sermons oftener than Shakespeare or Emerson they desert him in his old age. They are tired of the strait gate and the narrow way. They want to be saved by anecdotes and a résumé of the daily papers, with bits from the classics thrown in so that they may feel themselves familiar with Homer and Plato. They want 'freedom of thought,' and above all 'to be developed.'"

"It is well papa doesn't hear you," said Esther, while the twins laughed.

It is as important to leave the minor mean things undone as to do the minor good things.—*Sunday-School Times.*

A NEW contagion is now abroad. The debt-paying period has come. The revivalism of the time has taken the form of financialism—the evangelism of church finance.—*Advance.*

WHEN a man has persisted in throwing lighted matches into a powder-magazine, he cannot plead that he did not mean to kill anybody if there is an explosion and somebody gets killed.—*Tribune.*

ONE feature of this Decoration-day which is quite noticeable and full of promise, is the growing friendliness of feeling between the different sections of the country, as seen in the words spoken over the honored dead.—*Religious Herald.*

IF every travelling Christian could carry the sunshine of heaven in his face, the peace of heaven in his heart, and the good-will of heaven in his whole aspect, and particularly in his open hand, it would be a blessed revival of religion simply to have them work or play.—*Congregationalist.*

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

**SPONGE CAKE.**—Three eggs, one cupful flour, one cupful sugar, three tablespoonful milk, one half teaspoonful soda, one teaspoonful cream tartar; flavor to taste.

**DRIPPING PAN.**—Put a few drops of ammonia and a little water into the dripping pan after taking the meat from it. By the time that dinner is over, the pan will be as easy to wash as a teacup.

**POUNISHING COPPER VESSELS.** A copper vessel, badly tinned, Miss Severn found in the kitchen, which had never been properly cleaned and was covered with that deadly poison, verdigris. She had it cleaned with vinegar, rotten stone and oil.

**SCOTCH SHORTBREAD.**—Rub together into a stiff short paste two pounds of flour, one pound of butter, and six ounces of loaf sugar. Make it into square cakes, about a half-inch thick, pluck them all along the edge at the top, dock over the whole surface of the cake, and bake in a moderate oven.

**TESTING BUTTER SALT.**—A Pennsylvania butter-maker tests his salt by dissolving a little in a glass tumbler. If the brine formed is clear and free from bitter taste, he pronounces the salt good; if, on the other hand, it presents a milky appearance, leaves any sediment or throws a scum to the surface, he rejects it.

**FOOD FOR AN INVALID.**—The following is recommended as a good dish for an invalid. Crumb crackers into a bowl—more or less, according to the size of the crackers. Pour boiling water, sufficient to soak them, over the crumbs. Break a fresh egg, and add quickly, stirring the whole rapidly. The boiling water cooks the egg. Season according to discretion, with salt, pepper, cream, or butter.

**EAR-ACHE.**—The "Journal of Health" gives the following: "There is scarcely any ache to which children are subject, so hard to bear and difficult to cure as the ear-ache. But there is a remedy, never known to fail. Take a bit of cotton batting, put upon it a pinch of black pepper, gather it up and tie it, dip in sweet oil, and insert in the ear. Put a flannel bandage over the head to keep it warm. It will give immediate relief."

**TO KEEP MEATS FRESH.**—For years I have preserved beef as fresh and nice as just from the meat-shop. Cut in convenient pieces, wash and weigh; in every one hundred pounds take from three and one-half to four pounds salt, two pounds sugar, one-half ounce saltpetre, dissolve in enough water to cover the meat, put in a tight tub that will not leak; after it has been in the brine for two or three weeks take out the meat, wash it, boil the brine, skim it, and put it back again. This receipt is worth many dollars to persons far from market.

**THE WAX OF BEES.**—Wax is generated in the bodies of bees at will, oozing out between the scales of their abdomen in little plates no larger than the top of a pin's head. When bees are engaged building rapidly the floor board is often thickly sprinkled with the wax scales which have fallen from the workmen's mouths. Each bee generates two scales at a time, and is unable to do so on scanty diet, but must feed liberally on honey during the time. The consumption of honey is very great when wax production is going on. Leibig was of opinion that twenty pounds of honey was required to manufacture one pound of wax.

**VENTILATION.**—Carbonic acid gas, which destroys life in a very short time, is generated by breathing; at every expiration some of it is thrown out into the room; it is its presence which gives the disagreeable odor observed on entering a close apartment in the morning in which several persons have slept all night. This gas, in combination with the moisture of the breath, is heavier than the common air; hence, its tendency is to the surface of the floor. Cold condenses this gas and makes it heavier; hence, the colder a room is, the more does this gas seek the floor; for these two reasons persons should avoid sleeping on the floor. The poverty of the humble poor sometimes compels them to part with some of their furniture; the bedstead is supposed to be one of the things which can be most conveniently spared, thus adding the risk of sickness to the misfortune of being poor.

**HINTS ON WORKING BUTTER.**—Do not work too much or too fast. Work slowly until all is thoroughly and evenly absorbed, otherwise the butter will not be of uniform color. Working it too fast will destroy the grain, and the butter becomes salvy and lardlike in its texture. Let it stand or put it away in the tray for twenty-four hours. Then work it enough to remove all the buttermilk or surplus brine, so that the butter may become dry or like a piece of cheese. Mould into rolls, and set them away for twenty-four hours, or until they become hard and firm. The cloth should now be put on, so as to cover one end, while the other is left open for the stamp. The cloth should be cut in pieces of exact size and dipped in brine and the butter rolled when the cloth is dripping wet. Butter should never come in contact with the bare hand. When in bulk it can be easily handled with a ladle and a flat paddle.

**WHAT COMES FROM SMOKING.**—A certain doctor, struck with the large number of boys under fifteen years of age whom he observed smoking, was led to inquire into the effect the habit had upon the general health. He took for his purpose thirty-eight boys, aged from nine to fifteen, and carefully examined them. In twenty-seven of them he discovered injurious traces of the habit. In twenty-two there were various disorders of the circulation and digestion, palpitation of the heart, and more or less marked taste for strong drink. In twelve there was frequent bleeding of the nose, ten had disturbed sleep, and twelve had slight ulceration of the mucus membrane of the mouth, which disappeared on ceasing from the use of tobacco for some days. The doctor treated them all for weakness, but with little effect until the smoking was discontinued, when health and strength were soon restored. Now this is no "old wife's tale," as these facts are given on the authority of the "British Medical Journal."