

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, NOV. 29, 1856.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

We have received from the General Protestant Episcopal Sunday School Union of New York, four of their latest publications, in various plain and ornamental bindings, which are well adapted for presents at Christmas, or at other times when inclination may determine, or deserving warrant the gift; and which we proceed to notice.

"*The Jewels of the Lord, and the Lord of the Jewels*,"—is an amplified history chiefly of the holy children of the Bible, but with an occasional contrast, beginning with Isaac and illustrating his obedience in submitting himself to be a sacrifice, and concluding with the child Jesus. The traits of youthful character thus developed, are treated in simple style, adapted to the comprehension of children of an early age. The book is tastefully embellished with engravings, and a piece of poetry further illustrates the particular virtues delineated in each preceding chapter. It is a very nice little book. There is sweet music in the following concluding stanzas:—

MY SHEPHERD.

Good shepherd of the sheep,
Who all thy flock dost keep,
Leading by waters calm:
Do Thou my footsteps guide,
To follow by Thy side.
Make me Thy little lamb.

I fear I may be torn
By many a sharp-set thorn,
As oftentimes I stray;
My tired feet may bleed,
For rough are paths which lead
Out of Thy pleasant way.

But when the road is long,
Thy tender arm and strong,
Thy weary one will bear;
And Thou wilt wash me clean,
And lead to pastures green,
Where all the flowers are fair.

Till from the soil of sin,
Cleansed and made pure within,
Dear Saviour whose I am,—
Thou bringest me in love
To Thy sweet Fold above,
A little snow-white lamb.

"*Sarah Barry's Home: a Sequel to The Christmas Gift. By Jane A. Eames. A Tale for The Church's Children*." A book that may be placed in the hands of children to their profit as well as amusement, written in a style that will engage their attention, and with a correct delineation of christian character under difficult circumstances, that cannot fail to enlist their warmest sympathies in behalf of the heroine of the story. If example has any effect upon the plastic mind of youth, those who read "*Sarah Barry's Home*" understandingly, cannot fail to be impressed with the loveliness of character which is portrayed throughout this little volume, and many we have no doubt will rise from its perusal with a desire to strive against their evil propensities, and to attain the gentle, loving, and christianly disposition, which is offered for their imitation.

"*Bread upon the Waters*"—This is the gem of the collection, and full of interest. It describes the trials of two little girls, deprived of maternal care, steeped in poverty, and subjected to the brutality of a drunken father. The heroism and self-devotion of Margie, the elder, her strength of character, and her desire to rise above the circumstances of her actual condition, and her loving care of little Nannie—are finely drawn—and not less so are the infantile simplicity and lamblike innocence, and hopeful confidence of poor Nannie. The poverty so graphically shown is alleviated through accidental circumstances, and this brings out the Christian characters and active benevolence of Mrs. Emerson, a wealthy lady, and her quaker cousins Mrs. Wilson and Miss Nattie—and others, who become the benefactors of the little girls; and through whom they receive Christian instruction. The death of Nannie will cause many a tear—and the only child of Mrs. Emerson falls a victim at the same time to fever—Margie's character is purified by her trials and her bereavements, and her faith confirmed. The moral is an incentive to practical benevolence, and is intended to show that "bread cast upon the waters" is seldom lost when a pious confidence accompanies the action. The authoress has not written this book for one denomination only. We recommend it to all our readers, and to every persuasion.

"*The Sign of the Cross*."—We trust this title will not frighten the more fastidious among our Communion—for we can assure them it contains no heretic ideas. They will find, however, much

good instruction to the children of the Church—and an inculcation of their positive duties by a process of reasoning that cannot fail to satisfy their young minds, and guide them in their performance as a matter of conscience.

"*The Little Episcopalian*", and a number of other Juveniles from the above Society, in addition to the books noticed above, may be had at the Book Store of Wm. Gosset, Granville Street, Halifax.

LECTURES AT TEMPERANCE HALL.

On Monday evening last the fourth entertainment in behalf of the Mechanics Library was given at Temperance Hall, and as regards the ability with which the theory of Music was discussed by the Lecturers, and its practice illustrated by the band, must be pronounced a complete success. It is a matter for much congratulation that our citizens are privileged to listen to such elaborate music as that which is performed by the efficient band of the 62d. Regt. Since its return from the war much expense has evidently been bestowed on its appointments, and the wonderful improvement in its performance must be as gratifying to the Chief of the Orchestra, as it is pleasant to that portion of the public, who take advantage of their opportunities.

We only hope that by other entertainments of literary character, and through the indulgence of the regiment, we shall hear it soon again.

To all but the initiated in the mysteries of Harmony and the effect of practice, the beautiful precision of time and perfect concord in the rapid passages must have been quite puzzling—but we suppose that they who understand the language of that white baton, know the secret;—

Senor Caseres in a Lecture of an hour's duration fully equalled his former efforts to elevate and educate the Musical taste of our city, and taking the Piano Forte as his subject, first showed the origin and improvement of the instrument; discussed the relative value of the modes of tuning, and then analyzed the "methods" of its Masters in their different Schools. He characterized the instruments as chiefly belonging to our Homes, and its present favourite School as a witness of the "spirit of the age"—no longer content with the dreamy melodies, which belong to an earlier era, but shrouding in the successful attempts to master almost incredible rapidity of execution, and complicated mechanical movement, the same eager spirit with which enterprise is now conducted, and modern life is spent.

After most pleasantly taking his audience for an hour's ramble in the region of "tone land," proving the value of the Piano, to "professionals" and "amateurs," on account of its extensive range, equally capable of furnishing with its soft pedal a mere shadow for a solo, or with its loud pedal an efficient aid to a spirited and more prominent chorus—demonstrating its almost indispensable value to operatic, and oratorio composers—designating it as the Musician's compass to guide him over the waves of harmony and save him from the sea and breakers of discord—with many well sustained flights of fancy, and practical hints, he concluded, or rather, abruptly broke off in the middle, on finding that a portion of his manuscript was where it was of no use to him, at home—but as he hinted, that there was a chance of his again appearing to analyze, and illustrate the style of the several masters, the audience patiently heard of his present mishap.

He was followed by Professor Tomkins, who, taking sacred music for a theme, tersely and effectively showed the beauty of the music of the Sanctuary as it once was, and was again to be, and the miserable deficiency of the prevailing system in our province. With a most unsparing sentence he pronounced the "pretty fugues" which have usurped the place of good old plain song and simple tunes as impostors—and seemed to think that the veriest tyro in the art could throw off a score a day of such subterfuge for church music as now existed. He moreover, in lamenting that the real "Songs of Zion" like the harps at Babylon were silent—illustrated the departure from the legitimate and imposing music of the church by stating that it would be the duty of some future Scholastic to explain by a note, what the Poet meant in speaking of "Martyr" and "Dundee"—for if no change came soon, the names would pass from memory.

In the course of his lecture, having proved the false estimate of music entertained by uncultivated ears, from the amusing anecdote of the enthusiasm displayed by the King of the Sandwich Islands at the tuning of the Orchestra, and his want of emotion when they performed a masterpiece, he took occasion to notice the defect among ourselves in possessing no Society in which to educate the taste—that while in the antipodes Melbourne had its Society, vying in performance with its Mother land—and in England a little disfranchised

town had its successful association, Halifax had not one, and without comment he twice repeated the reproof—Halifax has none. Perhaps however he did not know that there was a skeleton from which life long ago departed, and it only requires a little spirit to reanimate it. He showed a very strong and just dislike to the practice of letting the congregation grow up with the idea that the Choir ought to do all the singing—and urged the possibility and duty of making the music in Churches a general thing—and did not seem to think it over imaginative to predict that at all events something like one hundred good voices could be found in every congregation, to join in this part of the service. He prophesied "the day will come." May he prove a true prophet. The nearest approach to this that we have heard, was at the Bishop's Chapel, better known as "St. John's," where the stranger must be struck with the general and hearty worship in chanc and psalmody as well as in the responses which occur in the Services—the tunes seem selected with a view of enabling all who choose to join, and, if a more modern and unfamiliar air has been selected for one hymn, and a good old simple melody, for the other—the loud welcome given by the congregation to the well-known tune, is a tangible proof that for the worship of God the "old is better."—It was in that Chapel we heard that beautiful composition of Tallis so warmly lauded by the Lecturer, sung without the modern Boston Academy ornaments, and with the Canon strictly preserved—and we are therefore quite prepared to agree with him that "unadorned" it is far more solemn and is more grand in its native massiveness. He also strongly marked the difference between England and this Colony in a taste for good Church music, with a home illustration, viz—that he was surprised to find that of a set of anthems, published by Dr. Medley, Bishop of Fredericton, a man of acknowledged musical taste, although advertised daily for five months, not a copy had yet reached us. This he said could not take place in England. Had a Prelate there issued one anthem, it would have been rehearsed in every hamlet in the kingdom, and sung even by the cotton spinners in the manufacturing districts. He tried to move the audience to an effort for some Society, by making them envious of his good fortune in having heard the Old Hundred sung by 5000 voices, compared with which he said "Italian trills were tame." If his remarks remove the stigma from our City in having no Harmonio Society, and from our Churches for not yet having fully achieved congregational singing—all will feel doubly indebted for the entertainment of Monday evening.

The doings in Montreal on the 12th instant, upon the occasion of the opening of the Grand Trunk Railway to Toronto, while they proved the high estimate of the benefits of the undertaking, were exceedingly generous and liberal. Guests were invited from the United States and the Colonies—and no expense was spared in order to show not only the present advance of Canada in mechanical industry, but what might be expected of its future development. How long will it be before Halifax becomes a terminus of the Grand Trunk? Every approach to the mouth of the St. Lawrence helps forward the time, by increasing the traffic in that direction, and opens up a necessity for further extension. We hope that Nova Scotia will not relax in the exertion to hasten the time. When we approximate so far on the route as Amherst, we think it will be no difficult matter to calculate the period when the rest of the distance will be made, for between the two points the Government will see the importance of encouraging the undertaking if not completing it, independent of the commercial advantages that may present themselves.

By far the most important matter that has come before the City Council for a long time, has been the rescinding the Resolution of agreement with the Water Company for 15 years, passed at a previous meeting. The City by the motion for a Committee to confer with the Water Company upon the terms for a purchase of the Works, is taking the right course to make them properly available for the public benefit:

CITY COUNCIL, Monday, November 24.

Went into the order of the day, and took up a resolution moved by Ald. Donohoe, to the effect that a committee should be appointed to confer with the Water Company in order to learn whether, and upon what terms, the water works could be purchased by the city. Passed unanimously, and the following committee appointed:—Dundas, Lowndes, Cochran, Ross, Barry and King.

The resolution passed at last meeting respecting an agreement with the Water Company for 15 years, was rescinded 10 to 7. For rescinding—Anderson,