

BOOK NOTICES.

Sinai and Palestine, in Connection with their History. By ARTHUR PENRYN STANLEY, D.D., F.R.S., New edition, with maps and plans. 8vo, pp. 641. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son, and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.

Stanley's "*Sinai and Palestine*," and Stanley's "*Eastern Churches*," we regard as the great Dean's greatest works. The new edition of the former, now before us, is the latest work of its lamented author. In it he has made several additions and corrections, and has furnished a number of maps, coloured to represent the natural appearance of the country, and other illustrations. This book has long been a favourite with Bible students, and in its present form must be accepted as the most valuable work on the subject in the English language. At the same time it bears the impress of Dean Stanley's accurate scholarship and fine literary taste. We consider this book simply indispensable to the comprehension of the sacred history of the lands to which it relates. It is not merely the record of the Dean's personal investigations, although in his two visits—the latter in company with the Prince of Wales—he enjoyed special facilities for investigation. To his attendance upon His Royal Highness he owed the privilege of visiting the famous Mosque of Hebron, one of the most sacred places of the Mahometan world, containing the Cave of Machpelah—the last resting place of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—a privilege never before accorded to any Christian. The greater part of the volume is devoted to a minute investigation, by the aid of every extant authority, of the topography, physical conformation and constitution of these old Bible Lands, as illustrating their sacred history. On every page his wide learning is apparent. A thousand pertinent

allusions or comparisons illuminate the subject with a grace all his own. The mechanical appearance of the book is every way worthy of its intrinsic merit.

Letters to a Friend. By CONNOP THIRLWALL, late Lord Bishop of St. David's. Edited by the Very Rev. DEAN STANLEY. Pp. xxiv. 399. Boston: Roberts Brothers. Toronto: Willing & Williamson. Price, \$1.50.

This is a book of remarkable interest. It is the familiar talk of an Anglican Bishop in his hours of ease. The letters cover a period of eleven years, 1864-1874 and are the unrestrained outpourings of a full mind on literature, poetry, art, music, religion, politics, the last joke in *Punch*, the last striking magazine article, the latest novels—English, French, German, Italian, and Dutch—*et hoc genus omne*. The Bishop was an enthusiastic Welshman, a staunch liberal, a profound scholar, a member of the Old Testament Revision Committee, and author of the best history of Greece till it was superseded by that of the schoolmate and friend, George Grote. He was a perfect polyglot, and during his last days in illness and blindness translated a beautiful apologue on Sleep the Brother of Death into seven different languages. The Bishop was a good diner out and met every body worth knowing—wits, poets, artists, statesmen—and gossips garrulously about them all with his cultured young lady correspondent among the mountains of Wales. He was often a guest at Windsor Castle, and recounts the Queen's interest in the Welsh language and literature. When unable to attend service she asked the Bishop for the MS. of his sermon for private reading. He tells all about his pet cats, tame geese, peacocks, etc.; and rails constantly at the weather, which seems an important