

## BOOKS FOR THE MONTH.

AT T. MACLEAR'S, 45, YONGE STREET.

HARPER & BROTHERS have issued the first volume of *Coleridge's Works*, to be completed in seven volumes; the volume issued contains "Aids to Reflection," and "The Statesman's Manual." The edition thus commenced will contain the entire works of this distinguished writer, his Newspaper "*Essayson his own Times*" (forming a separate volume and already before the public) excepted. The first volume is introduced with an admirable preliminary Essay by President March, D.D., the whole work to be conducted under the editorship of Professor Shedd. The introductory Essay is on the Philosophy and Theology of Coleridge, and is itself in point of composition, style and talent, a valuable contribution to the Theological Literature of our day. Coleridge stands among the foremost of the literary men of the 19th Century. His name is known as a poet and a philosopher to two continents, and will descend to posterity enshrined in all the glory of the age which his genius brightened and his talent enriched. With Wordsworth, Byron, Scott and Southey, his labors and character are intimately associated, as in their society he mingled, and with much of their spirit he sympathized. The history of Coleridge's progress is somewhat strange. He set out in the world of letters a rank Socinian,—indeed, we might almost say, an infidel—and by a process of close study and rigid application, his mind gradually threw off the slough of its natural scepticism and rose to the rational position of a common-sense believer in an inspired revelation. After wading through the mazes of ancient pantheism, and the empyrical theories of modern Germanism, he was conducted to the sensible conclusion that both were an outrage on the *intuitioe* as well as the *revealed* Theology of the Bible, and, deriving his doctrine of ideas from Plato, and his opinions of the intellectual powers of our nature from Kant, he betook himself for his Theology to the fountainhead of all moral truth, the inspired volume, and on this ground he stood as immovable as the rock, whilst entrenched in the impregnable rampart of a revealed Theology, he hurled with destructive effect the artillery of his gigantic mental prowess against all the modern scepticism of the 19th century.

*Pastoral Theology*, or the Theory of the Evangelical Ministry, by A. Vinet; translated and edited by Thomas H. Skinner, D.D., Professor of Pastoral Theology in the Union Theological Seminary of New York: with notes and an editorial chapter by the translator. Among their most recent issues, Harper and Brothers have published this most valuable volume, which, next to his Bible, may be deemed the Minister's *endomecum*. There is one grand difficulty which every clergyman, but especially a young clergyman, has to deal with, and experience is often tedious in teaching it, we refer to the right management of his flock. In his intercourse with men, his social nature is frequently taxed, his patience is taxed, his time is taxed, he often falters and founders in his sphere of labor from a want of *knowledge*, not a want of book learning, for this may be got in the library or the study, but from a want of knowledge of

*human nature*. To remedy—at least in part—this evil, a course of *Lectures on Pastoral Theology* in its various departments, has been deemed essentially necessary, and hence it has been made a separate branch of collegiate education, and a distinct and separate Professor has been set over it. The work before us is devoted to this important part of the preparatory education of the ministry. After an admirable Introduction, written in a racy but pithy style, and breathing an excellent spirit, the work opens with what the author appropriately calls "Individual and Internal Life." Next he treats of "Relative or Social Life," next of "Pastoral Life" and finally of "Administrative or Official Life."

*The Adopted Child*, by Miss Jewsbury; *Agatha's Husband*, by the author of *Olive*; and Bulwer's *My Novel*, are among the most recent of the Harpers' issues. *The Adopted Child* we have read, and admire very much—so far at least as the intention of the learned authoress is concerned, we deem it due to say that her style and sentiment are very popular. The treatment of children, however, in this country we think somewhat defective,—a wise, indeed, an inspired author has said, "The rod and reproof bring wisdom."

Harper & Brothers, in the last issue of their Magazine, announce the fact that Auguste Comte has published a new work entitled *Catechisme Positioniste ou Exposition Courte de la Religion Universelle*, in which his views of religion are fully made known. This work we suppose may find its way into this country. His opinions are, of course, those of the modern philosophical school—full of scepticism—full, more properly speaking, of infidelity. He is one of the *progressionists* of the 19th century, and though a man of gigantic mental powers, and a profound scientific scholar, still his catechism, we fear, will do very little for the cause of modern Christianity—what a pity that such a splendid intellect should be so viciously squandered, and that the loftiest powers of mind should be lost on trifles, or desecrated by being lent to a service so ill-calculated to benefit the cause of humanity, or to promote the moral well-being of our race.

PUTNAM & Co. have issued the third number of their *New Monthly*, which we have taken some pains to examine. This is the March number,—and having in our last noticed the work, we deem it due to this enterprising and extensive house to say a few words *ancut* its pretensions and merits,—and, without *exordium*, we beg to premise that Putnam's "Monthly" is, on the whole, a very readable Magazine. This periodical seems to us to promise fairly—its style and design are likely to render it more popular than Harpers' with some readers, inasmuch as its articles are all original—though sometimes labored, with a mixture of profundity and flippancy. It pretends to advance the interests of a substantial rather than a popular and light literature, and with this view the editors and publishers have evidently engaged the master minds of America in this great enterprise. Among the scientific and would-be *literati*, the periodical will doubtless find a very extensive circulation, and to this we consider it fully entitled. It fills