

REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

THE TESTIMONY OF THE ROCKS; OR, GEOLOGY IN ITS BEARINGS ON THE TWO THEOLOGIES, NATURAL AND REVEALED, by HUGH MILLER, with Memorials of the Death and Character of the Author. *Boston: Gould & Lincoln. 12mo., pp. 502.*

THIS noble book crowns the monument which its distinguished and lamented author has erected for himself, and which his countrymen and the world will ever look upon with admiration. We handle this last product of Hugh Miller's genius with the solemn reverential awe with which we read the records of departed greatness and worth on the tablets of the sepulchre. Criticism is utterly disarmed. We recognize the long familiar, pellucid, delightful Saxon style,—the bold tread of a man conscious that he walks upon his own possessions,—the far reaching and sound inductions of nature's own philosopher. With what keen eye the author looks upon facts, minute though they be! and with what firm grasp he holds every new phenomenon, and every organism revealed by the Rocks, until they give up their secrets and satisfy the demands of their arch-inquisitor! There are no better examples extant of the Baconian method, in the investigation of facts, than are to be found in the writings of Hugh Miller. We witness in them all, a patience that is never wearied in searching into the arcana of Nature. Nothing is taken for granted. They do not amaze us with "doubtful disputations," or the wild speculations of "philosophy falsely so called." Over all their glorious unveiling of the great works of Jehovah, there is a manifest humility and sobriety of judgment. In the descriptions of natural objects in this volume there is the same minuteness and completeness which mark all the other works of the gifted author, and in the illustrations there are the usual Shaksperian cleanness and sharpness that gratify and delight. Like the facets of a well-cut brilliant, each topic contributes its share of light and beauty, so as, combined, to render this book an invaluable legacy in Literature, Science and Theology, to the men of this and all future generations. The "Testimony of the Rocks" will be read wherever the English language is known, and will, along with the kindred works of the author, do more to popularize Natural Science, and to confirm the Theology of the Bible, than any similar books that have yet been written. We thank God that He has been pleased to send us in these days this prophetic man, gifted to such a degree with the power to interpret to us His hand-writing upon the Rocks, and to unfold to us the wonders and the wisdom of His creative might.

The "Testimony of the Rocks" is dedicated to Dr. Miller, Professor of Surgery in the University of Edinburgh, in beautiful and affectionate terms. It contains a preface to the reader, in which there is an account of the origin of the several Lectures which the book contains, from which we quote the following:—

Of the twelve following Lectures, four, (the First, Second, Fifth, and Sixth) were delivered before the members of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution (1852 and 1855). One (the Third) was read at Exeter Hall before the Young Men's Christian Association (1854), and the substance of two of the others (the Eleventh and Twelfth) at Glasgow, before the Geological Section of the British Association (1855). Of the five others,—written mainly to complete and impart a character of unity to the volume of which they form a part,—only three (the Fourth, Seventh, and Eighth) were addressed *viva voce* to popular audiences. The Third Lecture was published both in this country and America, and translated into some of the Continental languages. The rest now appear in print for the first time. Though their writer has had certainly no reason to complain of the measure of favor with which the read or spoken ones have been received, they are perhaps all better adapted for perusal in the closet than for delivery in the public hall or lecture room; while the two concluding Lectures are mayhap suited to interest only geologists who, having already acquainted themselves with the generally ascertained facts of their science, are curious to cultivate a further knowledge with such new facts