

OUR TABLE.

CHRISTIAN THOUGHT ON LIFE, IN A SERIES OF DISCOURSES—BY HENRY GILES, AUTHOR OF "LECTURES AND ESSAYS." BOSTON, TICKNOR, REED, AND FIELDS.

THE Rev. Mr. Giles is already well known to the readers of the *Garland*, as the author of some of the most powerful articles that have ever appeared in its pages. The present occasion is not an inappropriate one, to express our sense of the kindness he has shown, in lending us so frequently the aid of his distinguished name. In the collection of "Lectures and Essays" published during the last year, are to be found several papers which originally appeared here. They have all received from the literary public, the most indubitable proofs of approbation.

But none of Mr. Giles' writings, as we think, indicate so well the peculiar characteristics of his mind, none possess so largely the excellencies of his style, as the volume now before us. Though termed "A Series of Discourses," it was not written, as the preface tells us, in pastoral relations or for pastoral purposes. The author's object was "to gather into compact form, fragments of moral experience, and to give some record and some order to desultory studies of man's interior life." The worth, the personality, the continuity, the struggles, the discipline, the weariness of life,—these form the subjects of separate far-seeing and philosophic dissertations.

We trust we shall not be accused of any sectarian predilections, when we thus, in our strongest terms, commend this delightful book. There is nothing in it which can wound the feelings of the bitterest sectary, nothing which need disturb a single pre-existent dogma. It unfolds man's life,—this life, in all its vast variety of relations, with its hopes and its fears, its actions and its aims, its sorrows and its joys, its duties and its end. What theme is there more fit than this, to fill the soul with grandeur, or to crown the lips with eloquence.

As we read these pages, we are impressed anew with the value of our existence; we gather strength to our conviction that the world which God "made by his power, fashioned by his wisdom, and fitted by his bounty for many precious uses," is a world of goodness and of glory, which should inspire the loftiest sentiments of love and reverence; we feel the great responsibilities of man, but then we also feel the never-failing means by which they may be borne, the means by which his destiny must be accom-

plished. These reflections bring to mind, as appropriate, the beautiful lines of Longfellow:—

"Tell me not in mournful numbers,
Life is but an empty dream;
For the soul is dead that slumbers,
And things are not what they seem.
"Life is real! Life is earnest!
And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest,
Was not spoken of the soul."

In our present number, we give an extract from one of these discourses—"The Personality of Life." We are mistaken if it is not read with pleasure; and equally mistaken if those who read it are not led to get the book itself, and follow out the series. There are few minds so elevated that its tone will not still further elevate, few hearts so free from error that it will not further purify.

LECTURE DELIVERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE MONTREAL EARLY CLOSING ASSOCIATION, JANUARY 15, 1851. BY JOHN LEEMING.

We are not in the habit of noticing single lectures, however great may be their merits. But the occasion on which the one before us was produced, seems to warrant a departure from our general rule. No merely local object can be worthier than that here sought; the elevation of a numerous class, on whose intelligence or ignorance the future prosperity or depression of our city must, in a large degree, depend. The "early closing movement," the counterpart of another in Great Britain, was begun in Montreal some three or four years ago, and by the unremitting energy of its supporters, has become successful. The opportunities of mental and moral culture, which were formerly, from an imaginary necessity, denied, are now afforded; and the result is cheerily displayed, in the increasing intelligence and usefulness of those for whom those opportunities have been obtained.

Mr. Leeming's production is marked by perspicuity of diction, and by a comprehensive view of the subject he presents. It will amply repay the time given to its perusal. It is distributed, we believe, gratuitously.

We congratulate our readers upon the appearance of the beautiful tale by Miss Murray, which commences our present number. It will be continued through several months, and its interest increases as it progresses.

Several articles which were received too late for insertion this month will appear in May. Among others, "Yock Junior," and "Lucille," will be attended to.