

a substantial framed house, a stable and store-house, and a large cattle-fold, and furniture and tools in abundance.

When they have erected their houses, they will obtain from the Falkland Company (according to permission granted) cattle to stock their land and to serve for food. And then they will proceed in the "Allen Gardiner" to visit Tierra del Fuego, and find natives known to be friendly; and afterwards to Gugory Bay, Patagonia, to seek out Casimiro, a powerful cacique, who has earnestly requested to be taught Christianity, that he may be able to teach it again to his people. When they have found these persons, they will procure through their help some young boys to convey to the Falklands, and there to be taught and trained for interpreters.

This plan is not chimerical; it has the substance of sound sense, and the support of experience, and has been submitted to and approved by the first naval surveyors of the day. It is now put before the reader. If it commends itself to him, and he feels that his Lord and Saviour may be glorified through it in the conversion of souls, many or few, from among the dark aborigines of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia, we beg him to join us in praying for the preservation of the vessel and her company—for a prosperous voyage—for prudence and perseverance to the missionaries—and for preparation of mind to the natives. We say nothing about pecuniary support, from a persuasion that no one can withhold this, who gives the other.

A very promising auxiliary association to help the Patagonian Missionary Society exists in Edinburgh, of which R. T. Webb, Esq., Royal Circus, is Treasurer, and James Walker, Esq., Queen Street, is Secretary.

G. P. DESPARD,

Hon. Sec., P. M. S.

[The Edinb. Chr. Mag. for December.]

THE RECENT MEETING OF THE WALDENSIAN SYNOD AT LA TOUR.—The Synod opened on the 29th of May at 9 o'clock, A. M. The large church of La Tour was filled with such an audience as might assemble on the Sabbath day. In the front rows sat the pastors and deputies. The opening service was in Italian, as Dr. De Sanctis had been appointed to preach. According to the Waldensian form, which retains a "reader," Professor Malan read the chapters, &c., in Italian, and then, after prayer and praise, Dr. De Sanctis chose Acts xx. 28, as the text of his discourse. The text presented, he said, 1. *A duty*—"Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock." 2. *A privilege*—"Over which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers." 3. *An office*—"To feed the church of God." 4. *A dogma*—"The church which He hath purchased with His own blood." There were sixty-five members present, namely, the pastors of the 17 parishes, and of the Italian stations, the Professors of the College, and two lay deputies from each parish.

The Synod closed on the 2nd of June at one o'clock, P. M. Though no Synod had sat for so long a time for two centuries, the country deputies remained till the last. On Sabbath the communion was dispensed in all the parishes. The morning service at La Tour was in the old church at the foot of the mountain, where about 400 or 500 people communicated. M. Appia preached an excellent discourse in the afternoon in the church at La Tour to a large audience, and in the evening there was another crowded meeting at Santa Margherita for Italian service. M. Malan presided and opened the exposition, which was continued by M. Etienne Malan, Signor Niccolini, Mr. Hanna, of Florence, and Mr. Curry, of Manchester. There is truly a great work to do in this land, "the harvest is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He would send labourers into His harvest." The concluding prayer of the evening meeting was offered by Francesco Madiati, so well known as the prisoner of Volterra. It was simple and earnest and exceedingly affecting, especially when he

thanked God who had brought him to those valleys that were stained with the blood of His martyrs, and to brethren who had prayed for him when he was in chains for the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus. It is truly interesting to see the Italian element so largely represented in the Waldensian Church. May that Church, whose chosen emblem is the light shining in darkness, be the blessed instrument in leading many to that Light which is the light of men!—*News of the Churches.*

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

GEOGRAPHY OF CANADA.—By T. A. Gibson, High School Department, McGill College, &c. MONTREAL, Hew Ramsay.

Geography is a branch of knowledge of so universal application that few subjects can be extensively treated without its aid being frequently called in with advantage. On this account it merits and receives due attention at the hands of all who would write or read with intelligence. These remarks have been suggested by a cursory glance into the compilation heading this notice. We doubt not that this attempt to present a systematic view of what may be more appropriately termed the *chorography* or *topography* of Canada will be generally acceptable in our schools and families. With the view of avoiding a fault too common in text-books of Geography, that of presenting dry, uninteresting lists of names, Mr. Gibson has endeavoured to conjoin the useful and interesting by adopting in a great measure the *descriptive or narrative mode of compilation*. Both Provinces seem to be treated after nearly the same plan and according to their relative importance, the *Eastern* being embraced in 28 pages and the *Western* in 74. After giving a general view of the *Districts* in either Province, (that division being retained in the case of the Upper Province, as being useful in giving an idea of its general features,) the *Counties* are noticed in local succession, embracing somewhat fully what seems worthy of notice in each. Thereafter separate portions are devoted to the *Rivers and Lakes* with their affluents, falls and rapids, to the *Islands, Bays, &c.* We perceive that the *Townships* of U. C. have been given with the view of being overtaken in a second course or in revises. That no inconvenience may arise from the introduction of these, they have been included within brackets []. As auxiliary to the memories of the pupils and teachers, there are interspersed several important *Comparative Tables* and *Summaries*, and there are appended to each Part *Questions* on the entire text, from which less experienced teachers may learn somewhat in regard to the most successful mode of eliciting satisfactory answers from their pupils. There are subjoined useful *Tables of Reference* and an accented alphabetical *Index*. In short we consider that the enterprising publisher and the compiler have done good service to the

cause of Education by the issue of this manual, and that its low cost, a quarter of a dollar, must tend greatly to extend the circulation.

The Jordan and the Rhine; or, the East and the West; being the Result of Five Years' Residence in Syria, and Five years' Residence in Germany. By the Rev. WILLIAM GRAHAM, Member of the Royal Irish Academy; Honorary Member of the Arabic Historical Society of Syria, and of the Archæological Society of Rhine, &c. Pp. 554. London: Partridge, Oakey, and Co. 1854.

MR. GRAHAM'S name is well known to many of our readers, as one of the missionaries of the Irish General Assembly to the Jews. As a labourer among the lost sheep of the house of Israel, he has spent five years in Damascus, in Syria, and five years in Bonn, in Rhenish Prussia. The book before us is not so much a journal or a history of his missionary life as a record of the observations of men, manners, and customs in the East and West, as they have fallen under his eye; and of the outbursts, so to speak, of sanctified genius on matters of history, philosophy & religion; criticism, poetry, & superstition; everything that comes in the way of a man who has travelled much and read more. The first part of this beautiful volume presents us with descriptions of the Jordan, of Lebanon, Baalbec, Damascus, combining exceeding accuracy of statement with a glowing eloquence worthy of "the land of the East, and the clime of the sun," and which must leave on the mind of the reader vivid and delightful impressions. The state of the Jews in Damascus, the Jewish Mission there, the customs of the Orientals and their dress, are all described, and throughout the whole are evidences of rich attainments in Oriental literature. The "Journal of the Rhine," which forms the second part of the volume, is more desultory in its character than the first—the philosopher, the poet archæologist, the biblical critic, the theologian, the philanthropist, and the Christian Missionary, each by turns holds converse with the reader and enchains his attention.

RICHARD WILLIAMS, THE PATAGONIAN MISSIONARY. By James Hamilton, D. D. Pp. 255. New York: Carter & Brother.

This is a precious memorial of the brief but rich Christian experience, and the short but eventful missionary career, of one of the associates of Captain Gardiner, who headed a bold but unsuccessful attempt to establish a mission at the extremity of the South American continent. The ear of the Christian world has scarcely yet ceased to tingle at the terrible detail of the sufferings of this adventurous mission party; and the murmurs of disapprobation at sending forth so small and ill-provided a company on such a difficult enterprise have hardly yet died away. It is always easy to see how a catastrophe might have been averted after it has taken place; and we are far more disposed to reflect upon others than to set home lessons of Divine truth upon our own hearts. If these zealous and heroic men performed no mission to the Patagonians, they have performed one to the Church of Christ throughout the world. The record of their ardent desires to win sinners to God; of their meek endurance of almost unprecedented trials and hardships; of the holy comforts and joys on which their souls feasted in that dreary wilderness where they famished, sickened and died, is of incalculable value. Dr. Hamilton's book, though little more than a picture of trial, disappointment, peril, famine and death, is fitted to do great good by showing that the spirit of apostles and martyrs still lives in the Church, and especially by exhibiting the power of Divine grace to support and cheer in the most trying exigencies.

"The Lord can clear the darkest skies:
Can give us day for night;
Make drops of sacred sorrow rise
To rivers of delight!"