

A WORD OF WELCOME.

WHEN we started this journal, our distinct aim was "the diffusion of wholesome and attractive literature in the homes of the people," and we think our object has been thus far accomplished. Our purpose being so clearly stated, it is therefore with great pleasure that we welcome an accession to the ranks of popular literature, in the shape of the "Weekly Welcome," issued by Messrs. Partridge. This new paper, so cheery and homelike in its title, is the same in its contents; it entirely fills its own particular sphere—that of a fireside weekly paper—and we think has left no room for a rival. It is not flattery, but simple truth, to say that everything produced by Messrs. Partridge is done most thoroughly well, and this is no exception to the rule. The "Weekly Welcome" consists of sixteen large 4to pages, full of instructive and interesting articles, and each number has seven or eight large illustrations, which are, with few exceptions, exceedingly good. The whole is well printed with clear type, on good paper, and all for a penny! For those who prefer it, the paper is issued in sixpenny monthly parts, with each of which is given a beautiful steel engraving, alone worth the whole price of the part. We trust that many thousands will, in one form or another, do themselves good, and through them their neighbours, by giving this paper a thorough and hearty "welcome."

IS IT FAIR?

INFIDELS make special pretensions to fair dealing and fair play. Now, would it be a fair way of investigating the character of any man, to go among his bitterest enemies, and hunt up every sneer, and scoff, and story, whether true or false, and then, without further ado, pronounce judgment upon him, and refuse to have any intercourse with him? Would it not be reasonable also to consult his friends, and see what they had to say, and especially to become personally acquainted with him, and also to investigate the character and accusations of his enemies, before giving credence to them, and see whether they were not prompted by envy, malice, or revenge, in the charges which they brought against him?

But how do sceptics investigate the Bible? Not one in a hundred of them has ever read it through since they came to years of understanding. Not one in ten thousand of them could read it fluently and understandingly in the tongues in which it was written. They do not make it a study; they do not understand it; they cannot fairly represent it. It is a rare thing that an infidel quotes a passage of Scripture correctly. Even the passages they produce as objectionable are usually misunderstood, misquoted, or misrepresented. Probably not one infidel in five hundred could quote correctly from memory twenty passages of Scripture, giving chapter and verse where they occur; and probably not one in a thousand could repeat verbatim five chapters from the Bible. And the little they do know of the words of the Book is what has been taught them in childhood, when their judgments were immature, instead of being learned by them when grown up in the way of careful, diligent, painstaking investigation.

Now, we submit, that if men wish to investigate the Bible they should read it, study it, learn it, practise it, and inquire concerning it among its friends as well as its foes; and then let them investigate the condition and character of persons who live according to the Bible, and compare them with men who hate it, curse it, or are ignorant of it, and they will be better fitted to judge of its merits.

THE COMFORT OF LOVE.

TO an invalid friend, who was a trembling, doubting believer, a minister once said:—

"When I leave you I shall go to my own residence, if the Lord will; and when there the first thing I expect to do is to call for a baby that is in the house. I expect to place her on my knee, and look down into her sweet eyes, and listen to her charming prattle, and, tried as I am, her presence will rest me, for I love that child with unutterable tenderness. But the fact is she does not love me, or to say the most for her, she

loves me very little. If my heart were breaking under the burden of a crushing sorrow, it would not disturb her sleep. If my body were racked with excruciating pain, it would not interrupt her play with her toys. If I were dead she would be amused in watching my pale face and closed eyes. If my friends came to remove the corpse to the place of burial, she would probably clap her hands in glee, and in two or three days totally forget her papa. Besides this she has never brought me in a penny, but has been a constant expense on my hands ever since she was born. Yet, although I am not rich in the world's possessions, there is not money enough in the world to buy my baby. How is it? Does she love me, or do I love her? Do I withhold my love until I know she loves me? Am I waiting for her to do something worthy of my love before extending it to her?"

"Oh, I see it," said the sick man, while the tears ran down his cheeks, "I see it clearly." It is not my love to God, but God's love to me I ought to be thinking about; and I do love Him now, as I never loved Him before." From that time his peace was like a river.—*Selected.*

THE FIVE POUND PRIZE

Offered by Mr. Longley, the London publisher, for the six best Essays on Scriptural subjects, has been gained by Miss Minnie Brice, 3, Lower Summerlands, Exeter.

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

The Child's Bible Narrative (London: Cassell, 2s.)—We are very glad to find that our suggestion as to issuing a popular cheap edition of "The Child's Bible" has long since been anticipated by Messrs. Cassell in the handy volume before us, which has now reached its fourth edition (32nd thousand). This is indeed a boon. The Bible story in the narrative form so loved by children, with fourteen good illustrations, for 2s. is a marvel of cheapness.

Elcira; or, the Power of the Gospel (London: Stock). A thrilling story of priestly persecution in down-trodden Spain. It is long since we read a work of pure fiction so absorbing and dramatic in its interest.

The Christian Globe. June Part (London: Allingham, 6d.).—Quantity unequalled at the price. The photograph of Dr. Moffat, which accompanies the part, is alone almost worth the money.

THE MINISTER'S WIFE.—The minister's wife ought to be selected by a committee of the church. She should be warranted never to have headache or neuralgia; she should have nerves of wire and sinews of iron; she should never be tired nor sleepy, and should be everybody's cheerful drudge; she should be cheerful, intellectual, pious, and domesticated; she should be able to keep her husband's house, darn his stockings, make his shirts, cook his dinner, light his fire, and copy his sermons; she should keep up the style of a lady on the wages of a day-labourer, and be always at leisure for "good works," and ready to receive morning calls; she should be secretary to the Band of Hope, the Dorcas Society, and the Home Mission; she should conduct Bible-classes and mothers' meetings; she should make clothing for the poor and gruel for the sick; and finally, she should be pleased with everybody and everything, and never desire any reward beyond the satisfaction of having done her own duty and other people's too.—*London Baptist Magazine.*

The Editor of "CHURCH AND HOME" says, "The George Woods' Organ is simply perfect. Its richness of tone and great volume render it an invaluable acquisition to those directing public praise meetings and services of song."

Special attention is called to the Advertisement of "POUND'S EXTRACT" in this issue. As an alleviator of pain and hæmorrhage—a healer of wounds—or as a subduer of any kind of inflammation, this extract has gained a reputation and sale in America so extraordinary, that it warrants the assumption that it is an article of great virtue. It is endorsed by Medical men, who more readily lend their praise on account of its being merely a distilled extract of the Hamamelis or Witch Hazel Shrub, which is favourably mentioned in the medical works of all schools.

Bugs, Fleas, Moths, Beetles, and all other insects are destroyed by Keating's Insect Destroying Powder, which is quite harmless to domestic animals.—Sold in tins, 1s. and 2s. 6d. each, by Thomas Keating, St. Paul's Churchyard, London, and all chemists (free by post 14 and 33 stamps).