

it is sometimes, indeed, very labored and extravagant. But still, it has some peculiar and striking excellencies, which more than counterbalance its defects. In the volumes now before us, are collected the numerous smaller productions of the author, including essays, reviews and orations, on a variety of subjects. Five papers are devoted to an interesting, though rapid, historical sketch of the Waldenses, and the persecutions they have suffered. These, with the review of Carlyle's "Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell," and the oration, entitled, "The One Progressive Principle," are, in our opinion, the best pieces in the book. The oration referred to, was delivered before the Literary Societies of the University of Vermont, in 1846. As a survey of the past, this article is clear and candid; as an argument, it is logical; and as a whole, it is most eloquent and impressive. The principle of progress, according to Mr. Headley, is an eternal and ever active principle. Its developments are various and uncertain; but though it has been battled with in bloody conflicts, and sometimes crushed and trampled on, it still survives in all its pristine vigor.

"As I behold it," says our author, "steadily making its way over the earth, to-day assuming the character of a religious, to-morrow of a political revolution, still gaining in every change, it becomes to me the most momentous of all questions whatsoever. The fate of the world turns on it, and of all men, the scholar is most deeply interested in it. In him is supposed to be lodged the true conservative spirit. Having studied the past, while living in the present—a thoughtful, yet, practical man, with knowledge, and the power to make that knowledge felt, he, under heaven, is the only pilot for the troublous times on which the governments of the world are entering."

Mr. Headley is justly distinguished for the singular felicity of his illustrations and descriptions. The following passage indicates his power:

"Have you ever seen an eagle fettered to the earth, day after day, and week after week! How his plumage droops, and his proud bearing sinks away into an expression of fear and humility. His eye, that was wont to outgaze the sun, is lustreless and dead, and but low sounds of imitation escape him. But just let the free cry of a free eagle, seated on some far mountain crag, meet his ear, and how his roughened plumage smooths itself into beauty, his drooping neck becomes erect, and his eye gleams as of old. Pour that wild scream again on his ear, and those broad wings unfold themselves in their native strength, and with a cry as shrill and piercing as that of his fellow, he strains on his fetter, and perchance,

bursts away, soaring gloriously towards heaven. Who then shall stay his flight, or fill his heart with fear?"

This collection of Miscellanies has afforded us many an intellectual treat, and we therefore, do not hesitate to recommend it to the readers of the GARLAND. To the title of *philosopher*, Mr. Headley can lay but little claim. But as a *companion*, whose presence may beguile a tedious hour, who is fascinating while instructive, he will never be unwelcome to those who know him.

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THE MESSAGE BIRD; A LITERARY AND MUSICAL JOURNAL.

WE have received the last number of this interesting semi-monthly paper. It is devoted almost exclusively to subjects of a musical character, and its contents are chiefly original. The composition, "The Lord is our God," is particularly fine. *The Message Bird* will be a welcome visitant to many.

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HARPER'S NEW MONTHLY MAGAZINE.

THE first number of this valuable work is before us. It is impossible to say too much concerning the advantages which its large circulation will afford to the community. It is somewhat in the style of our old friend the *Eclectic*, but its articles are apparently selected from a greater variety of sources, and are, therefore, better adapted to please all classes of the people. This Magazine has another, and no mean attraction, in these times of pecuniary distress—its extreme cheapness. It is intended to present to all those who desire it, the means of intellectual improvement. We extract the following from the publishers' address.

"The Magazine is not intended exclusively for any class of readers, or for any kind of reading. The Publishers have at their command the exhaustless resources of current Periodical Literature in all its departments. They have the aid of Editors, in whom, both they and the public have long since learned to repose full and implicit confidence. They have no doubt that, by a careful, industrious, and intelligent use of these appliances, they can present a Monthly Compendium of the periodical productions of the day, which no one, who has the slightest relish for miscellaneous reading, or the slightest desire to keep himself informed of the progress and results of the literary genius of his own age, would willingly be without."