

Literary Review and Record.

The publishers and booksellers are making considerable effort to bring into notice a new work entitled, "Auto-Biography of the Rev. Dr. Alexander Carlyle, Minister of Inveresk; Containing Memorials of the Men and Events of his time: Boston, Ticknor & Fields." Considering the years "of his time," the volume will be read with avidity by great numbers, for mighty men lived and great events then occurred. It was in the year 1800 that Dr. Carlyle resolved to write these memorials, and he was then seventy-nine years of age. He died in 1805, without completing his record, which however embraces a description of persons and occurrences from 1722 to 1770. The worthy Doctor was the son of a country clergyman in Scotland, himself from 1748 to the close of his life minister of Inveresk. Mr. Baxter, the Editor of the volume, says he was one of those men "to be estimated, not by the rank which external fortune has given them, or the happy chances they have seized, but by the influences they have imparted from mere personal character and ability." Dr. Carlyle was intimate with many men who for various reasons are famous in history, and many a glowing incident is related respecting most of them. John Home, Robertson the historian, John Wilkes, Smollett, John Blair, David Hume, the Duke of Argyle, Garrick, Shenston, and Benjamin Franklin, are among the number of his acquaintances. To some of them he might be useful in restraining their scepticism, but from most he would not be likely to derive much spiritual profit. But from our times we may look back upon the past with advantage, and with such a guide as

Dr. Carlyle through strange epochs, we may learn to be thankful for progressive civilization.

It is well for the fame of some great men that in these times of critical investigation, the past may be reviewed with calmness and impartiality, and that we are not disposed to receive assertions without proof, and believe evil of men because they were objects of reproach and scorn. Cromwell has certainly been relieved from much obloquy by the efforts of Thos. Carlyle, so that a christian man like D'Aubigne may admire and laud him as a hero and an honest man. Mr. Dixon did good service for Penn without convincing Macaulay, but not without presenting some proof that Penn was not altogether a sycophantic courtier. The same Mr. Thepbrom Dixon has just issued a volume in defence of the character of Lord Bacon. It is entitled, "Personal History of Lord Bacon, from unpublished papers: Boston, Ticknor & Fields." We have seen only reviews and extracts, enough to satisfy us that much can be advanced in favor of the great Lord Chancellor, but not enough entirely to remove the objections which lie against his integrity. Mr. Dixon deserves credit for his zealous attempt to defend his client against mere clamour and misrepresentation.

The literature of modern Missions was greatly enriched after the return of the Wesleyan Deputation to Australia and the Polynesian Islands, by the publication of "The Southern World, or Journal of a Deputation from the Wesleyan Conference to Australia and Polynesia; including Notices of a