

in England some years since, and which takes the reader back eighteen centuries, and shows him Jerusalem as it was when our Lord passed through its streets, and the Temple, when He taught in its porches and courts, and its ordinances and worshippers, the ministry of its priesthood and the ritual of its services.

Funk & Wagnalls. "Meyer on Corinthians." With a Preface and Supplementary Notes, by Talbot W. Chambers, D.D. It is unnecessary to particularize the merits of this volume. The best scholars and ablest critics of the day, European and American, place Meyer's Commentary in the very front rank of critical and exegetical expositions of the New Testament. What we said of Meyer on Romans will equally apply to Corinthians. The translation is from the fifth edition of the German, revised and edited by Dr. Dickson, of Glasgow. Dr. Chambers, the American editor, has done his work with care and fidelity. His Preface and Notes, though not as full as Prof. Dwight's on Romans, add materially to the value of the work. The publishers have put it in a fitting and substantial form.—"Manual on Revivals," by Rev. G. W. Hervey. Same publishers. The particular value of this volume consists in its many practical hints and suggestions in relation to revivals. It is rich in the literature of the subject. It is valuable in historical and biographical information. We do not put much value upon the homiletic features of the book. Long observation, and no little experience in revivals, convince the writer that no heed should be given to any "theory" concerning revivals, or to any prescribed methods of revivalists. The less machinery the better. The Kingdom of God cometh not by "observation." To rely on men, or measures, or extra efforts, is to lean on a broken reed. Simple, earnest, persistent preaching of the Word by the pastor, and fervent, united, believing prayer by the people, guided by the providence of God as to times and seasons of special meetings, is the only sure reliance; and this course, we believe, will never disappoint expectation.—"The Mothers of Great Men and Women, and Some Wives of Great Men," by Laura C. Holloway. Illustrated. Same publishers. A book of remarkable interest. We have space only to call attention to it. Ministers will find it a fruitful source for illustration as showing the power of a mother's influence. That influence, with God's blessing, has had much to do with the men who have achieved the most renown and the most usefulness in the world. Among the most interesting sketches in the volume are those of the mothers of George Washington, Lincoln, Dickens, the Wesleys, Luther, Stonewall Jackson, Cowper, Goethe, St. Augustine, and Shakespeare.

Periodicals.

THE STUDY OF GREEK. By George P. Fisher, D.D. *Princeton Review* (March) 16 pp. Seldom has a college address caused so much discussion as the address of C. F. Adams, jr., before the

Alumni of Harvard at the last commencement. This fact indicates a widespread diversity of views in regard to the expediency of exacting the study of Greek in our colleges. It is somewhat amusing to note the various arguments, *pro and con.*, which have been given to the public. Prof. Fisher argues the question in this paper not only ably, but in the spirit of great candor and fairness. While insisting on the study of Greek as essential to a liberal education *par excellence*, he makes important concessions, which other writers on his side of the question have failed to make; for instance: That it is idle to pretend that the study of the classics is an indispensable to culture now as it was three or four centuries ago; that it is a very narrow view which holds that there is only one method of education—one beaten track on which all must walk; that the assertion that classical training is essential to literary excellence, to perfection of style, is contradicted by too many facts; that the methods of teaching Greek and Latin which have come into vogue are not above criticism: they may be so taught that the time given to them is half wasted or utterly mispent.

FEDERAL AID TO EDUCATION. By Henry Randal Waite, *Princeton Review* (May), 21 pp. An eminently timely paper. Not only every Congressman, but every intelligent man in the United States, should read it. Not only is the argument in favor of Federal aid to educate the millions of freedmen a forcible and conclusive one, but it is enforced by numerous tables of statistics relating to illiteracy, etc., which shed much light on the whole subject. It is earnestly to be hoped that the House of Representatives will concur in the measure already adopted by the Senate.

CHRISTIAN AGNOSTICISM. By Rev. Canon Curtis, *Popular Science Monthly* (May). An ingenious and praiseworthy argument, which really turns the tables upon Herbert Spencer and other writers of the bald agnostic school. "No religious man need shrink from saying I am a Christian agnostic," according to this writer, who affirms that Paul, Job and all the great prophets of the Old Testament were agnostics. "Canst thou, by searching, find our God?" "No man hath seen God at any time." He shows that if Herbert Spencer will carry out his "First Principles" to their "ultimate conclusion," he must "believe in an eternal, almighty and omniscient DEVIL." He reaches the conclusion that "if agnosticism be allowed to develop freely on its own lines, without artificial hindrance, it must needs become a Christian agnosticism." And he facetiously asks: "Why should not such an agnostic go to church, fall in with the religious symbolism in ordinary use, and contribute his moral aid to those who have taken service under the Christian name on purpose to purify gross and carnal eyes, till they become aware of the Great Unknown behind the veil, and so come to relatively know what absolutely passes knowledge?"