

## BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

*Bible Index Association: Circular of Information.*

The purposes and plans set forth in this pamphlet will, if properly carried out, lead to the production and publication of one of the most exhaustive works of Biblical exposition ever published. The full title of the pamphlet is: "Bible Index Association Draft of Circular of Information as to the plan of work, names of members; an Outline Treatment of Col. i. 20; 1 Tim. iv. 3, second clause; together with Illustrations of Methods in Bible Marking." The members of the association, the greater number of whom are ministers, and the rest, though not ministers, more or less directly engaged in teaching the truth, are in constant correspondence, each one indexing and placing under proper headings or appropriate scripture verses, the historical, biographical, and scientific facts which seem most pertinent for the illustration of spiritual truth. These notes will be afterwards collected; and, out of them all, a "Bible Index" will be formed "which shall be a key to the choicest expressions, sublimest thoughts, most notable opinions, and aptest illustrations in the whole range of our standard English Literature." The following is proposed by the association as a prospectus of what they think the contents of the work ought to be. (1) "Proposed new translations or criticisms of the text, made by any competent scholar, provided such translations or criticisms be not already available in the commentaries in general use. With these new translations should be given full references to the authors who introduce and defend them." (2) "Doctrinal and ethical theories from all schools of Christian thought; referred by volume and page to their sources, where one may study them and the systems of which they form a part in full." (3) "Brief, suggestive, pungent sayings marked in the course of our various readings, given in full; with names of authors and the titles of the works in which they are to be found." (4) "Illustrations of Scripture truth, from the widest possible range of reading, historical, biographical, poetic, and so on, *ad libitum*; gathering from every quarter what ever can assist to illustrate or enforce the word of God." (5) "Homiletical outlines from all schools and ages of the Church, with references to volume and page where each discourse may be found complete." The following are the names of those who are already members of the association: Revs. W. H. Bates, Waverly, N.Y.; A. H. Bradford, Montclair, N.J.; F. B. Cobb, Auburn, N.Y.; J. G. Cowden, Clinton, Iowa; J. A. Ferguson, Hanover, N.J.; Chas. C. Hemenway, Auburn, N.Y.; John C. Hill, Adrian, Mich.; M. W. Hunt, Centralia, Kas.; R. W. Horsefield, Grantville, Kas.; W. H. Illsley, Hopkins, Mo.; H. D. Jenkins, Freeport, Ill.; F. D. Kelsey, Attleboro Falls, Mass.; Alfred E. Myers, Owasco, N.Y.; Robt. Mackenzie, Lafayette, Ind.; J. Howard Nixon, Wilmington, Del.; E. B. Parsons, Baldwinville, N.Y.; Joseph Fullman, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Walter Rice, Lunenburg, Mass.; Orin Root, jr., Glasgow, Mo.; Revere F. Weidner, Phillipsburg, N.J.; and W. W. Walton, Esq., Cleveland, O. The secretary is the Rev. H. D. Jenkins, Freeport, Ill. They invite others of similar tastes and habits to join them. We do not doubt that many, especially ministers, would find it both pleasant and profitable to do so. Such literary commerce carried on between many minds will elicit truth and possibly prevent error. The communistic principle is wrong when applied to property, but we do not see anything objectionable in a commune of authors. The character of the projected book will, however, depend very much upon the revising and selecting committee which will probably be appointed if it has not been appointed already. The specimen given in the pamphlet of the proposed mode of treating passages of Scripture gives promise of considerable thoroughness. In treating of the "nature of the atonement" in connection with Col. i. 20, the different views—the Agnostic, the Federal, the Governmental, the Philosophico-Realistic, the Mystico-Realistic, the Sympathetic Realistic, the martyr theory, the necessitarian theory, the cost theory, etc., are plainly stated, with quotations from, or references to, authors who have defended or opposed them.

THE excursions for the Boston poor children began July 13th, when about 1,300 had a merry day at Highland Lake Grove.

## CURRENT OPINIONS.

If a man's religion is worth anything, that fact will be evident in mid summer away from home, quite as surely as in winter at home.—*Sunday School Times*.

FROM Cyprus Christianity found its way into Asia Minor and Europe. Shall the history of the first century have any parallel in that of the nineteenth?—*Phil. Presbyterian*.

THE recent war has accomplished results so positive and so tremendous as to mark it as one of the greatest events of the last hundred years—to make it a landmark and turning-point in history.—*N. Y. Evangelist*.

No one who has not examined patiently and honestly the other religions of the world can know what Christianity really is, or can join with such truth and sincerity in the words of St. Paul, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ."—*Max Muller*.

WE have been in prayer-meetings that would have been absolutely delightful had there been a few flashes of silence. A few moments' meditation after some fruitful thought has been let drop will often edify more than anything else.—*Examiner and Chronicle*.

IT is one would really know the joys of the Christian life and realize the blessings which impart a constant buoyancy to the soul, if he would be a cheerful, sunshiny Christian, let him dive deeply into the Word of God, making the law of the Lord his delight.—*Congregationalist*.

IN these days Christianity is set aside and the being of a God ignored in the name and at the behest of theories, which, if destined to live, are still on trial for their lives, and are not unlikely to follow the long line of their predecessors into an unhonored oblivion.—*Rev. Dr. A. P. Peabody*.

THE Puritan middle class, with all its faults, is still the best stuff of the nation. Some have hated and persecuted it, many have flattered and derided it—flattered it that, while they deride it, they may use it. I have believed in it. It is the best stuff in this nation, and in its success is our best hope for the future.—*Matthew Arnold*.

THERE is a vast body of truth and a great proportion of Christian life in the Roman Catholic Church. But it is more a political than a religious institution, and where it falls under the dominance of the Jesuits and Ultramontanes, it becomes the enemy of every exalted human interest and a curse to the race of man.—*Interior*.

REMARKABLE as this century has been in its every phase, none of its developments are more worthy of notice than those which come out of the decay of old, effete civilizations. Mohammedanism sinks, Romanism is weakening in its capital, Brahminism retreats, and the historic mythologies of the Orient are throwing their gods away in contempt.—*N. Y. Christian Intelligencer*.

ACCORDING to a cable despatch, the Vatican contemplates removing the Roman Catholic churches in England, Ireland and Scotland from the control of Propaganda Fide, and placing them under the immediate authority of the Pope. This measure, continues the despatch, is attributed in clerical circles to a desire to induce the British Government to establish relations with the Vatican.

IT seems to me that our home missionaries and our foreign missionaries are restoring an almost lost ideal of heroism to the Christian Church. They have shown us how noble it is to suffer and be strong; how Christ-like it is to forget self for the benefit of others; and their names are worthy of a place beside those of the muster roll of the peerage of faith which Paul has given us in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.—*Rev. Dr. W. M. Taylor*.

IT is generally believed that the abolition of compulsory clerical celibacy by the late German Old Catholic Synod will create a serious division among the Old Catholics. It is certain that a number of the foremost leaders of the movement disapprove entirely of the recent action. Professor Michaelis having announced that he would sever his connection with the Old Catholic movement should that step be taken, and Professor Reusch having left the Synod after the action was completed. It is also feared that Dr. Von Dollinger will now separate himself from the Old Catholics.—*N. Y. Churchman*.

CHRISTIANITY bears fruit that never grew upon any other stock. Some religions have more centuries behind them by far than Christianity has; have had all the advantages that come from staple forms of government; all that, genius, art, eloquence, and land and sky and sea could do for them has been done. All that power and arms could do for them has been bestowed. And yet what one can compare results with the religion of Christ? What civilization that has preceded ours could stand by its side? What religion has ever produced men of such nobility and women of such purity? What one ever had wrapped in it such promise for the future? If it were to perish from off the earth during the lifetime of the present generation, what a legacy would it leave to its heir!—*Pittsburgh Christian Advocate*.

THE prolonged pressure of the hard times is directing earnest and profound attention to the causes of their origin and continuance. It is a hopeful sign that here and in Great Britain so many thoughtful persons are considering the waste caused by the increasing use of intoxicating liquors. The power of the economic argument against ardent spirits is overwhelming and unanswerable. The Bishop of Manchester, England, recently preached on the causes of the depressed state of trade, and in plain words told his hearers that when they prayed for a return of prosperity they should try in some measure to deserve it, or not to be wholly unworthy of it; and then referred to the gross inconsistency of the English people complaining of the depression of trade, when they last year spent £142,000,000 (\$710,000,000) on intoxicating drink. If these are hard times for some, it is not for the public-houses. The curse of drunkenness, he said, was spreading like a leprosy everywhere, and days of prosperity would not come back to England till it had become a sober and industrious land.—*Christian Weekly*.

## SCIENTIFIC AND USEFUL.

**POOR MAN'S CAKE.**—One cup of sugar, one teaspoonful cream tartar, the same of soda, two eggs, one cup sweet milk, half cup shortening, three cups and a half sifted flour.

**TO DRESS TOMATOES.**—Plunge ripe, raw tomato into hot water so as to make the skin come off easily; put the plump skinned fruit on ice; do not cut it until the sauce is on, and you will not wonder why, years ago, tomato was called the "love apple."

**POP-CORN BALLS.**—For six quarts of pop-corn boil one pint of molasses about fifteen minutes, then put the corn into a larger pan and pour the molasses over it, stirring briskly until thoroughly mixed; then, with clean hands, make into balls of the desired size.

**COCONUT CANDY.**—I use the same as for chocolate creams. Two cups of white sugar, one-fourth cup of water; boil five minutes; put the pan into a larger pan of water and stir until cool; when it begins to get stiff stir in the grated coconut, and when cold cut into cakes. We consider it good.

**REFRESHING DRINK.**—Oatmeal in water, in the proportion of a quarter of a pound of oatmeal to three quarts of water, is recommended as a refreshing drink. The meal should be well boiled, the mixture cooled, and water added to keep up the proportion. With a bit of ice this is said not only to quench the thirst, but to keep up strength. Without ice, when ice cannot be had, it is still palatable, if entirely cool. It is said that it is used in many iron foundries and manufactories in England. The meal should be well shaken through the water before drinking.

**ALCOHOL AS A MENTAL STIMULANT.**—A writer in the *Lancet* says: The brain must be fed and nourished by special design. An adequate supply of oxygen is the preliminary requirement. Then comes the question of food; and, whatever else may feed the brain, workers with this organ should be assured that alcohol will not sustain it. Alcoholization and oxygenation are directly antagonistic processes; and even if alcohol be food for the brain, the organ cannot feel when the nutrient fluid circulating in its vessels is disabled from the task of conveying oxygen, which happens whenever spirit is present in more than very moderate proportions in the blood. The relief afforded by alcohol from the sense of depression produced by a lack of oxygen, is, therefore, illusory. It is procured by over-stimulating an organ which is both exhausted and impaired.

**HUMBOLDT'S DESCRIPTION OF AN EARTHQUAKE.**—This great traveller gives an interesting account of the first earthquake he witnessed. It was at Cumena, in South America. The first shock came after a strange stillness. It caused an earthquake in his mind, for it overthrew in a moment all his lifelong notions about the safety of the earth. He could no longer trust the soil which up to that day had felt so firm under his feet. He had only one thought—universal boundless destruction. Even the crocodiles ran from the river Orinoco howling into the woods; the dogs and pigs were powerless with fear. The whole city seemed "the hearth of destruction." The houses could not shelter, for they were falling in ruins. He turned to the trees, but they were overthrown. His next thought was to run to the mountains, but they were reeling like drunken men. He then looked towards the sea. Lo! it had fled; and the ships, which a few minutes before were in deep water, were rocking on the bare sand. He tells us that, being then at his wit's end, he looked up, and observed that heaven alone was perfectly calm and unshaken.

**INSTINCT IN A CRAB.** Mr. Darwin, in his "Naturalist's Voyage," thus describes a crab which makes its diet of cocoanuts, and which he found on Kneeling Island, in the South Seas. "It is common on all parts of this dry land and grows to a monstrous size. It has a front pair of legs, terminated by strong and heavy pincers, and the least pair by others which are narrow and weak. It would at first be thought quite impossible for a crab to open a strong coconut covered with the husk; but Mr. Liesk assures me he has repeatedly seen the operation effected. The crab begins by tearing the husk, fibre by fibre, and always from that end under which the three eye-holes are situated. When this is completed the crab commences hammering with its heavy claws on one of these eye-holes till an opening is made, then turning round its body by the aid of its posterior and narrow pair of pincers, it extracts the white albuminous substance. I think this is as curious a case of instinct as ever I heard of, and likewise of adaptation in structure between two objects apparently so remote from each other in the scheme of Nature as a crab and a coconut."—*From the World of Wonders*.

**CONSUMPTIVES IN CALIFORNIA.**—A very interesting statement in relation to the adaptation of the climate of California to consumptive visitors or residents is made by Dr. Hatch, of Sacramento, Secretary of the State Board of Health. Among the more important points made by him is this, namely, that, for the majority of invalids seeking a change of climate in consumption, the mountains—preferably the coast range—offer advantages, during the Summer and Fall months, superior to those of any other part of the State; that a certain proportion may find the eastern slope of the coast range agreeable and beneficial even during the Winter season; and that, for a large proportion of consumptives, some point on the southern coast seems eminently suitable as a Winter residence. Dr. Hatch also lays it down as a rule that the premonitory stage of phthisis, or the first stage of its actual development, are the only ones in which climate may be safely relied upon; that some cases in the second stage may be greatly benefited, especially when the nutritive processes are not seriously impaired; and that a few may secure an apparently permanent arrest of disease, and enjoy good health for many years; but that the climate of California, while it may for a time seem to inspire hope, offers, in reality, no very strong inducement to those lapsing, or who must be considered as having already passed into the third stage of disease.