

BOOK NOTICES.

Autobiography of a French Protestant. London: Religious Tract Society; and Methodist Book-Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax; pp. 275. Price \$1.

This very remarkable book is a translation of the *Memoires d'un Protestant condamne aux Galeres de France pour cause de Religion, ecrits par lui meme*, published in Rotterdam in 1757. It is the simple story, told by himself, of a French Protestant, who for thirteen years was a prisoner for conscience' sake in the French galleys. Nothing we have ever read has given such a vivid idea of the life of a galley slave, and of the sufferings of the persecuted Huguenots. Shortly after the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes, Jean Martielhe, of Bergeroe, a young man of good family, tried to escape to Holland in order to enjoy liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience. He was arrested at the frontier, and, after summary trial and painful imprisonment, was condemned to the galleys for life. The galleys were large open vessels impelled by huge oars worked by slaves, six or seven to one oar, who were chained, half-naked, to the benches on which they sat. For nearly two years John Knox was thus chained to the oar in the French galleys. Sometimes as many as three hundred slaves thus impelled the galley, which carried besides two hundred officers and soldiers.

Martielhe's galley one day engaged an English ship, which grappled it so firmly that it could not get away. Our prisoner, through the port-hole, saw the gunner apply the match to his piece, but, chained as he was, he could not move. Every man on the bench but himself was killed, and he was desperately wounded. The survivors were about to throw him into the sea, with the three-fourths of the crew who had been killed, but he showed signs of life. In the hospital he was chained

to his bed. He speaks gratefully of the kindness of a Turkish slave, who, at the risk of his life, became the medium of conveying alms to the Reformed from their co-religionists, and even one priest had the magnanimity to do the same. When Dunkirk fell into the hands of Queen Anne, the English sailors demanded the release of the Protestants in the galleys. To avoid this, the captain smuggled them ashore at night, and they were marched from Dunkirk to Marseilles, to be beyond the reach of rescue. The cruelties they endured were atrocious. Four hundred were chained in a gang, each carrying one hundred and fifty pounds weight of iron fetters rivetted to an iron collar; at night they were so chained that they could neither sit nor stand. As many as eighteen died in a single day. Yet a word of recantation would have freed these heroic confessors of the faith.

The vigorous remonstrance of good Queen Anne procured the liberation of three hundred and thirty-six Protestant galley slaves in Marseilles alone, in spite of every obstacle and possible delay caused by the Jesuit priests, whose malignant ingenuity of cruelty kindles intense indignation. After thirteen years of bitter slavery, our hero was conveyed to Italy, and with his comrades, many of them aged and infirm, crossed the Alps into Piedmont and Switzerland. They were everywhere welcomed with joy by the Reformed, and were forwarded to Holland, whence Martielhe passed into England and kissed the Queen's hand in gratitude for his liberty. He died in 1877, aged 93. Twenty years before his death his "*Memoires*" were published, and the next year translated into English by Oliver Goldsmith. This book should be in every Sunday-school library. It will teach the young how dearly bought are the Protestant liberties of the world to-day. M. Michelet, the