

by choice like a colony of beavers, or after the fashion of the hippopotami and crocodiles of the neighboring swamps.—*weekly Presbyterian*.

RECENT ORIENTAL DISCOVERIES IN RELATION TO THE BIBLE.

Sir H. Rawlinson lately delivered a lecture on this subject, under the auspices of the Directors of the Scriptural Museum—the first of a series which has been arranged to be given in connection with the Institution. He opened his subject by urging the great value of the visible and tangible illustrations of Scripture history, which recent researches had brought to light. For two thousand years the Bible had rested chiefly on internal evidence, and that evidence was, indeed, sufficient for all earnest and truth-seeking people. But there were others who would not be at the pains to examine internal evidence, and to them these extraneous corroborations of biblical statements might speak most powerfully. The cuneiform inscriptions, the key to deciphering which had only been discovered within the last twenty years, had brought to light a great variety of Assyrian and Babylonian historic records, running contemporaneously with Scripture narrative, and affording innumerable points of contact; and wherever such contact occurred, there was always found to be a coincidence between the two, showing inconceivably the genuineness and authenticity of Scripture.

Coming to details, he adduced proofs of correspondence between the statements of the inspired volume and the deductions from monumental inscriptions in several leading particulars, under the heads of ethnology, mythology, geography, and history. The earliest period to which the inscriptions on the cylinders and tablets he had found positively referred, was about two thousand years before Christ, though there were some indications of the time before the flood. Thus Babylon, to which the early portion of Scripture history refers, was called the country of the four rivers, and those rivers he believed to signify the Tigris and the Euphrates, with their two principal branches. In reference to Babylonian names, he said:—"The inscriptions throw light on the meaning of the names of the gods of Babylon, and show, by the functions assigned to their gods, their representatives in the mythology of the Greeks and Romans. The names of the gods sometimes signified sentences, of which the first syllable was the name, the second was the verb, and the third the object. The inscriptions," he said, "present a complete tableau of ancient Assyria, by which the name and situation of every town of note mentioned in the Bible can be identified."

He showed how exactly confirmatory these ancient inscriptions were of the Scripture history of the time of Hezekiah—"one of the most interesting periods in relation to which coincidences had been discovered, related to that of Sennacherib and Hezekiah. The explorations had brought to light the annals of Sennacherib written by himself, or by his direction, occupying 800 lines; and the account they gave of his first campaign, when he was pacified by a tribute, corresponded in the most striking manner with 2 Kings xviii." To illustrate this, Sir Henry read passages from the chapter, and then from the annals, showing minute correspondences in the names of places, (especially Lachish,) the amount of tribute received from the Jewish king, "three hundred talents of silver, and thirty pieces of gold," (ver. 14,) and so forth. It appeared from this inscription, however, that upwards of 200,000 Jews were taken into captivity by Sennacherib, after that first campaign, and Sir Henry Rawlinson expressed the opinion that there were four distinct captivities of the Jews. He explained how some difficulties in regard to the history of Belshazzar were remark-

ably explained by facts lately brought to light—"The cylinders, besides other interesting records, threw light on a point regarding Belshazzar, which had hitherto appeared obscure, for no such name occurs in any ancient history but that of the Bible. It appeared, however, that Belshazzar was joint king with his father and that he shut himself in Babylon, whilst the other king, his father, took refuge elsewhere. Prolate historians have not mentioned Belshazzar, because he was considered subordinate to his father."

Sir Henry, having mentioned other numerous facts, concluded by a renewed expression of his sense of the importance of the discoveries, viewed more especially as a practical refutation of the mythical theories of German Neologists. We had by this means evidence at once visible and convincing to verify the statements of Holy Writ; and it was not the language of pride or boasting to say, that he felt great satisfaction in being, with others, an humble instrument under God in strengthening the authority of his word, so far as external evidence could go.—*Presbyterian*.

Notices of Recent Publications.

EXPOSITORY THOUGHTS ON THE GOSPELS, For Family and Private Use. By the Rev. J. C. Ryle, B. A. Author of "Living or Dead," &c. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. Sold by D. McDellan, Hamilton.

Our readers are of course acquainted with the general character of Ryle's writings. They are orthodox, evangelical, practical, and abounding in powerful appeals to the conscience. This volume, containing a practical exposition of Matthew's Gospel, we look upon as perhaps the best and most useful of the author's productions. Mr. Ryle holds pre-millennarian views, and on this point of course some of his readers will differ from him. But taken as a whole this may be regarded as a most excellent work.

EXPOSITION OF THE FIRST EPISTLE TO THE CORINTHIANS. By C. Hodge, D. D. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. Sold by A. Hudson, Brantford, and other Booksellers.

Dr. Hodge is too well known as a most successful labourer in the field of Biblical exposition, to need any recommendation from us. The volume before us, containing the exposition of the First Epistle to the Corinthians, fully sustains the former reputation of the esteemed author. We trust it will be found in the library of every minister, and Sabbath School teacher.

THE CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHER: Or the Connection of Science and Philosophy with Religion. By Thomas Dick, L.L.D., F. R. A. S., author of the Philosophy of Religion, &c. &c. New York: R. Carter & Brothers. Sold by D. McDellan, Hamilton.

Dr. Dick has done perhaps more than any other man to popularise science and to set forth the connexion between science and religion. The present volume has this object in view, viz. to establish the connection and relation between science and revealed religion. It embraces all the modern discoveries in science, and has a large number of well extended illustrations. We can most heartily recommend it.

THE BRITISH WORKMAN: Patridge & Co., 81 Paternoster Row, London.

We have received several numbers of this interesting and useful publication. It appears monthly, and its object is to supply, at an easy rate instruction, and amusement to those who have from the claims of every day duty at home, but little leisure for reading. The matter is interesting and useful, and the illustrations are very good. It is supplied for one penny a number, and packets can be sent from Britain to America at the rate of 6d. sterling per half pound. We should like much to see such a publication displacing some of the light literature so widely diffused on this continent.

THE CHILDREN'S PAPER: J. Nelson & Sons.

This interesting little work still pursues its useful course. We trust its circulation will extend until it finds its way to every family in the land.

THE PLAY HORN: Price one penny monthly. J. Nelson and Sons.

This is an appropriate companion to the "Children's Paper" containing interesting reading for week days. It is beautifully illustrated, and will contain a series of interesting stories, &c., suitable for the Home Circle. It may be ordered through any of the Booksellers. It will, we have no doubt, be a great favourite with the young.

CANADIAN PRESBYTER, July, 1857. Montreal: J. Lovell.

The July number of the Presbyterian contains the following articles, viz.: The Synod of 1857; England and Scotland revisited; Carlyle and Emerson; An Educated Ministry; The Legislature of the Church respecting Deacons; The Ashmun Institute; Works of the Wise; Poetry; Reviews; Summary of Intelligence. We give the following extract from the article on "the Synod of 1857."

"Our Synod has just concluded its annual Session. From east and west, far and wide, brethren met at Kingston, with feelings of true fraternal affection, to take part in the judicial and legislative functions of the Church. Every year our assembly waxes larger and stronger. Although the little one has not yet become a thousand, it is increasing by decades every year, and it promises ere long to be one of the strongest religious communities in the Province. The personnel of the Synod indicates that our Church is but in its youth. There are not many venerable fathers amongst us with the frost of age adorning their wrinkled-brow. Here and there in the throng, one and another may certainly be seen, who have borne the burden and heat of the day—who have been honored by the Master of Assemblies to spend and be spent in His service, and who can tell a tale of the olden time, when cities now great were unknown, and smiling plains were covered with primeval forests. These fathers are the adornments of the sanctuary. They capital its columns with festoons of graceful experience and wisdom. For the most part, our Synod is composed of young men, swarthy and strong, the *tout ensemble* indicating vigour and independence of mind. We have little of the lackadaisical or infant school type of character among us. The stern realities with which our ministers have to deal with in this country do not