

philosophical, he is free from that *finesse* of scepticism which Gibbon has employed against Christianity in his otherwise admirable history of Rome's Decline and Fall. As another characteristic of Neander's great work, we may mention its pre-eminently candid and charitable spirit. He writes not for the purposes of a sect, but for the service of the Christian religion, and hence he generally does justice to individuals and parties, that have always been misrepresented by partisan writers. The unbigoted reader is consequently delighted to find there is still some hope of the salvation of many a man, whom authors, lacking in candour and charity, have not hesitated to consign to perdition for heresy, or some ecclesiastical offence. While the work is thoroughly Protestant, there is not the slightest inclination to detract from the worth of godly and useful men connected with the Romish communion, who knew and embraced the gospel, in spite of that accursed system. There is one standard English work on the same subject, which possesses the same excellencies in a high degree. Dr. Campbell, in his *Lectures on Ecclesiastical History*, exhibits a philosophic analysis, and a transparency of candour, which deserve to be compared with the kindred attributes of the more learned German.

The desire has been long and widely felt, that this noble performance of German industry should appear in our language. Attempts to translate it were made about fifteen years ago, and the first portions were published in England; but the translator, Mr. Rose, a High-churchman, was not competent for his task. He wanted better knowledge of the author's language and more sympathy with his spirit, and consequently failed adequately to express the meaning of the original, and was constantly tempted to thrust in some notes and comments of his own in contradiction of the text. The translation now under our notice, is executed in a very different style and spirit. Professor Torrey's competence is unquestionable. He has taken very great pains to produce a good version, and he in no way impugns the credit of his author. We can testify from examination that he has diligently striven to make Neander speak

for himself by strictly reproducing his thoughts in English. We think, too, that the translation is a successful one, considering that Neander's style, like his person, is singular and slovenly.

The style of publication is very respectable, and we sincerely wish the translator and the publishers may be suitably encouraged with public support, that they may hasten the preparation of the remaining volumes. The two already sent forth bring the history only down to the beginning of the eighteenth century.

B. D.

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*Life of Jeremy Belknap, D.D., the Historian of New Hampshire; with Selections from his Correspondence and other Writings, collected and arranged by his GRAND-DAUGHTER.* New York: HARPER & BROTHERS. 16mo. pp. 253.

The life of a clergyman rarely presents much variety of incident. The routine of duty is uniform, and thoroughly occupies the time, carrying him over the same ground from week to week, year after year, and furnishing very little matter for history. Unless he is engaged in some stirring controversy, or takes a prominent part in public religious enterprise, or becomes an acceptable author, he is seldom much known beyond the district in which he labours, and his biography can scarcely be interesting to any but his relatives and friends. It would have been better, in many instances, if the "Memoirs" with which our literature abounds, had been printed for private circulation only; a great number of them would have quietly sunk into oblivion, while truly valuable productions would have obtained a larger share of public notice, and a much more extensive circulation.

There are exceptions, however, as has been often observed, to most rules. We are not indisposed to admit it, in the case before us. The facts of Dr. Belknap's history may be compressed within the compass of a few sentences. He was born, June 4, 1744, and educated at Harvard College. He was a diligent and devoted Christian pastor; first, at Dover, New Hampshire, and afterwards at Boston. He wrote the *History of New Hampshire*, in three volumes, which is now an established work of reference: and he compiled a valuable