

## Literary Review and Record.

The present condition and future prospects of Italy are at the present time invested with peculiar interest, but it requires talents and qualifications of the highest order, to present to the Christian mind a suitable representation of either. Extensive historical research—profound acquaintance with men and manners—knowledge of existing sympathies and antipathies—perceptions of the bearings of opposing sentiments—a stern love of justice and equity—a deep reverence for Holy Scripture as the standard of truth—an earnest conviction of the value of Protestant principles—these are essential qualifications in any person who shall seek to instruct and guide the public mind on the affairs of Italy. But these necessary endowments are evidently possessed by the author of the deeply interesting work which we have just read, and now introduce to the notice of our readers. Its very title invests the volume with interest, and suggests the trustworthy character of its developments. "*Italy in Transition. Public Scenes and Private Opinions in the Spring of 1860; Illustrated by Official Documents from the Papal Archives of the Revolted Legations.*" By William Arthur, A.M., author of "A Mission to the Mysore," "The Successful Merchant," "The Tongue of Fire," &c., &c., New York: Harper & Brothers. Toronto: Anson Green, pp. 430. The reference in the title page to Mr. Arthur's numerous works is appropriate enough, for by that means we not only identify the author, but every reader of those works will be prepared to peruse with candour and pleasure this new production of his pen. It is worthy the author, and conveys just that kind of information which is needed at the present time. We could

wish that even now Mr. Arthur were in Italy, that we might learn from such a discreet observer the true position of affairs, and see our way through the strange complications which exist. He would be a wise counsellor for both Garibaldi and Cavour, and might through some channel or other convey prudent advice to Pio Nono. Only think, Wm. Arthur privy councillor to the distracted politicians of all Italy. Well, perhaps some of his wise thoughts may reach them, and the gracious God who rules over all, may make the opinions of a Methodist Minister instrumental toward the political and moral regeneration of corrupted and degraded nations. Certainly our own countrymen and statesmen cannot read these "Scenes and Opinions," without profit, and as to Canada, we know of no modern book, which we could compare with it, as deserving of careful examination. Let it have "free course."

Our literary space cannot be better occupied than by a few extracts from this remarkable volume. We will first accompany the author to the capital of Sardinia:

"On reaching Turin this Spring, we found the city wearing a gala-day look, flags hanging from the windows, streets teeming with people, troops in full dress and new uniform, festive looks, jubilant crowds—all things bespoke a rejoicing.

"A visit to a hairdresser is seldom late at time when you want to gain a glimpse at the popular mind. It only needed an inquiry to set off the man who was serving me in eloquent strain of exultation. The news of the voting in Central Italy was coming in; it was all in favor of annexation. It was far beyond what any one expected. There was to be an Italian kingdom. The Italians were to be united at last. The old jealousies were dying out. Also, this was the king's birthday, and he was to go