

BOOK NOTICES.

Martin Luther.

MARTIN LUTHER. By Gustav Freytag ; translated by H. E. O. Heinnemann. Beautifully printed on fine paper, large type, 130 pp. royal 8vo., with many full-page and other engravings, cloth, gilt top, \$1. Open Court Pub. Co., Chicago.

Those who have read Gustav Freytag's "Lost Manuscript" will expect a treat in the present volume, and they will not be disappointed. As might be expected, the scholarly author draws a vivid picture of Luther, the man and the reformer. There are some things in Luther's life that we may reasonably excuse a friendly author for keeping out of sight, but every one of us should be glad to see light thrown upon the character of a man whose boldness certainly gave an immense impetus to the revolt against the ecclesiastical tyranny and corruption that had for so long dominated the human mind. Luther's life was cast in an age of ignorance and credulity, and it is not surprising that, with all his boldness and clearness of vision when looking at the corruption and pretensions of the church, he should have fallen into some of its errors. It is amusing, indeed, to note the innocent way in which, in his last chapter, Freytag brings out the fact that Luther necessarily became the Pope of the Protestants. "Before him," says Freytag, "the Pope and his hierarchy had interpreted, misconstrued, supplemented the words of the Scripture ; now he himself was placed in a similar position. Together with a circle of dependent friends, he was compelled to assume the prerogative of rightly understanding the words of the Scripture and applying them properly to the life of his time. It was a superhuman task, and he who took it upon himself must of necessity become the victim of some of the evils against which he had himself made such a grand fight in the Catholic Church." As it is abundantly evident in our own day, infallible Popes, Churches and Bibles all necessarily imply an authoritative and dominant priesthood and an ignorant and slavish laity ; and while these latter remain ignorant—when will they be otherwise?—the infallible authority will naturally proclaim itself.

Paganism and Christianity.

ASTRAL WORSHIP. By J. H. Hill, M.D. Illustrated by numerous engravings and an elaborate Planisphere. Truth Seeker Co. Cloth, \$1.

In this work, proceeding on lines somewhat similar to those followed in Taylor's "Diegesis," the author traces most of the myths which lie at the base of the modern religions to their origin in the worship of sun and stars and natural phenomena, and shows that Jesus stands in just the same relation to Christianity that Apollo and other gods did to the ancient astral worship,—that, indeed, our modern Christianity is little else than Paganism with a few new names, and that what was once called astrology now passes under the name of theology. The book will be a great help to those engaged in religious discussions.

A PILGRIMAGE TO BEETHOVEN. A Noveltte, by Richard Wagner. With a photograph of Rodig's painting of Beethoven 40 pp., extra paper, boards, 10c. Open Court Co., Chicago. This beautifully gotten up little book, selected as a type of Wagner's literary work, gives, under guise of a conversation with Beethoven, Wagner's views of musical art, with a quite unnecessary and perhaps unwarrantably discordant gibe at the unmusical Englishman. All lovers of music, and especially of Beethoven's music, will want to possess this booklet.