

LITERARY.

CITY MISSIONS.—The Rev. W. A. M'Vicar, it seems, was appointed to examine the working of city missions in the large towns of England, and the Continent of Europe. His report has been presented to the Provisional Bishop of the diocese of New York, and published afterwards. It contains a great amount of information on the subject, and suggests plans for the evangelizing of great cities, in connexion with a cathedral system, and with an order of deaconesses.

LUTHER'S WORKS.—A New and complete edition of the Latin and German works of Martin Luther, has just been published by the firm of Reydar and Zimmer of Frankfurt and Erlangen. It is revised, corrected, and edited by Drs. Elspeger, Plochmann, Schmidt, and Termischer, and is, without doubt, one of the most valuable contributions of the day to German theological literature.

BENGEI'S GNOMON OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.—Messrs. Clark are now happy to announce that two volumes of the translation of Bengel's Gnomon of the New Testament will be ready in July, and the remaining three volumes by the end of this year, or early in 1858. The translation will be comprised in five volumes octavo.

BIBLIOGRAPHIC CURIOSITIES.—Two of the rarest specimens of xylographic or block books, cut entirely on wood, which were the precursors of printing by means of moveable types, have recently come into the possession of Messrs. Boone, of 19, New Bond Street, London. Of these, the first in point of rarity is the "Liber Regum," or "Life of David," pictorially illustrated with two woodcuts on a page, with descriptive text beneath, and extending to twenty pages. So little is known of this work, printed about the year 1450, that it escaped Heineken, who specially devoted his researches to the history of early printing. Brunet and Dibdin are alike meagre in details; in fact, but one other copy is known to exist, and that is in the Imperial Library at Vienna. The other is known as the "Biblia Pauperum," of which fac similes have been given. The copy in Messrs. Boone's possession corresponds with the description given by Heineken as being of the first impression, a copy of which sold at Willett's sale for 245 guineas. Both these volumes are in matchless state, being uncoloured, not pasted back to back, as is generally the case with similar books as the "Ars Moriendi Apocalypsis S. Johannis," &c., but the leaves are set, as in books of ordinary printing, with the reverses blank. The margins also are of ample dimensions.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The American Bible Society, which is the first of the religious associations making report of its condition this spring, has had a most prosperous year. For the year ending the 31st of March its receipts were \$441,805, which exceeds by nearly \$49,000 the receipts of the previous year; and it has distributed 740,000 copies of the Scriptures, an excess of 198,000 over the previous year. Contributions have come in from every State and Territory in the Union. New York contributed nearly one-third of the entire funds—namely, \$140,778; Massachusetts furnished \$48,220; and next on the list we find Illinois, \$37,845; Pennsylvania, \$30,171; Ohio, \$28,331; Connecticut, \$18,405; Maryland, \$15,291; New Jersey, \$14,611; and Virginia, \$10,857.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S WORKS.—The editor of Archbishop Laud's Works, in the Anglo-Catholic Library, desires us (*Athenæum*) to announce that he has collected materials for an additional volume, which will contain 120 letters, hitherto unpublished, addressed by the Archbishop to King Charles, the Queen of Bohemia, the Prince her son, Sir Thomas Rowe, Lord Dorchester, the two Lords Conway (the Secretary of State and his son,) Sir John Lambe, and other correspondents. He also seeks information as to any of the Archbishop's letters or papers which may be preserved in any public or private collection, and of which he has not already obtained copies.

LONDON RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.—The total number of new publications amounted to 290, and the issues from the depository were 33,988,316, being an increase of nearly 2½ millions. The benevolent income was £7507, while the grants were £9864, showing an excess over the former from living sources of £2177. The sales of the year showed an increase of £3284. The total receipts were £91,466.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The receipts of the year ending March 31, 1857, have exceeded those of any preceding year (excluding the Special Funds). The amount applicable to the general purposes of the Society is £68,381, 15s. 3d., and the amount received for Bibles and Testaments, £69,374, 19s. 8d., making the total receipts from the ordinary sources of income £137,756 14s. 11d., being £9031 4s. 10d. more than in any former year. To the above must be added the sum of £993 2s. 4d. for the Chinese New Testament Fund, making a grand total of £138,749 17s. 3d.

NAVAL AND MILITARY BIBLE SOCIETY.—The report stated that during the past year the Society had issued from its depository and auxiliaries 144,229 Bibles, and 6573 Testaments. The receipts during the past year amounted to £2125 18s. 11d., and the expenditure to £2121 13s. 8d.