

THE WORD "SELAH.—The translators of the Bible have left the Hebrew word Selah, which occurs so often in the Psalms, as they found it, and of course the English reader often asks his minister, or some learned friend, what it means. And the minister, or learned friend, has most often been obliged to confess ignorance, because it is a matter in regard to which the most learned have by no means been of one mind. The Targums and most of the Jewish commentators give to the word the meaning of *eternally, for ever*. Rabbi Kimchi regards it as a sign to elevate the voice. The authors of the Septuagint translation appear to have regarded it as a musical or rhythmic note. Herder regards it as indicating a change of tone. Matheson thinks it is a musical note, equivalent perhaps to the word *repeat*. According to Luther and others, it means *silence!*—Gesenius explains it to mean: "Let the instruments play and the singers stop." Sommer, after examining all the seventy-four passages in which the word occurs, recognises in every case "an actual appeal or summons to Jehovah. They are calls for aid and prayers to be heard, expressed either with entire directness, or if not in the imperative, 'Hear Jehovah! or awake Jehovah!' and the like, still earnest addresses to God that He would remember and hear," &c. The word itself he regards as indicating a blast of trumpets by the priests. Selah itself he thinks an abridged expression used for Higgaiion Selah: Higgaiion indicating the sound of the stringed instruments, and Selah a vigorous blast of trumpets—*Bibliotheca Sacra*.

SIR MOSES MONTEFIORE.—We are much gratified to state that Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore safely arrived from the Holy Land in this country on Thursday, the 13th. They landed at Dover, and proceeded to their seat at Ramsgate. Lady Montefiore has, we are happy to hear, completely recovered from her previous illness. The money distributed by the philanthropic baronet in the Holy Land, which we noticed at the time, we know from good authority, amounted to no less than £5000. Having found that the distribution of his munificent gifts by the overseers was a partial one, he distributed the principal sum with his own hand. He has thus gladdened the hearts of the widows and orphans, and assuaged the sufferings of many afflicted in Palestine, without distinction of creed. Whomsoever he found needy, he relieved. Such men are well deserving of the noble title of philanthropist. Lady Montefiore, we understand, assisted Sir Moses in this noble task of universal charity. Alas! that we have not many Sir Moses and Lady Montefiores.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

SABBATH PRIZE ESSAYS.—At a meeting held in the Ayr Free Church, Sandgate Street, on Tuesday evening, the prizes were awarded to the successful competitors for the Kyle Sabbath Prize Essays, as follows:—1st, Mr. David Lyon, compositor, Ayr; 2d, Mr. John Watson, compositor, Ayr; 3d, William Lindsay, Bleachworks, Catrine. The church was filled by a numerous and respectable audience. Eloquent and impressive addresses were delivered by various gentlemen, among whom were Messrs Smith, (brother of the authoress of the "Pearl of Days,") and Macfarlane, delegates from Glasgow. In the course of the evening, a memorial against the new Post-office arrangements was read by the Rev. Mr. Grant, and unanimously approved of. A vote of thanks was voted to J. F. Murdoch, Esq., for his conduct in the Chair, and the meeting separated.

The Very Rev. Samuel Hinds, D.D., Dean of Carlisle, was on Saturday week elected Bishop of Norwich. Dr. Hinds holds, it is said, the same views as Dr. Hampden, and his confirmation is to be opposed by some members who hold what are called High-Church principles.

We understand that the Rev. H. H. Milman, Rector of St. Margaret's and Canon of Westminster, will be appointed to the Deanery of St. Paul's; and Dr. Tait, Head-Master of Rugby School, to the Deanery of Carlisle.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE—SOIREE. On Thursday night the Sabbath Prize Essay Competitors, and other friends of the Sabbath in Glasgow, held a *soiree* in honour of John Henderson, Esq., of Park, in the Merchants'-hall. Wm. Campbell, Esq., of Tillichewan, occupied the chair. There was a large and respectable attendance of ladies and gentlemen present—the hall being filled to the door. On the platform were observed, amongst other clergymen and laymen, Professor Hill, Professor Eadie, Rev. Dr. King, Rev. Dr. Robson, Rev. Dr. Smyth, Rev. Dr. Symington, Rev. Mr. M'Gill, Sir James Anderson, Baillie M'Dowall, Henry Dunlop, Esq., of Craigton; John Bain, Esq., of Morriston; Hugh Tennant, Esq., of Well Park; Wm. Brodie, Esq., &c. After tea, able and stirring addresses upon the sanctity, value and obligations of the Sabbath were delivered by the Rev. Dr. King, Rev. Dr. Smyth, and others. A beautiful address, elegantly written, and richly framed, was then presented to Mr. Henderson, in the name of the Prize Essay Competitors, by Mr. George Smith, expressive of their gratitude for his services in connection with the observance of the Sabbath Institution. Mr. Henderson returned thanks in appropriate terms, after which the meeting broke up.

It appears that agents of the Bible Society are at present busy in Italy, and are even countenanced by some of the priesthood, in circulating the Holy Scriptures. As we have before observed, prudent, well-conducted measures of intervention of this kind may be very successful at present. Even the support given from political motives to the antagonism set on foot against Popery may tell on the result, and such aid, though not the best to be desired, cannot be disregarded.—*Edinburgh Post*.

LEGACIES.—James Grant, Esq., late of Cheapside and Blackheath, has bequeathed the sum of £5000 to the British and Foreign School Society, £1000 to the Ragged School Union, and £1000 to the City Mission. Mr. Grant was a member of the Committee of the British and Foreign School Society, and had very decided opinions in favour of Government aid to education.

## POETRY.

### IMMORTALITY.

BY RICHARD HUIE, M. D.

Am I immortal? Shall my soul  
Survive yon glorious sun?  
And, while unceasing ages roll,  
Shall my existence run,  
As far from its eternal goal,  
As when 'twas first begun?

Immense idea! 'Tis in vain  
I strive its breadth to grasp;  
As soon might I the swelling main  
Within my fingers clasp;  
Or bid yon column sweep the plain  
As limber as the asp.

Time was, I on my parent's knees,  
Was laid a helpless child;  
Time is, I woo the mountain breeze,  
Upon the desert wild;  
Time will be, leaves from quivering trees  
Shall on my tomb be piled.

But, when the desert, and the tomb,  
And trees and all are gone;  
When sun and stars are wrapt in gloom,  
And o'er earth's startled zone  
The hurricane has ceased to boom,  
My soul shall still live on?

On, on, when heaven has passed away,  
My stream of life shall flow;  
On, on, when time and night and day  
No lifting shadows throw,  
Yet neither languor nor decay  
Shall my young spirit know!

But ah! when nature is no more,  
And dropt this body's load,  
On what unknown, untravelled shore,  
Shall I have mine abode?  
Or with what new born powers explore  
The mysteries of God?

I know not, and I ne'er shall know,  
Whilst here I drag my chain;  
But, if God's Spirit on me blow,  
And I am born again,  
Where'er my Saviour is I'll go,  
And with Him live and reign.

There, there, where death shall ne'er destroy,  
Nor suns shall set at even;  
New strains of everlasting joy  
Shall to my tongue be given;  
My Maker's praise my sole employ,  
His presence all my heaven.

### MORNING HYMN.\*

Now that the sun is gleaming bright,  
Implore we, bending low,  
That He, the uncreated light,  
May guide us as we go.

No sinful word, nor deed of wrong,  
Nor thoughts that idly rove;  
But simple truth be on our tongue,  
And in our hearts be love.

And while the hours in order flow,  
O Christ, securely fence  
Our gates, beleaguered by the foe:  
The gate of every sense.

And grant that to thine honour, Lord,  
Our daily toil may tend,  
That we begin it at thy word,  
And in thy favour end.

### LAY ASSOCIATION.

At the last quarterly meeting of the Officers of the Lay Association, Mr. JOHN MURRAY was elected Treasurer, vice A. H. ARMOUR, Esq., and Messrs JOHN CAMPBELL, and ANDREW McFARLANE, were elected to the vacancies in the Board of office bearers, caused by the removal from the city of Messrs. A. H. ARMOUR and H. E. MONTGOMERIE.

### "REMEMBERING ZION."

We regret that owing to a misapprehension on our part, the verses headed "Remembering Zion," which appeared in our January number, were attributed to the correspondent, "T. A." who obligingly sent them to us for insertion. The sonnet alluded to was published in the *Christian Miscellany*, from which our correspondent extracted it.

If any of the parties, who kindly act as agents for the Presbyterian, have any copies of the January number remaining over those required by subscribers in their vicinities, we would feel obliged by their returning them, addressed to our publishers, as the number required for new subscribers has exhausted the supply we had on hand, and thus rendered us unable to furnish copies from the beginning of the year, should they be required.

\*The above translation of a beautiful old mediæval hymn, appeared in the *Quarterly Review*, No. 148, p. 324.