Contemporary Opinions.

(From Zion's Herald.)

Layard's Discoveries - The Arts and Scripture.

The researches of Dr. Layard, in Assyria, have excited universal interest in the scientific world; his published volumes, however, were but preliminary glimpses of the explorations and results which he has achieved since their publication. No portion of historical antiquity was more completely obscured than the annals of Assyria; Mr. Layard's researches have lifted the veil and disclosed to us a magnificence of national importance of which the allusions of Greek and Hebrew historians, striking as they are, gave us no adequate idea. These discoveries not only promise us much of the history of the most splendid of ancient empires, but they have already modified considerably our notions of ancient art, and are throwing new light and confirmation on the Sacred Records. Stringer & Townsend's "International Weekly Miscellany" contains a private letter from Layard to Kellogg, the painter, who accompanied him in a former Eastern journey. In this letter Mr. Layard intimates his strong impression that his discoveries will refute the common opinion of

"When I said that the arts may have passed from Egypt into Greece, I merely alluded to the popular opinion, without adhering to it. It is not altogether improbable that they came from another source. Phonicia was too much of a trading province to devote any great attention to the higher branches of the arts, and I am not aware of any monument existing which can be traced designs we have on their early coins, and particularly of the coins called 'the un- sculptures and inscriptions remained above and serve God, however obscure their con- face of nature; the springs and rivers would cities on the Southern coast of Asia Minor, long ere any records could have been made most gifted or admired among the sons of would be dried up and its lowest caverns expecthe Egyptians. Indeed, as their language for cement in the construction of the walls despise his revealed will, and count his faand written characters (for the cuneiform, of a city. In fact, the moment for their disyou must remember, appears only to have covery has, in every way, been most propi- enthusiasm. Godliness has the promise of been a monumental character, perhaps Se- tious." metic, like the hieroglyphics of Egypt,)

I assume that the language of the two portant disclosures. nations was the same; this may have been the case at one period, but whether throughout the existence of the Assyrian empire may be doubtful. At any rate, I believe the real Assyrians and the Phœnicians, like all the nations occupying Syria and Meso- since, was undoubtedly one of the master to stupely and enslave their hapless and de- whole surface of the globe would present one potamia, to have been of the pure Semetic minds of the age. For depth and extent of luded victims. stock. I regret that I have not time to original thought, and a clear and powerful make you a sketch of a bas-relief. A speci- insight into the moral and intellectual strucmen of this kind would at once show you ture of the human mind he has had few suhow much nearer allied the arts of Greece periors. His wonderful conversational poware with those of Assyria, than with those of ers were such as to become proverbial, whe-Egypt. One thing appears now to be pret- ther engaged in matters of common literary kind should be opened on Sabbath—that no But as we are certain that, according to the ty certain-that all Western Asia, Persia, discussion or touching on the deepest sour- mail contractor should carry public mails present economy of the animal system, no let-Susiana, Media, Asia Minor, &c , were fun- ces of metaphysical speculation. He had in on Sabbath—that no canal-lock should be ingereature could exist in such a state of things. damentally indebted to Assyria for their addition a singularly vivid and distinct view open on Sabbath, and that no toll money it would be an inevitable consequence of the asmere copy of an Assyrian monument, as far ligion. But with all these powers of thought bath. There is no half-way house in this of living beings which now people the waters as the sculpture and ornaments are cou- and high qualifications as a writer both of matter. Either we must recognize God's and the earth, would sink into irremediable decerned, with the addition of external archi- prose and poetry, a very large portion of law in its full extent, or set it aside. Few struction and the great globe we inhabit be transtecture, of which, as far as I am yet able to his existence was sunk in the mordinate and men will seriously affirm that any one will

together the supposition that the arts may from his wretched thraidom. Alas, how Sabbath, because the very constitution of have been transmitted from Assyria, through powerful is sin! How often does it enable our frames requires one day of rest in seven, Phoenicia, into Greece, or indeed that the Satan to lead captive at his will thousands because the very beasts of the field will have arts may have passed into that country on whom Providence has bestowed the most it; but the Christian is not left to doubt in through Asia Minor. The Assyrians in the shining talents. With its indulgence its the matter,—he has but to obey. We do extreme elegance and taste displayed in power increases, and its victims soon lose all not believe in a "national conscience," but their ornaments, in their study of anatomy, hope or chance of deliverance. Surely we we do believe in the national representatives and in their evident attempts at composition, may ask what source of real happiness has a having consciences each man for himself, had much in common with the Greeks. I man without religion? The more brilliant and we do think that when the test comes overboard!" A midshipman named Fluor, a large proposition of the overboard!" A midshipman named Fluor, a large proposition of the overboard!" think artists will be surprised when they see his parts, the greater sensibility he often a large proportion of the members of the think artists will be surprised when they see has of truth itself, instead of contributing as present Parliament will not be ashamed to comfortably sketching, started at the cry, and to make, and that one of the results of the it ought to his happiness and enjoyment, confess that they respect the Divine law.

be expected from a careful investigation of excellency of religion is drawn from the late; all the ramifications of business see the monuments of Assyria. During my lacontrast so often presented by the deplorable war, of love and pleasure, would stand s the monuments of Assyria. During my 13- contrast so ones presented by the monuments of twenty-four hours! Well and stand bours, without being able to devote much conomion of those who had been stated then? How do we get along in the winter thought or attention to the subject, I have knowledged by themselves. How frequents then? How do we get along in the winter thought or attention to the subject, I have knowledged by themselves. How frequents then? How do we get along in the winter thought or attention to the subject, I have knowledged by themselves. First talent and when the steamers are stopped? How did been continually struck with the curious illus- ity nave pad men of the influence in the world left a dying testimony we manage when we had scarce a stone from the influence in the world left a dying testimony of little-understood passages in the influence in the world left a dying testimony of little-understood passages in the influence in the world left a dying testimony of road, few steamboats no solutions. Bible, which these records afford. In a his-Bible, which these records agord. In a historical and arolaeological point of view, I who delighted the world by their wit, overknow nothing more interesting and more powered it with their eloquence or astonishing more interesting and more powered it with their eloquence or astonishing more interesting and more powered it with their eloquence or astonishing more must be used to know nothing more interesting and more powered it with their knowledge or their learning. But on his good faith that he would suffer promising than the examination of the ruins edit with their knowledge or their learning. of Assyria. One of the vastest empires that possessing mental powers which elevated pecuniarily by the stoppage of the mails on of Assyria. One of the vastest empires that possessing mental powers and their substantial power of whose king extended the power of whose king extended the course of admirant powers and the course of admirant powers and the course of admirant powers. ever existed—the power of whose king extended, at one period, over the greater part fellow men, and excited the cuvy or admirawould be—ennuyed a little perhaps—but of Assyria—whose advance in civilization tion of thousands, who, could the secret reand knowledge is the theme of ancient his- cesses of their hearts have been exposed to desecration?torians-disappeared so suddenly from the view, would, even during the most brilliant face of the earth, that it has left scarcely a periods of their lives, have exhibited instantrace, save its name, behind. Even the ces of the most finished wretchedness; who names of its kings are not satisfactorily disappointed and disgusted with the part and known, and out of the various dynastic hopeless for the future, shave spent their lists preserved, we are unable to select one latest years in brooding over their inward worthy of credit. As to their deeds, we anguish, and as death drew near, acknowhave been in the most profound darkness; ledged in the bitterness of their spirits, that and were it not for the record of their all was vanity, deception and folly. Can we strength and greatness which we find in the wonder that such men have often expressed Scriptures, we should scarcely credit the few their fervent desire that they had never been traditions which the Greeks have preserved born, or have wished to exchange condition to us. After the lapse of two thousand five hundred years, a mere chance has thrown duly consider it, little surprising. God cretheir history in our way, and we have now ated man in his own image, capable of lovthe Egypto-Phænician origin of the arts. their deeds chronicled in writing and in ing and serving him. With a mind then sculpture.

Were I much given to the explanation of interference. I should be inclined to think

pectations of still more surprising and im-

(From the Halifax Christian Messenger.) Coleridge.

judge, the Assyrians appear to have been degrading use of opium. Very late in life be injured by obeying any command of the joyment, motion, or life.—London Workingman's his sense of religious truth appeared to ac- Decalogue; but we have nothing to do with There is no reason therefore to reject al- quire its due ascendency and to rescue him consequences. The sceptic will keep the discoveries at Nimroud will be new views only lends a keener edge to his misery.

We know all the "evils" which will attend the carrying out such "extreme views"

Such was the case of Coleridge. How after the carrying out such "extreme views"

the sea. Before Flinn's jacket could be off, the We have heretofore alluded several times feetingly does his language depict the utter —merchants would want their letters "a captain of marines had thrown the man a chair method does?" For the day? For the day? For the sea. Before Finn's jacque countries had thrown the man a chair method does? to the bearings of these researches on Bibliincapability of earthly things to give comwhole day." English letters might not be rethrough the port-hole invike ward-room, to keep cal learning. Mr. Layard says on this subfort to the soul, and show the misery of a
plied to for a whole week; an affectionate pahim floating, and the next instant Flinn had flung spirit that has no God to lean upon in the ent might not hear that his child was dying in himself overboard, and was swimming to the respirit that has no hour of anguish and in the prospect of death. a neighbouring city—special evidence in a cue. The admiral having witnessed the whole

with the beasts that perish! It is, when we alienated from the very source of his being, and at entity with his great Creator, what advantages we derive from the morning and even such things by a reference to superhuman but misery in its most fearful forms can be ing twilight; and all these advantages are more expected or deserved. Were men only to fully secured by the transparency of its particles that the Almighty had designedly kept these entertain just views of their relations to God and by its being rendered incapable of being coaand to eternity they would feel and acknow- gealed into a solid body. What, then, would be time had arrived when man had sufficient ledge that the very torture of soul which he the consequences were the earth to be diverted has connected with sin, has been sent in of its atmosphere? Were the hand of Ounge tents of records, written in an unknown love and mercy to restore them to the true tence to detach this body of air from our globe. character, that he might prove to them how end of their being, to bring them back to and could we suppose living beings at the same to that people, and show a very high know- great was the power which he so suddenly consideration, repentance and smendment time to exist, the landscape of the earth would destroyed, and how fully the prophecies up- of life. How truly preferable, even in the be disrobed of all its vegetable beauties, and not on the subject were fulfilled. Had these present world, is the lot of those who fear a plant or flower would be seen over the whole known of Celicia,' and those belonging to ground, they would have utterly disappeared dition or inferior their attainments, to the cease to flow, even the waters of the mighty deep were introduced by the Phoenician colon- of their former existence. Had they been genius and knowledge, however idolized by ed to view, like frightful and hideous deserts. ists, and eventually show that Phoenicia had casually discovered before the present centre the world, but who are strangers to them. No fire nor heat would cheer the abode of man, borrowed from the Assyrians and not from tury, they would probably have been used selves and to God! who neglect or perhaps either by day or by night, no rain nor dews would the life that now is, as well as of that which flight on high, nor would their warblings be coincided with those of the Assyrian, it is received with renewed interest; and the that future existence shall be revealed that Nature, universal silence would remain under and known between those who fear God and those who fear him not. The case of Coleridge affords one of the most striking evidences on record in favour of Temperance be gloom and obscurity by day, except in the principles—Opium or Alcohol will equally quarter of the heavens where the sun appeared, and no artificial light nor fiame could be produ-Coleridge, who died only a few years soul and body if they but once are suffered end to cheer the darkness of the night. The

(From the Toronto Globe.) Sunday Travelling.

We think no government office of any into the primitive chaos whence it arose. should be taken on the public roads on Sab- subilation of the atmosphere, that all the myrists

Eeneral Miscellann.

BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF THE ATMOSPHERE -Its influence is essential to the germination and growth of plants, to the preservation of water a a state of fluidity, to the existence of fire and flame, to the respiration of all kinds of animals, to the process of evaporation and the producing of rain and dew; to support the clouds, and to give buoyancy to the feathered tribes. It is the region of the winds—the vehicle of smells—tomedium of sounds-and the source of all te pleasures we derive from the harmonies of muse. it is the cause of that universal light and splea dour which are diffused around us, and of the flowers. The birds would no longer wing their turbed throughout the world, and the delights of music be for ever unknown. The morning would be no longer uskered in by the dawn, nor the day wide prospect of barrenness and desolution without a single object of beauty to relieve the horrors of the scene; and this earth, which now presents to the beholder so many objects of sublimity and loveliness, would appear as if it had sunk

NELSON'S PLATFUL DECISION .- Lord Nelson's manner, apart from duty, was universally kind and even playful to all around him; an amusing instance of which, as well as of his extreme quickness, occurred during this cruise in the Mediterranean. One bright morning, when the ship was moving about four knots an hour through a very doubt that much important information may | One of the strongest proofs of the value and law suit, just come to light, might arrive too affair from the quarter deck, was lightly delight-

erwith the same; and, when the antall, had reen hauled on deck, he call Foun, ira's d his conduct and made hear lmant on the so it. A loud huzza from the n erpmen, whom the incident had collected res, and who were throwing up their hats sonour of Fluin's good fortune, arrested L. Nelson's attention. There was something affeant in the tone of their cheer which he mediately recognised; and putting up his h for silence, and leaning over to the crowd of a des, he said with a good natured smile on nce, "Stop young gentlemen. Mr. Flinn done a gallant thing to day - and he has d many gatiant things before-for which he jot his reward; but mind, I'll have no more ging heutenants for servants falling overboa -Memoirs of Dr. Scott, Nelson's Chaptain.

ESDCHARGE OF HEAT AND COLD .- We the body capable of resisting a temperature Seient to decompose dead matter. Animali well as men, have been exposed to a degre heat exceeding that of boiling water, and w eatinjury; when at the same time a therm car placed under the tongue has indicated elevation of a few degrees only above the na alstandard. The power of resistance is bu saint duration; for the nervous influence is hausted by so extraordinary a demand. Cl ical ages to come into play, and matter is res ed into hit less form. As regards cold, the has prevails, the limits are the same. How great the power may be of resisting it, as soo the nervous energy is exhausted, the syste subject to injury. I have witnessed the ef of cold ton long endured upon the little pe ions, who are barbarously exposed to it de the winter season, at St. Petersburg. The hear it for a time, as they sit on their horses, ping their hands, and singing to keep up courage; but this fails them by degrees, as nally benumbed, they fall from their saddl a state of torpor which nothing but rolling in the snow will overcome. There is seldsare given at St. Petersburg, in the extres said weather, that occurrences of this sort ar recorded. In very cold nights the sentra frequently frozen to death, if not relieved at mervals. As long as nervous excitement bekept up, the resistance of cold is very ; Gen. Piroffsky informed me that in the extion to Khiva, not with standing the intens of the cold, the soldiers marched along sowith the breas's of their coats open, but or bagas they were flashed with the hope of ass. Where there is nothing to excite. were exposure to the cold takes place only brine common routh e of parade, its depreeffects are lamentably felt by those long exbut In the time of the Grand Dake Corthe , a regiment of horse going from Stelna "story, a distance of twelve miles and upy se aureaed at their head at a foot pice at vis. He had well wadded hims ill, and an as face over with oil. If was the gratifia t when to expose the soldiers to a gre see of cold. They arrived at the source r palare, and were dismissed to their bat in this wing day one third of the region : the hospital, attacked by nervous he with many died. There was no stimulus lessity in this case , but the moral feeling salestie physical suffering -Ser G. L. 4 de Spor the Nerres.

Istants of the Ever .- Between Au infine mainfand of India lies an island and bears the palm of beauty from all other resofthe world. It is alme in its aple initias wealth. Green isles, without no I se above caim and br lhant waters, in tersity of cuttine, huc, and aspect, now s bd by broad and sweeping seas, now clein trothernood, and only divided by marco a of channe's. Coasts clothed with the rie v. i studied with towns and hamlets, meet The the navigator's view. Long monand olde, tear themselves into the acor ise vaileys and sloping pasture lands on all sales, and the primerval, forest gre gans and hills, where the traveller's fe sever feft its impress. Beautiful river i tough these green and abundant lanes, Its as and fruits and flowers flourish in a . ". only known in Eastern soils. Every "Te of magnificance, every from material erse, and every form of beauty is ther to let in all the world no more splenoic totathan the home of the Indian Islan-" mote and glowing East - Sharpe's

" arms Jestin L - The whole time as and marile a effected by the state