

over the natives given by the use of firearms, and above all the discovery of gold, caused the fame of Columbus to quite eclipse that of the previous Norse explorers.

The publishers of this book are doing good service to letters by their important issues of works on Scandinavian languages and literature.

The Recent Origin of Man, as Illustrated by Geology and the Modern Science of Pre-historic Archaeology. By JAMES C. SOUTHALL, 8vo., pp. 606, illustrated. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co. \$6.00.

THIS is just the sort of book for which we have been long waiting. It is easy enough to denounce the anti-Scriptural theory of the immense antiquity of man, but this author does what is better, he confutes it. Mr. Southall, who is a thorough master of the literature of the subject, as well as a practised original observer, takes up the arguments of Lyell, Lubbock, Worsae, Vogt, and the advocates of the vast duration of man upon the planet, and from their own statement of facts, successfully, as we judge, confutes their conclusions. He contends, and having followed his exhaustive argument through nearly 600 closely printed 8vo. pages we are disposed heartily to agree with him, that the historic period indicated in Scripture is amply sufficient for all the social development indicated by the numerous relics of pre-historic man, and that the theories of his brute origin, primitive savagism, and immense antiquity are unscientific and erroneous. In another part of this number we give a condensed *resume* of this important argument.

The Unseen Universe; or Physical Speculations on a Future State. M'Millan & Co., New York: Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax.

THIS is rather an unsatisfactory book of the physico-metaphysical

type. The author's theory is that the constant waste of material from the visible universe by radiation into space must accumulate in the outer void to form the "unseen universe" which is to be the future home of the soul. Concurrent with this theory is a powerful argument for the immortality of the soul, based on the doctrine of the persistence of force. The book has attracted much attention and has been made the subject of a special article in the *London Quarterly Review* (Methodist). It is a much less satisfactory book, in our judgment, than Isaac Taylor's *Physical Theory of a Future Life*.

Brentford Parsonage. By the author of the "Win and Wear" Series. 12 mo., pp. 450. Robert Carter and Brothers, New York: Methodist Book Rooms Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.

THIS book should be read before "Coulyng Castle," noticed in our last number, for it is like coming from poetry down to prose to read it afterward; and this not from any absolute defect, but from the extraordinary merit of the other. While, however, this book cannot lay claim to the literary skill, the poetic insight, the dramatic vivacity of the above mentioned story, it is a simple account of life in a New England parsonage, and the beneficent social and religious results it exercised in a rude manufacturing village. The story is neither better nor worse than, perhaps, the average of Sunday-school books; but its publishers have given us so many excellent works, that we expect something of a very high class in anything bearing their imprint.

The Odd One. By A. M. MITCHELL PAYNE. 12mo., pp. 350. New York: Robert Carter & Brothers.

THIS is a better story than the one last noticed—simpler in plot, more skilfully written, and plainer in purpose. It records the transforma-