

Mrs. Gaskell has undertaken to prepare for the press a biography of Charlotte Brontë, the lamented authoress of "Jane Eyre."

The Rev. Dr. W. L. Alexander, of Edinburgh, has nearly ready for the press a *Life of the late Dr. Wardlaw*.

The *Dublin University Magazine* has been purchased for £750 by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett of London. It will henceforth be published there. Our readers are probably aware that the *Edinburgh Review* is in like manner a Cockney, having been for years Edinburgh only in name; but its place is well supplied by the native *North British Review*.

The *Piedmontese Gazette* announces that Silvio Pellico's correspondence will shortly be published, and invites all those who are in possession of letters of that eminent writer, and wish them to appear in the collection, to send them to M. G. Stefani, at Turin.

The oldest work in the Russian language, says a writer in the *Literary Gazette*, was produced in 863, and was a translation from the Greek of the Holy Scriptures. The Russian language is allied to the Sanscrit, but the old Slavonian dialect—that which is used in the offices of the Church—approaches it more closely than the modern tongue. The latter is overladen with Tartar, Mongol, Turkish, Polish, and German words.

The news of Macaulay's resignation of his seat in Parliament, while it affords abundant excitement in the arena of politics, has its full interest in a literary point of view. Already one of the Scottish papers numbers the fifth volume of his history completed in MS., and further portions of the work far advanced.

MILTON AND NAPOLEON.

A correspondent communicates the following curious statement to the *Notes and Queries*:—"Among some books purchased at Puttick & Simpson's two years since, was a copy of Symmings' 'Life of Milton.' Having lately occasion to examine it more than I had hitherto done, I found it contained many notes and remarks in the handwriting of a former possessor, J. Brown. Who this gentleman was I know not, and the following note must be taken on *his* authority, not mine:—

"In this 'Life of Milton,' by Dr. Symmings, p. 551, is a note to which this notice may be appended:—

"Napoleon Bonaparte declared to Sir Colin Campbell, who had charge of his person at the Isle of Elba, that he was a great admirer of our Milton's 'Paradise Lost,' and that he had read it to some purpose, for that the plan of the battle of Austerlitz he borrowed from the sixth book of that work, where Satan brings his artillery to bear upon Michael and his angelic host with such direful effect:—

"Training his devilish enginery, impal'd
On every side with shadowing squadrons deep,
To hide the fraud."

"This new mode of warfare appeared to Bonaparte so likely to succeed, if applied to actual use, that he determined upon its adoption, and succeeded beyond expectation. A reference to the details of that battle will be found to assimilate so completely with Milton's imaginary fight as to leave no doubt of the assertion.

"I had this fact from Colonel Stanhope, who had just heard it related by Colonel Campbell himself. Colonel Stanhope was then at Stowe, the Marquis of Buckingham's, where I heard it repeated. It has never to my knowledge been in print, nor have I ever heard the circumstance repeated. Colonels Stanhope and Campbell have been long dead. The time of my hearing the above was 1815."