

HELPFUL DATA IN CURRENT LITERATURE.

THE RECENT SUPERNATURAL ORIGIN OF MAN CONSIDERED FROM A PURELY SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW. By W. D. Wilson, D.D., LL.D., *American Church Review* (Dec.), 27 pp. A learned and candid discussion of the religious and primitive condition of man, in the light of the latest discoveries in science. The extreme antiquity claimed by Lyell and others, is now admitted to be unsupported by facts, even by such scientists as Herbert Spencer and Huxley. The latter says: "I don't know that there is any reason for doubting that the men who existed at that day [the drift period] were, in all essential respects, similar to the men who exist now." His admissions in regard to the Nile Valley (Eaton address) upset Lyell's speculations. Principal Dawson, as good authority as any in the world, after reviewing the whole ground in his recent work, "Fossil Men and their Modern Representatives," winds up with these words:

"What evidence the future may bring forth I do not know; but that available at present points to the appearance of man, with all his powers and properties, in the Post-glacial age of geology, and not more than from six to eight thousand years ago. This abrupt appearance of man in his full proportions, his association with animals, the greater part of which still survive, and his introduction at the close of that great and as yet very mysterious revolution of the earth which we call the Glacial period, accords, as I have elsewhere endeavored to show, with the analogy of geological science, in the information which it gives us of the first appearance of other types of original beings in the several stages of development of our earth." (pp. 246-7.)

PROF. MAX MÜLLER ON THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF RELIGION. By H. S. Kellogg, D.D., *Bibliotheca Sacra* (Jan.), 22 pp. Few books treating on this subject have been honored with so appreciative a reception and wide-spread publication as these lectures of Müller. They have been reproduced in the vernacular languages of India. A book of such a history must possess more than usual interest. This well-written paper gives the author credit for sincerity and belief in Christianity, and for his refutation of the anti-Christian theory, that all religion began in the worship of fetishes. But, while acknowledging all this and more, it holds that his own theory of the origin of religion is intrinsically no better than the one he so ably refutes; is "opposed alike to a sound philosophy and to the direct and implied teachings of the Scriptures; and that the arguments, even of an historical sort, by which he would support it, are not valid for the conclusion which he professes to establish."

THE CHURCHES OF THE HUGUENOTS AND THE RELIGIOUS CONDITION OF FRANCE. By A. F. Beard, D.D., *Andover Review* (Jan.), 15 pp. The writer of this valuable paper is pastor of the American Chapel in Paris. He has enjoyed special opportunities to inform himself, and well has he used them. The editorial note is not too strong: He "brings together a mass of facts never before collected and set in the same relationship. They

have been gleaned from many fields and much personal observation and inquiry in different parts of the country." He gives us trustworthy information respecting the various agencies which are determining the religious and moral condition of France. He takes a hopeful view of the situation. "We may say, without fear of question, that France never had a like opportunity to receive the Gospel, and the Christian world never had a more inviting field. There are 900 Protestant ministers, active and earnest, and many missionary agencies are co-operating, and no less than 73 Protestant religious papers are published in the French language."

ECCLESIASTICAL CONTROL IN UTAH. By John Taylor, President of the Church of Latter-Day Saints; Eli H. Murray, Governor of the Territory of Utah. *North American Review* (Jan.), 23 pp. The coolness and the boldness with which the head of the Mormon hierarchy defends the monstrous system of faith and social iniquity embraced in Mormonism would surprise us, if anything could excite surprise in relation to this deluded people. According to his testimony, the Mormons are a highly virtuous, law-abiding and greatly persecuted community! Governor Murray's rejoinder gives a clear view of the present status of things in Utah. "The country," he says, "has resolved to get at the bottom facts in Utah affairs." He states many things that may well excite criticism and indignation. "Utah Mormonism, with legislative power in its grasp, is a monster of no inconsiderable proportions, and means mischief." "The day of settlement must come. . . the quicker the better for the Mormons and for the country. . . Either the Government must repeal its laws, or the Mormons must obey them." He affirms that they are living in open, daily violation of U. S. laws. The "Edmund's bill," he claims, does not supply the remedy. His remedy is, "Abolish the Legislature, and substitute in lieu of it a Legislative Council, to be approved by the President, and confirmed by the Senate."

AGNOSTICISM IN AMERICAN FICTION. By Julian Hawthorne. *Princeton Review* (Jan.), 15 pp. Coming from a popular writer of fiction, the admissions and characterizations of this article are noteworthy. Accepting his views, as in the main just, we are confronted with the fact that modern fiction is, for the most part, hostile to Christianity, absolutely agnostic in sentiment: "The Bible is a human book; Christ was a gentleman related to the Buddha and Plato families. Death . . . is annihilation of personal existence . . . morality is the enlightened selfishness of the greatest number . . . the 'Religion of Humanity' is the only religion recognized." Thackeray, Dickens, and other novelists of their day, "accepted the religious and social canons" then current, and did not concern themselves "about a philosophy of life." But a "new order of