

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine.

Rechester, N. Y.: James Vick.

Those who do not know what to do in this beautiful spring weather ought to stand on a hill and see what their neighbors are doing, or, better still, send for the April number of *Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine*, which, in its own pleasant way, conveys a large amount of information regarding garden cultivation, useful and ornamental.

The New Testament Elder: His Position, Powers and Duties in the Christian Church.

By Thomas Witherow, Professor of Church History, Londonderry. Toronto: James Bain, Bookseller.

It is very desirable that the office and functions of the eldership should be clearly defined. Those who wish to come to a just conclusion on this subject would do well to avail themselves of the aid offered by Professor Witherow's logical mind and knowledge of Scripture and Church History.

Lectures by the Rev. Joseph Cook.

Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson. Trade supplied by the "Toronto News Company." Price 20 Cents.

This is the third pamphlet of the series. It contains the conclusion of Lecture XII.—"Maudsley on Hereditary Descent," Lecture XIII.—"Necessary Beliefs inherent in the Plan of the Soul," XIV.—"Darwin's Theory of Pangenesis, or Hereditary Descent," XV.—"Darwin on the Origin of Conscience," XVI.—"Herbert Spencer on Hereditary Descent," XVII. and XVIII.—"Marriage and Hereditary Descent."

Scriptural Baptism: Its Mode and Subjects, as opposed to the Views of the Anabaptists.

By Rev. T. Witherow, Professor of Church History, Londonderry. Toronto: James Bain, Bookseller.

In this compact little book of 72 pages, Professor Witherow goes over the whole ground pertaining to the two questions which constitute the Baptist controversy, namely, the question regarding the *mode* of baptism—How is baptism to be administered?—and the question regarding the *subjects* of baptism—To whom is baptism to be administered? With small expenditure of money in buying it, and of time in reading it, the book will put any person of ordinary intelligence in possession of the main arguments in support of the practice of Infant Baptism, and that by Sprinkling.

The Catholicity of the Presbyterian Church.

By Rev. Professor Campbell, M.A., Presbyterian College, Montreal. Toronto: C. Blackett Robinson. Price 10 Cents.

This pamphlet is the first of a series of "Tracts on Presbyterian Topics" to be issued by the publisher of this paper. Its contents formed one of the course of lectures recently delivered in Montreal. It is reprinted from the *PRESBYTERIAN* for the convenience of those who may wish to have it in a neat, portable and permanent form. The interesting nature of the subject and the well known ability of the author ought to bespeak for it a wide circulation among our people throughout the country. Presbyteries and sessions would do well to secure the introduction of this and the forthcoming numbers of the series among their people. There is urgent need for the production of a home literature of this class, and for its thorough and extensive diffusion amongst the members and adherents of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

The Apostolic Church—Which Is It?

By Thomas Witherow, Professor of Church History, Londonderry. Toronto: James Bain, Bookseller.

The full title of this book further describes it as being "An inquiry at the oracles of God as to whether any existing form of Church government is of divine right." As the result of that inquiry, the author finds that the following principles were in practical operation in the Apostolic Church: (1) The office-bearers were chosen by the people. (2) The office of bishop and elder was identical. (3) There was a plurality of elders in each Church. (4) Ordination was the act of a presbytery—that is, of a plurality of elders. (5) There was the privilege of appeal to the assembly of elders; and the power of government was exercised by them in their associate capacity. (6) The only Head of the Church was the Lord Jesus Christ. He then searches for these principles in the three systems of Church government now existing, viz.: Prelacy, Independency, and Presbytery. In Prelacy he finds not

one; in Independency he finds three; and in Presbytery he finds all of these six principles.

Littell's Living Age.

Boston: Littell & Gay.

This magazine supplies once a week about as much matter as is contained in one number of an average sized monthly. Its special work is, not the publication of original matter, but the selection and re-printing of the most notable articles which appear in the English quarterlies and higher class monthlies; thus furnishing readers on this continent with the cream of current English secular literature; and that, by means of advance sheets, as soon as these articles are published at home, and sometimes sooner. The numbers for the weeks ending March 23rd and 30th, respectively, contain: a paper on "Precious Stones," taken from the "British Quarterly;" another, originally contributed to the "Nineteenth Century" by Dr. Humphrey Sandwith, of Kars, and telling "How the Turks rule Armenia;" an article on "The Telephone," from the "Westminster Review;" with selections from the "Cornhill Magazine," "Examiner," and "Spectator."

The Princeton Review.

New York: 37 Park Row. Rev. Andrew Kennedy, Agent, London, Ontario.

Increased in bulk; published once in two months instead of quarterly; reduced in price; and continuing to be, as formerly, well-advanced and reliable, sound and sensible, and not afraid of encountering the prominent questions of the day, this long-established periodical, now in its fifty-fourth year of publication, seems to be entering upon a new career of usefulness and prosperity. Few of those who have had their intellects at all aroused to activity, or who have given any consideration to the great problems of human life, would be content to miss reading the papers contained in the number for March. The bare titles indicate the importance and interest of the subjects, and the names of the writers will readily be taken as sufficient guarantee for their able treatment. "Limits to State Control of Private Business," by Chief Justice Cooley, Michigan; "Design in Nature," by President Chadbourne, Williams College; "The *Ordo Salutis*," by Prof. A. A. Hodge, Princeton Theological Seminary; "Opening of the Synod of Dort," by Prof. Samuel M. Hopkins, Auburn Theological Seminary; "Evil in Things Good," by Rev. Dr. John Hall, New York; "The Bible and the Public School," by Rev. Samuel T. Spear, Brooklyn; "Morality, Religion, and Education in the State," by Prof. Lyman H. Atwater, Princeton College; "Dualism, Materialism, or Idealism?" by Prof. Bowen, Harvard College; "No Preaching to the Dead," by Rev. Dr. Nathaniel West, Cincinnati; "German Thought and Schopenhauer's Pessimism," by Prof. Archibald Alexander, Columbia College; "The Pontificate of Pius the Ninth," by Bishop A. Cleveland Coxe, Western New York; "Shall the Keys or the Sceptre Rule in Germany?" by Charles A. Salmond, M.A., Edinburgh; "Evolution from Mechanical Force," by Rev. Dr. Laurens P. Hickok, Amherst; "Contemporary Philosophy. Mind and Brain," by President McCosh, Princeton College. The paper entitled "No Preaching to the Dead" is a critical examination of the various exegeses given of 1 Peter iv. 6. "For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit." The writer comes to the conclusion that "the dead" referred to in this passage are "all the dead to whom, when living, the gospel came in any form, believers or unbelievers; all the pious dead more especially; and most especially the martyrs of Jesus," and that the gospel was preached to them, not after they were dead, but while they were living. In this view he has the support of Calvin, Carpov, Beza, Bengel, Jansen, Wetstein, Rosenmüller, Schott, Zerschwitz, Bloomfield, Scott, McKnight, Barnes, Clarke, and Wesley, against the believers in Purgatory and the *Limbus Patrum*, and the modern heralds of preaching and reformation in Hades. Dr. McCosh, in his article on "Mind and Brain," comes to very close quarters with the Materialists, entering into the details of physical science with a minuteness surprising in one who has been generally supposed to have devoted his whole mind to a very different and a much higher field. He challenges all and sundry to show that any purely physiological investigation can explain the phenomena of consciousness, or to prove that the brain has any higher function than the transmission of sensation and the accomplishment of bodily action.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

RECENT reports show that all but \$3,286,350 of the French war indemnity fund of \$1,051,012,814 has been paid to Germany.

DURING 1877 the Prince of Wales received \$346,695 as annual income from the Duchy of Cornwall. Yet he is poor, and in debt.

THE number of signatures to the Anti-confessional Memorial of the Church Association already numbers over 400,000.

A UNITED Presbyterian Church is to be built at Blantyre, Scotland, the birthplace of Dr. Livingstone, as a memorial of the missionary traveller.

FIVE and a half inches of snow fell at Yokohama on February 10th and 11th, and during the storm a slight shock of earthquake was felt. On the morning of the 17th there were again two shocks of earthquake.

THE "Daily Review" of Edinburgh says that the late Dr. Duff lent a request that Dr. McCosh of Princeton, should prepare a manual of philosophy for Hindoo students, which would put Christianity in its legitimate place, beside the latest developments of European thought.

EUROPEAN politics are in a very complicated and unsettled condition. There have been changes recently in the Cabinets of Prussia and Italy, the latter being virtually reconstructed; and it is probable that the men now in office will be unable to retain their positions very long.

DR. MANNING's prospects of wearing the purple would seem to be infinitesimally small. According to a statement, evidently official, which has just appeared in the *Germania* (Ultramontane organ) he only received one vote in the first scrutiny at the recent Conclave, and in the second none at all!

DR. M'GETTIGAN, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh, in his Lenten Pastoral speaks in terms of strong reprobation of drunken "wakes." Some persons, he says, go to wakes and funerals for no other purpose than to drink whiskey. Such people would drink the water in which Pilate washed his hands if it tasted of whiskey.

IT is expected that the work of revising the authorized English version of the Bible will be completed in two years. No compensation is paid to the revisers for their labours. The necessary expenses of the English revisers are met by the Syndicate of the University press who have the copyright. The expenses of American revisers are defrayed by private contributors.

IF straws show which way the wind blows, it is certainly a sign that the wind is in the right direction, when a Roman Catholic is expelled from Spain for the crime of preaching a sermon in which he denounced the King of Italy and the government of that country. If Romish priests are thus taught, in Spain, to mind their own business, we may be sure the world is moving in the right direction.

THE LATE POPE.—It has been asserted and contradicted that the late Pope was in his early days crossed in love. A correspondent of the *Guardian* gives his testimony on the subject to this effect: "An Italian priest, whose uncle married the pope's sister, informed the writer that Giovanni Mastai, while an officer in the 'Guardia Nobila,' became engaged to an Irish Protestant lady, but in consequence of the violent opposition which this aroused, the future pope broke it off. She never saw him again and died single. The narrator adds that after he had become pope she solicited an audience, but he declined receiving her."

UPON the motion of the Archbishop of York, the House of Lords has agreed to the appointment of a royal commission to inquire into the law and practice of the sale, exchange, and regulation of ecclesiastical benefices, with a view to the remedy of the abuses of the system. The evils complained of have long existed, and are now, says the *Times*, as frequent and as great as ever. "Livings are still advertised for sale in terms best calculated to attract intending purchasers, and implying not seldom an evasion, if not a positive breach, of the existing law. Appointments are made from time to time with no great reference to the fitness of the holder and with results that are, at least, unfortunate." The puzzling question is: How shall the remedy be applied? "Anything that has a money value admits, of course, of being made the subject of a bargain. In the case of Church patronage a great part of the value is derived from this fact. If the sale of it is prohibited, the value of it to the patron will be correspondingly reduced. If the sale is permitted, there can be no security that it will be conducted in an offensive manner."

DEAN STANLEY'S LECTURE ON "THE POPES."—A Roman Catholic layman wrote to the Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster, questioning the accuracy of his statements in his recent lecture on "The Papal Succession." The writer, in the course of his letter, said: "My object, as a stranger to you, in writing this letter is to call into question your statements—according to the newspapers—when speaking of the Pope's election. You are reported to have said, 'He [the Pope] really need not be a clergyman at all.' In fact on two occasions laymen have been selected Popes. And those who imagine that the Pope inherited his office by virtue of episcopal succession laboured under a great mistake.' As I have been taught all my life, as a Roman Catholic, to believe that the Pope has never been any other than an ecclesiastic, and therefore has 'inherited' by virtue of episcopal succession, I shall be glad for your authority for these serious statements." To this letter the very rev. dean has sent the following most courteous reply: "Deanery, Westminster, February 21st, 1878.—The Dean of Westminster presents his compliments . . . and begs to say that the statement that the Pope's office depends not upon his consecration, but upon his election, is found in the great work of Bellarmine on the Roman Pontificate. Two Popes, in point of fact, were elected as laymen, John XIX. or XXI. and Adrian V., 1276 A.D. Adrian V. died before he had become Bishop of Rome, after he had issued decrees possessing full pontifical authority."