

BOOKS AND MAGAZINES.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly Magazine.

Rochester, N.Y.: James Vick

Vick's May number contains much information, and many valuable suggestions as to the choice, care and culture of flowers and vegetables. A season so favorable to vegetation as the present ought to encourage almost everybody to engage more or less in horticultural pursuits. Employment of this kind is conducive to health, happiness and refinement. A magazine that tells people how to tend a flower or raise a garden vegetable is perhaps doing more for true civilization than many a more pretentious publication.

The Atlantic Monthly.

Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co.

Those who have read Mr. Langdon's paper on Victor Emmanuel in the "Atlantic Monthly" will be glad to find that he has contributed to the May number of that magazine an article on "The Old Pope and the New." The number also contains an interesting paper on "The Silver Question Geologically Considered," by Professor Shalker. It treats of the origin of gold and silver, the localities in which they are found in workable quantities, and the probable variations in their relative amount and value. Those who can appreciate good descriptions of works of art will enjoy the article on "Recent Florence," by Henry Jas. Junior. Mark Twain finds vent for his cynicism as well as for his humour in an article "About Magnanimous Incident Literature." "From Ponkapog to Pestle," is the title of a lively travel sketch by Mr. Aldrich. The Education Department consists of a review of the last Annual Reports of the President and Treasurer of Harvard College. The fiction is, as usual, select; and the poetry well maintains the reputation of the magazine in that department.

The Princeton Review.

New York: 37 Park Row.

The May number of this publication, being the third number for the year, comes to hand with the following table of contents: "Religious Condition of the France of To-Day," by Rev. Dr. E. Pressense, Paris; "Evolution and the Apparition of Animal Forms," by Principal Dawson, McGill College, Montreal; "A Personal Resurrection and Modern Science," by Rev. Dr. E. A. Washburn, New York; "God's Threefold Revelation of Himself," by Prebendary C. A. Row, St. Paul's Cathedral, London; "The Drift of Europe, Christian and Social," by Joseph P. Thompson, LL.D., Berlin; "Science and Revelation," by Prof. Andrew P. Peabody, Harvard College; "Crime: its Cause and Cure," by Rev. Dr. E. C. Wines, Irvington-on-Hudson; "American Art: its Progress and Prospects," by John F. Weir, N.A., School of Fine Arts, Yale College; "The Miracle of Creation," by Rev. Dr. H. McIlvaine, Newark; "Disputed Scripture Localities," by Prof. Philip Schaff, Union Theological Seminary, "England and her Colonies," by James Anthony Froude, D.C.L., London. In the first article Dr. Pressense gives a vivid description of the present condition of the present condition of France, torn asunder by the Ultramontane and Atheistic factions, bitterly opposed to each other and both wrong. Principal Dawson, in the second article, opposes the Evolution Theory. This question belongs perhaps more to Geology than to any other science, and it is to the geologist that it ought to have been submitted for decision in the first instance. Dr. Washburn, in his article on the Resurrection, meets modern positivists, such as Mill and Harrison, on their own ground, and confutes them. The fourth article treats of the Revelations which God has given of Himself in the Universe, in man's conscience and moral nature, and in the Incarnation. We have not had time to glance at the remaining articles, the titles of which we have given above, but the names of some of the authors are well fitted to awaken great expectations.

PREACHING:—A POPULAR MISCONCEPTION.

There is a mode of preaching the gospel at the present day, exceedingly popular, but which we regard as defective in its appropriate influences. It consists in addressing the imagination with lively imagery or highly-wrought pictures, and endeavouring to awaken the emotions and affections through this,

rather than through the reason, by the majesty of tenderness and truth. We object to this mode of sermonising, because it awakens essentially the same class of emotions that are awakened by the drama and romance; and, therefore, though the truth may be clearly exhibited, it fails to produce its legitimate gospel effect. In other words, while it awakens great interest, moves the sympathies, starts the tear, even agitates the hearer, it does not deeply or permanently affect the conscience and devotional affections. It rather pleases than benefits. It excites, but yields little Christian nutriment. As a tragedy seldom improves the morals, so this picturesque, enchanting preaching seldom strengthens the Christian graces. The result lodges in the imagination and taste, awakening admiration, rather than the conscience and heart of the hearer, on the general principle that the capacity or tendency of the mind most active in the production of a sermon is usually the most affected in hearing it.

Remhard, formerly court preacher at Dresden, in his "Letters and Confessions," translated from the German, has happily expressed this thought, together with others associated with it, alike deserving the consideration of the ambassador of Christ, and those who listen to his instructions:—

"He who banishes instruction from the pulpit, and attempts to reduce every thing to the excitement of emotion, robs the ministerial office of a great part of its usefulness, and deprives the great mass of the people of almost every opportunity for the enlargement and correction of their religious knowledge. Moreover, I must absolutely deny the possibility of a man's exciting religious feeling and rendering it salutary and productive of exalted effects, otherwise than by commencing with convincing instruction, and taking the way through the intellect to the heart. All his efforts to raise emotion by operating upon the imagination, will result in inflaming it, and kindling a wild-fire which can prove of no advantage to genuine piety, and may positively injure it. A religious emotion, to be salutary and improving, and in a rational and profitable manner effect the exaltation of the mind, must be founded upon a lively perception of important truths vividly represented. Indeed, it is impossible to conceive of a discourse, which shall in reality take hold of, awaken, and inspire the man, and prepare the way for, and raise, the emotions of the heart, without instruction. Now as this instruction will produce the most effect, if delivered with clearness and proper arrangement, it is impossible to see why strict method should not be combined with the object of affecting the heart.

"While you are meditating upon the subject, then, some one will say, let everything be arranged in its proper place; but when you come to write it out, and dress up this skeleton with skin and flesh, carefully conceal the various parts from the audience addressed, and then their eyes will not discover a skeleton without spirit and life.

"Let me tarry awhile at the image which lies at the foundation of this remark. Nature does, indeed, cover up the bony fabric of a beautiful body with tender parts of various kinds, and thereby impart to those powerful charms by which it allures the beholder; but does she, in so doing, reduce it to a mass of flesh, and make it impossible for us any longer to distinguish its single parts and members, discover their relation to each other, or point out their joints? On the other hand, is not this bony fabric, which constitutes the firm basis of the whole, so completely visible, that one can readily see where each member begins and ends, and how they are all connected together; and is it not this appropriate and natural compactness, and these regular proportions, which render a beautiful form so pleasing? Now, to continue the image employed, a discourse, the whole organization and the skeleton of whose thoughts are concealed by the manner in which it is written out, and the language in which it is clothed, will not constitute a beautiful body, full of life and motion; but can be looked upon as nothing more than an unformed and helpless mass of flesh, which cannot be made into any thing, or be reckoned among any known class of forms. This, indeed, is the impression which discourses ordinarily leave behind them. One who listens to them, hears much that is beautiful, but he cannot tell definitely in what it consists, and is unable to reduce it to any clear and distinct shape. I cannot persuade myself that such discourses ever accomplish any good."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN ITEMS.

THE Dean of Westminster, on his recent visit to Torquay, worshipped in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

THE United Presbyterian Church during 1877 raised £42,406 for foreign missions, and £48,698 for other missions, making a total of £91,105.

DR. JOHN HALL's church, (Presbyterian) New York city, lately paid an installment of \$29,000 towards its annual contribution for home missions.

THE mild weather in Great Britain has been succeeded by severe storms, and frost and snow. The cold has been sufficient to cause the loss of a number of young lambs.

A CONSIDERABLE number of the Town Council in Scotland have resolved not to send a "Representative Elder" to the forthcoming meeting of the General Assembly of the Established Church.

PROFESSOR MACGREGOR, of the New College, Edinburgh, has for some time been very seriously indisposed. We are glad to be able to state that he is now in a much less critical condition, and that good hopes are entertained of his recovery.

A DOCUMENT, signed by sixty of the Dublin Clergy, has been sent to the representative body of the Irish Church, protesting against the roof-screen and other ornaments in Christ Church Cathedral. The remonstrance has been forwarded on to the restorer of the cathedral.

MESSRS. MOODY AND SANKEY began a series of meetings at New Haven, on Sunday, March 24th, in the new tabernacle, which seats 5,000 people. Although the weather was unfavorable, great crowds attended the two services. Thousands had to go away, as they could not get inside the edifice.

THE Governor of Bombay presided recently at a meeting connected with the Mission of the Free Church of Scotland in Bombay, and made a speech, in which he referred to the value of such institutions, and paid a tribute to the good work of men like Dr. Duff, Dr. Hislop, Dr. Anderson, and the late Dr. Wilson.

THE Rev. S. W. Merry, M.A., Vicar of Isleham, Cambridgeshire, states that he has just received the direct sanction of the Education Department to appoint, over a school to be built in his parish, a certified schoolmaster, who is also employed as a licensed Church of England lay reader.

CARDINAL MANNING returned to London from Rome on Wednesday. He was met at the station by a deputation of Roman Catholic noblemen and gentlemen, who presented him with an address, in reply to which the Cardinal contradicted most of the rumours which were circulated respecting him during his sojourn in Italy.

THE Bishop of Lichfield died on Thursday. He was born in 1808. From 1839 to 1841 he was Canon of Windsor, and in the last mentioned year was consecrated first Bishop of New Zealand. In the autumn of 1867 he was translated to the see of Lichfield. In the earliest years of his career Dr. Selwyn made some mark as a controversialist.

THE "Christian Era" says that "almost every year a number of ministers who have been brought up Congregationalists, educated in our colleges, and ordained in our churches, leaves us for other communions, especially the Established Church and the Presbyterian Churches." It says further, that in the last year nearly twenty ministers thus seceded.

AT many of the meetings of the Presbyteries of the Free Church in Scotland, Dr. Thomas Smith and Rev. J. H. Wilson have been nominated for the chair, vacant by the death of Dr. Duff. Other names in several Presbyteries have been mentioned, but the majority appear in favour of the above. Several Presbyteries have overtaken that the chair be not filled up at present, and the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr have agreed to an overture to the effect that the permanent appointment to the chair of Evangelistic Theology should be delayed for a year, with a view to having the matter thoroughly considered.

A SOMEWHAT singular hitch has occurred in connection with the filling up of the vacancy in Persie Established Church, parish of Bendochy, caused by the translation of the Rev. Herbert Bell to Aberdeen. It appears that the rev. gentleman, appointed recently by the congregation to fill the vacancy, is the Rev. Mr. Smith, not a licentiate of the Established Church, but of the Free Church—although, strange to say, he has been acting for some time as an assistant to the Rev. Mr. Fleming, Established Church, Perth. In consequence of this irregularity, a deputation of the Meigle Established Presbytery, consisting of Rev. Mr. Brown, Bendochy, interim Moderator of kirk-session, Rev. Dr. Chree, Lintathen, and others, met in Persie Church, with the view of commencing proceedings *de novo* in regard to filling up the vacancy. This is the second disappointment the congregation have sustained since the translation of Mr. Bell.

COFFEE TAVERNS.—At the second Annual Meeting of the Coffee Tavern Company the Report stated that the 10,000 shares, which at present constitute the capital, had all been subscribed for, and that, having regard to the premises of support, and the numerous districts in which houses were still wanted, the directors recommended that the capital should be increased to the nominal amount of £50,000. It was further stated that the Company was gradually forming an established business, and that, with unremitting attention to details, its continuing prosperity might be counted on with confidence. A sum equal to two per cent. was available for dividend, but it was thought best that it should be carried forward as a reserve. It was added that an average of 1,250 persons daily enter the Glass House Tavern, 1,200 the Market Tavern, and 1,550 the Temple Arms; and that the average daily supply at the three places is 26,500 cups of cocoa, coffee, and tea, 1,646 loaves of bread, 348 lbs. of beef and ham, and thirty dozen of eggs.