

The *Taxodium Distichum* (or deciduous cypress) seems to be the most gigantic of any on record, and to be second to none in age. Two existing specimens may be referred to—one in the churchyard of Santa Maria de Telsa, near Oaxaca in Mexico, which has a trunk ninety-three feet in girth; the other, that of Chapultepec, which is said to have a circumference of 117 feet 10 inches. Regarded as of 'wondrous' magnitude by the Spanish conquerors, this tree of Chapultepec 'certainly reaches back' (according to De Candolle) 'to the origin of the present state of the world—an epoch of which' (in his *vixw*) 'it is the most indisputable monument.' Professor Henslow, it may be observed, estimates the longevity of the *taxodium* at above 4,000 years. . . . Let these examples suffice. Enough appears from them to show that trees may attain to an age altogether wonderful, and to a size that is quite prodigious, and still continue to live and grow."

The view, given in these letters, of the nature of trees, differs widely from that commonly received among us. It neither represents the popular belief, nor does it accord with the recognised doctrines of the schools. "To the popular mind, indeed," to use Dr. H.'s own words, "it may be said to be nearly unknown, while heretofore it has failed to secure the sanction of the greater number of our scientific botanists. In the main, however, it is the same as that first set forth by De la Hire, as long ago as 1708, and subsequently held by Darwin, Mirbel, Du Petit-Thouars, Gaudichaud, and other physiologists;" and since the publication of this volume, Dr. Harvey has ascertained that the views of the eminent French physiologist, De Candolle, as set forth in his "*Physiologie Végétale*," published in 1832, are substantially accordant with his own. He disclaims, therefore, "all pretensions on the score of originality. He has advanced nothing that was not known or held before. The only merit he is disposed to claim in connection with it, is that of having unfolded it more systematically, and in greater detail than any of his predecessors." At the same time, it is no more than justice to Dr. Harvey to state that the theory was worked out by him, substantially as it now appears, without any assistance from others; that it was embodied in a course of lectures on physiology, which he delivered in Marischal College, Aberdeen, during the winter session of 1844, and that it was subsequently more largely developed in a paper "*On the Nature, Longevity, and Size of Trees*," which he published in the "*Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal*," for January, 1847, long before he had any knowledge of the writings of De la Hire, Darwin, Mirbel, Gaudichaud, and De Candolle.

We have only room to add that Dr. Harvey studies and expounds his favourite subject, not only with the broad and acute intellect of a philosopher, but with the devout and reverential spirit of a Christian. He has an open eye for the manifestation of God in the book of nature; and he has a fine gift for discovering and appreciating the beautiful analogies which bind together the volumes of nature and revelation—the Old Testament and the New of God's Universal Bible. To him, the Trees of the field and the forest are "*The Trees of the Lord*," and the Cedars of Lebanon are the Cedars which "He hath planted." Such a man and such a writer is a distinguished ornament to the eldership of our Church; and this ingenious and truly original work will find its way, we doubt not, to the hands of many of our ministers, elders, and people, who, while thankful to see examples of the combination of genius and piety appearing in *any* and *every* branch of the Church of Christ, are sensible of a special obligation to appreciate and encourage them, when they shew themselves in their own.

#### PERIODICALS, PAMPHLETS, &C., RECEIVED.

From Messrs. Hill & Martin, Montreal, we have received a copy of the first number of the "*Chicago Magazine*, or, *The West as it is; illustrated*," published under the auspices of the Mechanics Institution of this far-famed western city. It contains several admirable wood-cuts of notable places and buildings in the city and neighborhood. The letter-press is most creditable to the publishers. Its literature is of the first order. History, biography, travel, and story, are combined with much skill; which, together with trade statistics and literary notices, render it a most interesting magazine, and well worthy of encouragement.

We have received a short pamphlet on "*Ventilation and Warming*," by Sheriff Ruttan, of Cobourg, and which describes somewhat imperfectly a system for effecting the above desirable purposes, which is the result of many years study and experience. The designs of his Air-Warmer, Nos. 1 and 2, for houses, are very chaste and beautiful. We recommend parties who are erecting Churches, or planning how to heat or ventilate them, to communicate with Sheriff Ruttan. His recommendation to those about to build is that "if your architect does not know how to put lungs into your house, have nothing at all to do with him."