

Poetry.

THE FISHERMAN'S SONG.

(From "Songs and Ballads for the People," by the Rev. John Neale, M.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge.)

EARLY PREACHERS OF THE ENGLISH REFORMATION.

(From "Bishop Jeremy Taylor, his predecessors, contemporaries, and successors," by the Rev. Robert Armitage, M.A.)

As Fisher was the last of the old school of preachers, Colet has been called the first of the new.

The name of Longland may be joined with Colet, as being, like him, remarkable for the erudition and energy of his preaching.

But the preacher who, above all his contemporaries, appears to have influenced and moulded his age, was the martyr Latimer, Bishop of Worcester.

trine, though not in the sense in which it was uttered. He was singular, indeed, in his courage and candour.

Every thoughtful reader of our old sermons must have been often struck by the singular terms that are continually introduced, not only without any reference to the text, but sometimes in direct contrast with it.

Latimer has incurred some ridicule through the forgetfulness of his critics, that many of his sermons were composed with a reference to the capacity and feelings of the child-like, before whom they were preached.

Much that now offends the critical eye in his style and imagery, was in concordance, not only with the temper, but with the amusements and habits of the times.

Erasmus mentions his study of Chaucer, from whose writings he sought to infuse into his own rich and vigorous idioms of nature and truth.

There is no reason to suppose that the mental cultivation of England had attained to greater maturity than that of France.

In the sermons of Latimer we discover a rarer vigour and an idiomatic truth. They have been thought to contrast with the Utopia of More the honour of being the prose-classic of the day.

It is singular, that no man thought as I thought; that I loved singularity in all that I did. The remark was

* Third sermon before the king. † De Sublimi, cap. 18. ‡ Hallam, i. 298. § Ibid. 299. ¶ Esauit profectus.

more ravages upon the treasure than the prolonged assault of a whole company of mice.

In the Miracle-plays, the difficult medium of a foreign language was changed by slow degrees into the more familiar phrases of the vernacular tongue.

Cramer fills a larger space in the historical eye than Latimer, but from a different cause. He wanted the stirring eloquence of his friend. He is reported to have sought from Ridley the nerve in which his own style was deficient.

ECONOMY OF PLANTS.

(From Jessie's Cleanings.)

When I see a magnificent old tree standing beside a clear, broad, and unruined river, I can almost fancy that it delights in contemplating its own grandeur in the watery mirror.

Of a gloomy tree, which looks as if it mourned "O'er what it shadow,"

"O reader! hast thou ever stood to see The Holly tree? The eye that contemplates it well, perceives Its glossy leaves,

I was lately shown a plant which puts out a flower from the lower part of the stem. When its blossom is over, the stalk on which it grew turns down to the ground; it endures the earth, and there throws out and ripens its seed-pod; but for this propensity of the plant, the seeds would probably be destroyed by birds and insects.

The extraordinary fact of trees and plants springing up in various places where they had not formerly existed, is confirmed by Mr. McGregor, in his valuable and interesting work on British America.

* Some Remarks on the Poems of Lydgate. Works of Gray, by Mitford, v. 298. † Life of Cramer, by Le Bas, ii. 215. ‡ Strype, Memorials of Cranmer, ii. 631. § Blant, Sketches of the Reformation.

birth, having been laid waste by fire, they produced subsequently nothing but poplars.

A few years ago, a house was built in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and the earth which was dug out of the foundation was thrown on a piece of ground in the front, intended for a garden.

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