

China. It is widely believed among the Chinese that such irreverent treatment of the earth as is involved in excavations for the purpose of discovering its hidden wealth, would react upon the sites of their villages and cities in a manner most disastrous.

The Chinese are less plentifully endowed with imagination than are other Asiatics; but this deficiency is not made up to them by a larger amount of the scientific reason. It is in their total privation of the scientific reason—the logical and investigating faculty—that the Chinese, like other Asiatics, are most strikingly distinguished from the western world. Life among them, social, moral, and intellectual, seems to be absolutely at a stand-still, or, as this is, perhaps, impossible, to be steadily corrupting. The irruption of the West has shattered the authority of the Government. The glare of western civilization has revealed, so to speak, the dry-rot that is eating away the fabric of Chinese civilization; but how to arrest the progress of decay has yet to be discovered.^d

The Social Influence of Christianity. (The Newton Lectures for 1887.) By David J. Hill, LL.D. 12mo, pp. 231. Boston: Silver, Burdett & Co. 1888.

THIS is to some extent a work of apologetics—much more so than its title would suggest. To some extent, also, its aim is much the same as Mr. Brace's 'Gesta Christi,' reviewed some years ago in these columns, with this difference, that it is very largely occupied with present social problems. The second chapter, however, is evidently drawn from 'Gesta Christi' and similar works. There are eight chapters or lectures. The first two treat of general subjects dealing with historical influences and theories. They discuss human society, and the effect of Christianity upon it. The remaining six are upon the social problems of the day: labor, wealth, marriage, education, legislation, and repression or punishment—all aiming to present the influence of Christianity upon these several forces and institutions. The apologetic spirit in which the work proceeds comes from the assumption that Christianity must vindicate itself in this sphere, or suffer a diminution of its fairly won fame, and from the manner in which the author endeavors to state his case in favor of views accepted as Christian.

To trace the social influence of Christianity is a large task, and the author who comes to it should be qualified by a wide experience in the fields of history and philosophy. Dr. Hill's lectures betray no evidence that he has any such qualifications. They are merely a system of outlines such as might suggest the writing of a whole library upon the subject, but convey no adequate conception of it to those for whom they were meant. Brevity may be the soul of wit, but it will not expound and defend a philosophy or a religion. Just one example of Dr. Hill's inadequate treatment of large questions will suffice. The theories of Montesquieu, Condorcet, Kant, Quetelet, and Buckle are stated and disposed of in three small pages! In undertaking so large a subject, an author who has any respect for real scholarship, or who expects to impart any permanent and well-defined knowledge to his readers, would do well to omit much that is relevant, and even important, in the wider comprehension of his subject.

The most indispensable thing to an apologetic work of this kind is a clear and definite conception of Christianity. No attempt whatever is made to supply this want, unless we except one short sentence in a footnote (p. 162), where the author says: "I use 'Christianity' as a syno-

nym with 'the influence of Jesus,' not as equivalent to the historical Church." But does he mean to say or to imply that the historical church is not due to the influence of Jesus? If so, one wonders to whom he will attribute the representation and embodiment of that influence. Outside of the historical Church it must be the free-thinkers. But this is a strange place for the theologian to locate Christianity. The fact is, that Dr. Hill knows very well that much which has been called Christianity has to be given up, and he chooses his conception of it with a view to making that concession. But if he persists in separating the Church and the influence of Jesus, he is shut up to the position that Christianity is *only* an ethical and social scheme—the very last admission which the author would make. We can readily admit the historical Church, with all its shortcomings, to be the representative of Christianity, and to be entitled to the merits of those great achievements which had their historical origin and moral impulse in the character of Christ. Only we should be careful to separate the chaff from the wheat. The social influence of Christianity has unquestionably been the best leaven of the last eighteen centuries. But, in order to vindicate it, it is not necessary to cling to that old mental attitude which drew an invidious line between Christianity and other influences really tending in the same direction, nor to suppose that everything which has received its protection must be free from fault.

Sketches of War History, 1861-1865. Papers read before the Ohio Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Vols I., II., 8vo. Cincinnati: Robert Clarke & Co.

THESE handsome volumes are made up of original contributions to the history of the civil war by officers who served in the campaigns of which they speak, and who are narrating facts of which they were eye-witnesses. Almost without exception the papers are temperate and serious efforts to throw new light upon the campaigns in which the writers served, and they speak well for the usefulness of the Loyal Legion as an historical society of no mean importance. The temptation at army reunions would naturally be to make comradeship and social enjoyment rule the hour, and it is a pleasure to note the fact that lapse of time since the war closed has evidently made this association of former officers of the army and navy feel that it is time to put into durable form the personal knowledge of the war which would otherwise die with them.

A mere glance at the titles will show how wide a range of experience is covered by the service of the men who meet in a single "commandery" of this association. Here we have the surrender of the United States troops in Texas under Twiggs at the outbreak of the rebellion, the battle of Winchester or Opequan, the Wilderness and Spottsylvania, Cumberland Gap, the Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville, Early's advance upon Washington, West Virginia fighting in '62, the Red River expedition, Schofield's campaign from Pulaski to Nashville, the campaigns about Charleston, Canby's campaign in New Mexico, the campaign of Vicksburg, Marching through the Carolinas, the Cavalry campaign of Selma, the surrender of Johnston's army, etc. With these are interspersed recollections of prison life, of the medical service, of the organization of the military telegraph and service in it, and the like.

When it is remembered that these are records of actual experience, and not compilations from

the records, it will be seen that, as material for systematic history in the future, they are invaluable, while they are also attractive and even fascinating reading in themselves.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

- A Peep at our Cousins. By a Maid of Honor. 2d ed. The Minerva Publishing Co.
- Aristocracy; A Novel. D. Appleton & Co.
- Ashley, W. F. Introduction to English Economic History and Theory. G. P. Putnam's Sons.
- Benedix, R. The Wedding Trip: A Comedy in two acts. Dresden: Louis Ehlermann.
- Bernhardt, Dr. W. Im Zwielficht. First Readings in German Verse. Boston: Carl Schoenhof. 75 cents.
- Bratmaier, F. Geschichte der Foetschen Theorie und Kritik der Theil. Prodruder, or Life's Pilgrimage. Illustrated. Boston: Henry H. Clark & Co.
- Caunan, E. Elementary Political Economy. Oxford: Clarendon Press; New York: Macmillan. 25 cents.
- Cox, P. Queer People, with Paws and Claws and their Kweer Kapers. Illustrated. Philadelphia: Hubbard Brothers.
- Dasent, Sir G. W. Popular Tales from the Norse. 3d ed. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.50.
- Daudet, A. Robert Helmont: Diary of a Recluse. 1870-1871. Illustrated. George Routledge & Sons. \$5.00.
- Davis, N. D. The Cavaliers and Roundheads of Barbadoes. 1650-1652. Georgetown, British Guiana.
- Day, R. E. Poems. Cassell & Co. \$1.
- Dickinson, G. The Wanderer, or Life's Pilgrimage. Illustrated. Boston: Henry H. Clark & Co.
- Driver, Prof. S. R. Isajah: His Life and Times, and the Writings which bear his Name. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. 80 cents.
- Dumas, A. La Tulipe Noire. W. R. Jenkins. 35 cents.
- Dutzer, H. Goethe und Karl August. 2d ed. Leipzig: Dyk'sche Buchhandlung; New York: Westermann.
- Elliott, G. W. Tariff and Wages. Buffalo: Moulton, Wenborne & Co. 25 cents.
- Fitch, A. S. Cramplin' Belle. The American Graphic Co. 25 cents.
- Franklin Square Song Collection. Devoted to School and Home. No. 5. Harper & Bros.
- Gerard, E. The Land beyond the Forest: Facts, Figures, and Fancies from Transylvania. Harper & Bros.
- Gillette, W. A Legal Wreck. Rockwood Publishing Co. 35 cents.
- Guiney, Louise Imogen. "Brownies and Bogles." Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$1.
- Hale, Dr. E. F. How They Lived at Hampton: A Study of Practical Christianity applied in the Manufacture of Woollens. Boston: J. Sittman Smith & Co.
- Hale, Rev. E. E. Tom Torrey's Tariff Talks. Boston: J. Sittman Smith & Co.
- Haland, H. My Uncle Florimond. Boston: D. Lothrop Co. \$1.
- Hook, Stella Louise. Little People and their Homes in Meadows, Woods, and Waters. Illustrated. Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$1.50.
- Hugo, V. Ninety three. Illustrated. 2 vols. Thomas Y. Crowell.
- Index to Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia and Register of Important Events. 1876 to 1887. D. Appleton & Co.
- Irving, W. The Sketch-Book of Geoffrey Crayon, Esq. Author's revised edition. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$1.25.
- Johnson, R. A Short History of the War of Secession. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$3.
- Keibel, T. E. Life of Lord Beaconsfield. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 75 cents.
- Kieffer, H. M. The Recollections of a Drummer-Boy. 6th ed. Illustrated. Boston: Ticknor & Co. \$1.50.
- Knox, J. A. The Log of the Yacht *Champlain*. National Literary Bureau.
- Landon, W. S. The Pentameron: Citations and Examination of William Shakespeare. Boston: Roberts Bros. \$2.
- Lear, E. Nonsense Books. With all the original illustrations. Boston: Roberts Bros. \$2.
- Lefebvre, E. Embroidery and Lace: their Manufacture and History. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
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- Owen, Catherine. Molly Bishop's Family. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$1.
- Phelan, J. History of Tennessee: The Making of a State. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$2.
- Phinan, C. B. Memoirs of the Count de Falloux. 2 vols. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co.
- Poor's Manual of Railroads for 1888. 21st annual number. H. V. & H. W. Poor.
- Price, T. R. The Construction and Types of Shakespeare's Verse as seen in the Othello. The Shakespeare Society.
- Proctor, R. A. Old and New Astronomy. Parts IV., V. Longmans, Green & Co.
- Reading, G. Selected from 'The Sketch-book' and 'The Alhambra.' G. P. Putnam's Sons. 50 cents.
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- Sanders, L. C. Life of Viscount Palmerston. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co. 75 cents.
- Schaff, Prof. P. History of the Christian Church. Vol. VI. Modern Christianity. The German Reformation. 1517-1530. Chas. Scribner's Sons. \$4.
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