



THE
PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW.

No. 5.—January, 1881.

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JOHN À LASCO.

THE name of John à Lasco is not so familiar to the readers of Church History, as are the names of many others who took prominent parts in the Great Reformation. There must be reasons for this, arising probably out of the nature of the places and circumstances in which he labored. He was not put by Providence so prominently before the Christendom of his day as were some others who were placed at the political and religious centres of the great nations of Europe. But not one of them was more deservedly honored and beloved by the people for whom he labored, than à Lasco was by the Reformed of East Friesland, the Refugees from Holland and France in London, or by the true Christians of Poland, whom he served in the evening of his life. If we simply look at the man, and compare him with those with whom he was associated in work for Christ's Church, whose names are familiar to, and held in grateful remembrance by, the Protestant world to-day, we shall say that he was the peer of the best of them. We need only to look candidly at the man and his work to be convinced of the monstrous injustice of assigning him to a very inferior place, or of allowing that he is forgotten because he was unworthy of remembrance. À Lasco's name and work ought not to be forgotten. He was richly furnished by nature, education, and grace with most excellent gifts. The result was a well-

show the vast range of the older literature over which he has passed in the preparation of this lexicon.

With Bosworth, Webster, and Stratmann in hand, what more does the English scholar need in the line of word-interpretation?
T. W. HUNT.

XENOPHON'S MEMORABILIA OF SOCRATES; with Introduction and Notes. By SAMUEL ROSS WINANS, College of New Jersey. Boston: John Allyn, publisher. 1880. 12mo, pp. xxiv. 265.

This little volume is admirably conceived and admirably executed. The Introduction gives an outline of the argument of the treatises, with definitions of some of its cardinal terms. The text is divided by brief headings stating the theme of the following portions. The only question is whether this feature might not have been advantageously extended, so as to give a condensed analysis of the whole in the margin, as in many of our best Biblical Commentaries. Eighty pages are occupied with clearly-printed notes, containing copious grammatical references, "especially on the earlier portions of the text, when at least a reference is made to every prominent principle of syntax. No extended note is offered when a simple reference to a grammar would be preferable. Brief sketches of everything of biographical, historical, or philosophical interest are supplied; and for the convenience of teachers there have been added very complete cross-references to the other works of Xenophon, and also to Plato and Aristophanes." So far as a cursory examination shows, there is a very great amount of material—grammatical and illustrative—condensed and yet clearly stated; and the reader can scarcely escape being led into acquaintance with the thought and spirit of the author.
C. W. HODGE.

HANDBOOK OF ENGLISH-JAPANESE ETYMOLOGY. By WILLIAM IMBRIE. Tokiyo: Printed by B. Meikeljohn & Co., Yokohama, 1880. 12mo, pp. 207 and xvi.

This neat and unpretending little volume, the work of a young American missionary in Japan, is intended to serve as a practical guide to beginners in acquiring the Japanese language. It consists of selected sentences in English and Japanese, arranged in connection with the different parts of speech and the various forms which they assume in the course of inflection. In simplicity, clearness of statement, and felicity of arrangement, it seems to be well adapted to serve its purpose. And to those who have no thought of learning Japanese, it will afford an interesting view of some very remarkable peculiarities of this strange language.
W. H. GREEN.

GLEANINGS FROM A LITERARY LIFE, 1838-1880. By FRANCIS BOWEN, LL.D., Alford Professor of Philosophy in Harvard College. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1880.

Professor Bowen is universally recognized as one of the very first Christian philosophers in America. He is eminently learned, able, conservative, spiritual, and orthodox in his professional province of philosophy. Hence, in this day of philosophical as well as of religious radicalism and scepticism, all that Dr. Bowen writes in his own department universally commands respectful attention, and exerts a most wholesome influence.

The present volume consists of Essays, edited by himself, selected out of a far larger number, gathered from the labors of forty-two years, and related to a vast variety of subjects. They are classified under the general heads of EDUCATION, POLITICAL ECONOMY, and PHILOSOPHY, followed by a single Essay on the "Restoration of the Text of Shakespeare."

The Philosophical Essays are, all of them, of the highest permanent value, and all students of philosophy or theology are under great obligations to the distinguished author for his personal revision and collection of them in one elegant volume.

He says in his Preface: "But most of the Essays in this volume are upon philosophical subjects, and may be regarded as a supplement to the volume published three years ago upon 'Modern Philosophy, from Descartes to Schopenhauer and

Hartmann.' They were intended to expose and refute those doctrines of materialism and fatalism, of agnosticism and pessimism, which have been imported into America from England and Germany, where they have usurped the name and garb of biological and physical science. But for the undue *prestige* which is attached in this country to opinions and reputations of European origin, these theories would not have acquired here the popularity and influence which they actually possess. The hypothesis, for it is nothing more, of the evolution of all things out of chaotic dirt, through powers and agencies necessarily inherent and immanent in that dirt, unhelped and unguided anywhere by an organizing Mind, is too monstrous a doctrine ever to be entertained by competent thinkers. . . . I have argued strenuously against these infidel speculations, because I believe them to be as baseless as they are injurious."

He has nobly succeeded, and the volume is one which we cordially recommend to the classes for whose use it was prepared. A. A. HODGE.

AN ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. By REV. WALTER W. SKEAT, M.A. Clarendon Press, Oxford: Macmillan & Co.

This dictionary is in Four Parts. Three Parts (A-Dor, Dor-Lit, Lit-Red) have already been issued, and Part Fourth is promised Nov. 1, '81.

At the opening of Part First the author gives us an explanation of his general plan. At the outset there is a *list* of all the "primary words of most frequent occurrence." Close and terse *definitions* of the words are added; the language from which the word is derived—mediately or immediately—being always given. The *history* of the words is then briefly narrated, including the time of their entrance into the language, or if native, the transitional forms through which they have passed, with the most exact references to their use in literature.

Then follows the *etymology* of the words of successive gradations from present derivatives back to the most primitive forms, special care being taken in dealing with original Aryan roots to mention those only that are beyond the province of reasonable doubt.

Cognate, or allied forms, are also stated, and sharp distinctions drawn between these and the original forms with which they are often confounded. In a word, Mr. Skeat has left little or nothing to be desired in the way of a complete and scholarly etymological Word-Book of English, and has but increased our large indebtedness to him, already incurred by his "Moeso-Gothic Glossary" and his numerous editions of Early English Texts. All that is of value in "Chambers' Etymological Dictionary," or in the strictly etymological features of the best English lexicons, as well as those of other languages, is here made subservient to a more exhaustive and critical method of verbal analysis.

For the sake of a clear illustration of the plan, we select a specimen at random:

Count (1), a title of rank (F.,—L.) The orig. sense was 'companion.' Not in early use, being thrust aside by the E. word *Earl*; but the fem. form occurs very early, being spell *cuntesse* in the "A. S. Chron.," A. D. 1140. The derived word *countè*, a county, occurs in "P. Plowman," B. ii. 85. Shak. has *county* in the sense of *count* frequently; Merch. of Ven., i. 2, 46^o O. F., *conte*, better *comte*; Colgrave gives 'conte, an earl,' and 'comte, a count; an earle.'—Lat. acc. *comitem*, a companion, a count; from nom. *comes*.—Lat. *com*, for *cum*, together; and *ŭm* supine of *ire*, to go,—√*I*. to go; ef. Skt. *ī*, to go. Der. *count-ess*, *count-y*.

While the treatise before us is especially designed for the needs of the scholar, it will be found full of interest and profit to every intelligent student of English speech. No more promising field for original research has been opened up in the last decade than that of our vernacular, and while such a book as this indicates the splendid work that is now being done in the province of English Philology, it also affords a powerful stimulus to still more devoted service in this direction.

To such a service is every English student solemnly summoned. T. W. HUNT.