

FACSIMILE OF THE ANTILEGOMENA.

THE Johns Hopkins publication agency announces a reproduction in phototype of seventeen pages of a Syriac manuscript containing the epistles known as 'Antilegomena.' These are to be published under the editorial supervision of Prof. Isaac H. Hall, Ph.D., with brief descriptive notes by the editor. This manuscript consists of the Acts and Catholic epistles, and the Pauline epistles, followed by Hebrews; together with tables to find Easter, etc. (arranged for the Seleucid era), tables of ecclesiastical lessons, and a poem at the end, giving a history of the genesis of the manuscript. Its chief peculiarity consists in its containing seven Catholic epistles, while ordinary Syriac manuscripts have but three; 2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, and Jude being commonly rejected by the Syrians, and very rarely found among them. The version is Peshitto, except for these commonly rejected epistles, in which is followed the version usually printed. Each book, except the several Catholic epistles (and they as a whole), has its proemium from Gregory Bar Hebraeus, and its title and subscription. The manuscript is provided throughout with the Syrian sections and church lessons, and is dated at the end. Grammatical and other annotations occur frequently in the margins. The careful writing and pointing, as well as the superior character of the text, with the matters narrated in the poem at the end, show the work to be that of a critical Syrian scholar, and not of a mere copyist. Two notes by the contemporary corrector appear on leaves toward the end. The printed editions of the rejected epistles all rest on one inferior Bodleian manuscript, and particularly upon its *editio princeps*, published by Edward Pococke (Leyden, *Elzevir*) in 1630. This has hitherto been varied in later editions only by editorial conjecture. This is the second manuscript of these epistles ever given to the public, and doubles the available critical material, though a few other manuscripts of various ages are known to exist, some copied from the printed editions. The selected pages are: 1. A page containing the end of one of the tables of lessons, with a contemporary Arabic note respecting the origin and character of the manuscript; 2. The first page of Acts, with title and proemium, showing the general appearance and external characteristics of the manuscript; 3. The leaves which contain the Antilegomena matter,—2 Peter, 2 and 3 John, and Jude (with them, of course, the end of 1 Peter, 1 John, and the beginning of Romans, with general proemium to the Pauline epistles and that to Romans); 4. The last page of the manuscript proper, end and

subscription to Hebrews, and date of manuscript, with note of contemporary corrector; 5. Two pages containing the poem above referred to; in all, seventeen phototype pages, each on a separate leaf, besides additional pages containing appropriate descriptive and explanatory matter.

EDUCATIONAL BOOKS AND REPORTS.

A BATCH of educational pamphlets has been accumulating on our table, and we believe that a reference to their contents will be of interest to the readers of *Science*.

In the beautifully printed parchment series of Keagan Paul & Co., Lord Iddesleigh (Sir S. Northcote) has given a complete report of the entertaining lecture which he delivered as the first of a series of addresses to the students of the University of Edinburgh, Nov. 3, 1885. He discusses desultory reading, its pleasures, dangers, and uses. The theme is not new, but after Maurice, and Carlyle, and Lowell, and Emerson, and many more who have recorded their experience, these fresh statements on 'the friendship of books' are well worth reading. They suggested to the London *Spectator* of Jan. 2 a racy editorial, quite worth perusal.

The former cabinet-minister, Rt. Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P., has collected seven of his addresses on educational and economical themes. That upon the cultivation of the imagination was reprinted long ago in Littell. The second, on mental training and useful knowledge, points out the danger of science-teaching; namely, that the teachers will endeavor to impart facts rather than to set the scholar thinking. The third, higher education for workmen, is an explanation of the purposes of the London society for the extension of university teaching, and an endeavor to awaken a love of study among bread-winners. The lecture is most encouraging in its account of the success of popular concerts and lectures in London. The rest of the volume relates to economics.

The University of Cambridge has published the report of a syndicate on popular lectures, written by Rev. W. M. Ede of St. John's college. It reviews the work of the university extension scheme, and points out the obstacles which that work has encountered, and the danger of its degenerating into a mere lecturing scheme. The tone of the report is encouraging, and its frank exhibition of the conditions of failure and of success makes it suggestive to Americans who are endeavoring by like methods to carry instruction to those classes in the community who are at hard work during many hours each day.

This is the period when most of the reports ap-