

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-

pear which are given to the public on the part of universities and colleges. Among those which have reached us, that of Columbia college may first be named, which is dated as far back as May 5. President Barnard discusses the working of the elective system, and says that the study which has commanded the preference of the largest number in the classes where there is freedom of choice is Greek, while mathematics commands the preference of the smaller number. It should be borne in mind that this refers to the academical or classical department, not to the School of mines, where those young men are most likely to go who are adverse to Greek and inclined to mathematics. Of those electing, one-half elect French, one-third German, and one-seventh Spanish. The library, which a short time ago was forty-seventh in magnitude among collections in the United States, is now twentieth, and connected with it there is a school for the education of librarians. The School of mines, in its new accommodations, is more useful than ever, but the tendency to overwork is so strong that the faculty are considering important modifications of the courses.

President Walker, of the Massachusetts institute of technology, shows that the number of students has increased from 302 in 1881-82, to 609 in 1885-86,—a truly wonderful advance. They come from thirty-three states, and their average age is eighteen years and two months. He exhibits the value of the system of receiving young men as 'special students,'—a practice which elsewhere has led to inconveniences and difficulties.

In the University of Michigan, President Angell expresses regret that there are less students than formerly from homes without that state, and justly says that the institution will suffer if its cosmopolitan character is lost. He strongly commends the working of the elective system, and makes a vigorous, and we hope an irresistible, appeal for continued liberality in the development of the university.

The annual report of the University of California is prepared by the secretary of the regents, J. H. C. Bonté; and while it contains all the information which can be desired, and much more than is commonly given, it indicates the lack of a coordinating mind. The new president, Prof. E. S. Holden, entered upon his duties after the report was issued, and the result of his oversight will be seen a year hence. The report indicates great generosity in the endowment of the university. Its funds for general purposes amount to \$1,678,386, besides the site, the buildings, and certain property not yet available, estimated at more than a million of dollars. In addition to all this, there

is the great Lick gift, for an observatory, and smaller endowments for medicine and law.

The full reports of Governor Stanford's gift indicate that his purposes are by no means so definite as were at first supposed, and it may be hoped that his mind is still open for suggestions which will tend toward important modifications in the original instrument.

Col. H. B. Sprague, late of Boston, has become president of Mills college for women, in California, and his inaugural address is a glowing review of the various subjects which tend to constitute a liberal education.

NEW BOOKS.

'HOUSEHOLD economy,' published under the direction of the Kitchen garden association (New York, *Iverson, Blakeman, Taylor & Co.*), is intended to supply a want long felt by almost every class of society, that of a clear, concise, and systematic text-book on those duties which "always have claimed, and probably always will claim, the main thought and time of the vast majority of women." — 'Food-materials and their adulterations,' by Ellen H. Richards (Boston, *Estes & Lauriat*), is a little work intended for the intelligent housewife. The author disclaims novelty or originality. In some places the work is too technical for the readers whom the author would reach, and, as in the analysis of milk, some errors have slipped in; nevertheless the work will serve a very useful purpose, containing as it does a description of the principal food-materials and their adulterations, and at times hints on their culinary preparation. — 'Nature's teaching,' by J. G. Wood (Boston, *Roberts*), is designed "to show the close connection between nature and human inventions, and that there is scarcely an invention of man that has not its prototype in nature." The author has there grouped a long series of parallels under the heads 'Nautical,' 'War and hunting,' 'Architecture,' 'Tools,' 'Optics,' 'Useful arts,' and 'Acoustics.' But often the merest resemblance of some natural growth to some human contrivance causes their association, when one has but the remotest connection with, or suggestiveness toward, the other. — 'A handbook to the national museum at Washington' (New York, *Brentano brothers*) will be a useful guide to the extensive scientific collections of the national museum now on exhibition. It is interspersed with a large number of engravings, mostly good, which, together with the numerous explanatory notes, will give the work an independent value. It was prepared by Mr. Ernest Ingersoll, whose pleasant literary style is well known.