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ART. I.—*Horae Apocalypticæ, or a Commentary on the Apocalypse, critical and historical; including, also, an examination of the chief Prophecies of Daniel, illustrated by an Apocalyptic Chart, and engravings from medals; and other extant monuments of antiquity.* By the Rev. E. B. Elliott, A. M., late vicar of Tuxford, and fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Second edition, with an Appendix, containing a sketch of the history of Apocalyptic Interpretation, &c. London: 1846.

WE have hitherto reviewed no books written in explanation of this mysterious portion of the inspired volume: deterred, chiefly, by the difficulty of the subject; and also by the vast discrepancy in the views of commentators. We feel, however, that this part of scripture ought not to be neglected; especially, as a blessing is pronounced on "him that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein." And of late, more than in former years, the attention of many learned men has been directed to the interpretation of the Apocalypse; and although, the disagreement among expositors continues as great as ever; yet, it is believed,

ART. V.—*A History of Virginia, from its Discovery and Settlement by Europeans, to the present time.* By Robert R. Howison. VOL. I. Containing the History of the Colony to the Peace of Paris in 1763. Philadelphia: Carey & Hart. 1846. Svo. pp. 496.

THIS is not a work of unmingled excellence, but it is one which bears the marks of accuracy, judgment, fairness, and scholarship. As we must be indebted almost solely to the book for our knowledge of the author, we shall enjoy the advantage of writing without prepossession.

It is wonderful that such a field should have been left so much untrodden. The old histories (always excepting Smith's own narrative) have never emerged into literary notice: they are naked annals. The carelessness of Beverly, the servility of Keith, and the fustian of Burk, might well exclude them from the first class. Stith's history, though dull and prolix, is valuable for the facts. If Campbell had aroused himself to the exercise of his latent powers, he would have produced the best work on this subject, which has ever been written. As it is, his popular little volume, which we have not seen for many years, merits far more notice than it has ever received. We rejoice to learn, that his son is working in the same mine: we know his diligence and his cultivation, and anticipate no ordinary pleasure and profit from his researches. All that we shall attempt, in regard to the work before us, is to offer a few desultory notes, on such points as strike us in the perusal.

Mr. Howison proposes to treat the history of Virginia in two volumes, of which the first is here presented. A more inviting subject could scarcely be asked; for the early annals of Virginia are all romance; and the narratives of the first voyagers and settlers are coloured with poetical fancies, which we do not find in the accounts of any northern plantations. The great part which was taken by Virginia in the Revolution gives its history a further value, on which we need not dwell; especially as it does not fall within the scope of the volume before us.

The author very judiciously begins with Columbus and the early discoveries; but he soon arrives at Raleigh, concerning whom he writes with justifiable warmth. He corrects the pre-

valent error which represents this great man as having himself visited America, and refers it to a source which is singular. Heriot's description of the new country is given in English by Hakluyt, and in Latin by De Bry. In the latter, the passage, "the actions of those who have been by Sir Walter Raleigh therein employed," is thus given in the Latin: "qui generosum D. Walterum Raleigh in eam regionem comitati sunt," which conveys an incorrect statement. The mind of an American reverts so willingly to the first approach to these shores, that we insert a passage, which may also serve as a specimen of the author's more laboured style.

"The isle upon which they entered, was the southernmost of the two which form the mouth now known as Ocracock Inlet. In the winter season, the whole eastern line of these islands is to be approached with extreme caution, even by the most skilful navigators. Terrific storms rage around their borders, and the projecting headland of Hatteras stands out like a fearful demon, to inspire dread in the bosoms of weather-beaten voyagers. (July.) But the adventurers now approach them at a season when the sea is calm, and when the verdure of these circling islands would offer to the eye and the mind hopes of tranquillity and of plenty. They were in a special manner struck with the appearance of the country. The beach was sandy, and extended far into the land, but a dense cover of small trees and clambering vines shaded the interior, and furnished many pleasing retreats from the rays of the summer sun. The quantity of grapes was so enormous, that every shrub was filled with them: the rising ground and the valley were alike laden with their abundance. Even the waves of the ocean, as they rolled in upon the sandy beach, bore back immense numbers of this teeming fruit, and scattered them in profusion along the coasts of the contiguous islands.

"Many of the trees were odorous, and imparted to the air that healthful freshness peculiar to the fragrance of nature. The cedar, the sassafras, the cypress, the pine, were all abundant; and in the woods were found the hare and the deer, almost tame from the absence of civilized destroyers. The fabled island of Calypso could scarcely have exceeded the charms of this spot as it appeared to the adventurers, and the genius of Fenelon might, without injustice, have given to the goddess a residence in summer upon the coasts of North Carolina.

"No human being was seen by the voyagers until the third day, when a canoe, carrying three men, came by the shore. One of them landed, and, though probably filled with surprise, he evinced neither distrust nor fear. He received with apparent gratitude the gifts of his new friends, and, on leaving them, hastened with his companions to a favourable spot, whence they soon returned with the canoe laden with fish. Dividing these into two parts, he intimated, by intelligible signs, that he intended one portion for each vessel.

"This savage hospitality was followed up on the succeeding day. Several canoes arrived, bringing many of the natives, and, among them, Granganameo, the brother of Wingina, the king. The Indian monarch himself was kept from his guests by a severe wound, received not long before in a conflict with a neighbouring tribe. His brother lavished upon the voyagers all the simple kindness that

his heart could suggest. He left his boats at a distance, and, approaching with his people, invited an interview. Spreading a mat upon the ground, he seated himself, and made signs to the English that he was "one with them."

"A friendly interchange of courtesies took place. The child of nature seemed strangely pleased with a pewter dish, which he hung round his neck, and with a copper kettle, for which he gave fifty skins, "worth fiftie crowns." He brought his wife and children to his new friends; they were small in stature, but handsome, and graced with native modesty. When the trafficking was in progress, none of the savages ventured to advance until Granganameo and the other great men were satisfied. They were his servants, and were governed, while in presence of their monarch, by a rule more absolute than that exercised by the kings of civilized climes, though his dominion virtually ceased when they passed beyond his sight.

"The gentle manners of these people induced Captain Barlow, and seven others, to comply with their request, and visit Granganameo on the Isle of Roanoke. They sailed up the river Occam (now known as Pamlico Sound) about twenty miles, and arrived in the evening at the north end of the isle, where they found nine houses, built of cedar, for the families around the chief. Granganameo was absent, but he was well represented; and in the very opening of their enterprise the settlers of Virginia were to receive from the gentle nature of woman a support which afterwards preserved them from destruction. The wife of the chief ran, brought them into her dwelling, caused their clothes to be dried, and their feet to be bathed in warm water; and provided all that her humble store could afford of venison, fish, fruits, and hominy for their comfort.

"When her people came around with their bows and arrows—the usual implements for hunting,—the English, in unworthy distrust, seized their arms, but this noble Indian woman drove her followers from the lodge, and obliged them to break their arrows, in proof of their harmless designs. Though her whole conduct gave evidence of open-hearted and determined good faith, yet the adventurers thought it most discreet to pass the night in their boat, which was launched and laid at anchor for this purpose. The wife of the Indian chief was grieved by their conduct, yet she relaxed not her efforts for their comfort. Five mats were sent to cover them from the heavy dews of the season, and a guard of men and women remained during the whole night on the banks of the river. The learned and philanthropic Belknap might well propose the question, 'Could there be a more engaging specimen of hospitality?' Yet can we not blame the caution of the English, for on their safety depended the voyage; and they had not now first to learn that man in a state of nature is prone to violence and treachery.

"These Indians were represented by the voyagers on their return as gentle and confiding beings, full of innocent sweetness of disposition, living without labour, and enjoying a golden age in their western home; yet, by a singular inconsistency, the same narratives tell us of their feuds with other tribes, their fierce wars, (often urged to extermination), and of those perfidious traits which so uniformly enter into the character of the savage. It is not irrational to suppose that the enthusiasm engendered by the discovery of a clime so full of natural charms, affected the view of the adventurers as to every thing connected with this land; and suffering and cruelty, both in the settlers and in the natives, slowly dispelled the pleasing vision." p. 50—54.

As in our rapid notes, we have not the slightest intention to epitomize the history, we shall pass at once to Captain John

Smith, about whom we must be allowed to say a few words. We agree with Mr. Howison that Smith, above all others, is the hero of Anglo-American antiquity. He was as veritable a knight-errant as any in Ariosto, and seems to have had more escapes for his life than any soldier of his day. When his friends gave him ten shillings out of his own estate, "to be rid of him," they sent abroad a restless spirit which could not fail to make the world wonder, early or late. In France, in the Netherlands, in the East, wherever we find him, we seem to see one of the heroes of the old chronicles. What would have been the consternation, if he had let himself down among the godly settlers of Plymouth Bay. For a tithe of his vagaries they would probably have had him to the stocks. We sincerely wish that some competent writer would give us a *critical* edition of the life of Captain Smith. We are not ignorant of the republication of his original narrative, in 1819, under the auspices of the late Dr. Rice: it was a patriotic work, and one in which Virginians might have gained honour by sustaining him, as they did not. But we crave something more, and desire such application of research as may explain to us the topographical signification of those unpronounceable 'Turkish names with which his story is distended, and may give some hint as to the Turbashaws, the Bonny Mulgros, and the Mully Bafferres, of whom such marvels are related. For our part, we give credence to the general story. It was an age of marvels. Smith was only two or three centuries too late. His rescues were not more hair-breadth than those of Murator Dr. Joseph Wolff, though he was often in single combat, once sold as a slave, and repeatedly at death's door. There is a middle age stalwart beauty in his portrait. That front and eye and nose could scarcely have been forged; and that beard shows better over plate-armour, than those which we meet every day beneath the faces of cits and haberdashers. We can forgive the punning poet, who appears also to have been the engraver, when in the style of the age he subjoins these verses to the copperplate.

"These are the Lines that shew thy Face, but those
That shew thy Grace and Glory brighter bee
Thy Faire-Discoveries and Fowle-Overthrows
Of Salvages, much civilized by thee,
Best shew thy Spirit and to Glory wyn:
So thou art Brasse without, but Golde within.

If so, in Brasse (too soft smith's Acts to beare)
I fix thy Fame, to make Brass steel outweare.

This is signed, "Thine as thou art Virtue's, John Davies" of Hereford. But we are wandering from our subject. In exhibiting Smith's life, Mr. Howison has done his part well: the narrative is clear and sufficient. The captivity and rescue of the hero very properly occupies some considerable space, and we give his account of the most romantic scene in American story, in his own words, omitting some sentences and all the notes.

"His self-possession was never lost for a moment. Discovering that Opecanough was the chief, he presented to him a small magnetic dial, and made the simple savages wonder at the play of the needle beneath the glass surface. If they had previously regarded him as more than human, they were now confirmed in their belief; and when he proceeded to convey to them some idea of the spherical form of the earth, its motion on its axis and round the sun, and the existence of men standing opposite to them on this globe, their wonder knew no bounds. Yet the hope of crushing at once this powerful enemy seemed to prevail. They bound him to a tree, and prepared to pierce him through with arrows, when Opecanough held up the dial, and every arm fell;—each spirit was subdued, either by fear of his power or admiration of his knowledge.

"The prisoner was then conducted in triumph to Orapaques, a hunting town on the north side of Chickahominy Marshes, much frequented by Powhatan and his court for the game which there abounded. In the march the Indians walked in single file, their chief in the centre, with the captured swords and muskets borne before him, and the captive held by three savages, and watched by others with their arrows upon the string. Women and children came forth to meet them, wild with joy at so strange an occurrence. On arriving, the whole band performed a dance of triumph around the captive, yelling and shrieking in the most approved mode, and decorated with every hideous ornament that heads, feet, and skins of animals could supply. After this performance, he was conducted to a long house, and guarded by thirty or forty vigorous warriors. Bread and venison in abundance were brought to him, for which he had little appetite. The savages never ate with him, but devoured what he left some hours after; and this, with other things, caused him to suspect a design to fatten him for their table."

"They now conceived that in the absence of the 'great captain,' they might attack Jamestown with success; and they held forth to Smith magnificent offers of as many Indian beauties as he might select, and as much dower in land as he would have, if he would aid in their schemes. But savage sovereignty had few temptations for the champion of Christendom. To deter them from an attack, he painted in glowing colours the means of defence possessed by the English, the cannon, which could sweep hundreds down by a single discharge, and the mine of gunpowder, which would instantly blow a town into the air, and scatter its fragments in utter devastation.

"The Indians were horror-stricken by these accounts; but some being yet incredulous, Smith offered to prove his veracity by sending messengers to the town. Writing a few sentences on a leaf from his tablets, he delivered it to the wondering

red men, and awaited the result. In accordance with his directions, the colonists exhibited before the embassy a display of ordnance and fireworks, which nearly bereft them of their senses; but afterwards going to a spot already designated, they found there precisely the articles which their prisoner had declared he would obtain. A man who could thus speak by a fragment of paper to people at a distance, was looked upon by savage eyes as more than mortal."

"Finally, the prisoner was conducted to the imperial seat of Powhatan. The Indian monarch so little enjoyed the neighbourhood of the English, that he often withdrew to Werowocomoco, in the county now known as Gloucester, and not far removed from the site of the military scenes, which resulted in the surrender of Cornwallis, in the war of the Revolution. Here Powhatan received his captive, and exhibited before him all the savage splendour that his court could furnish. Two hundred grim attendants surrounded him. On his either hand, sat a young girl of sixteen or eighteen years of age, and on each side of the room was a row of men, and, behind them, a corresponding number of savage ladies, with their necks and shoulders dyed with crimson, their heads bedecked with the white down of birds, and with chains of glittering beads around their persons. The noble captive was received with a shout of triumph, and Indian courtesy did not refuse him honour. The Queen of Appamaton, brought him water to wash his hands, and another damsel tendered him a bunch of feathers upon which to dry them. But among so many who regarded him with wonder and alarm, there was one heart which already began to beat with more generous feeling. Pocahontas, the daughter of the monarch, was now budding into womanhood, and cotemporary writers tell us of her beauty, her intelligence, her sensitive modesty. The noble bearing of the unhappy stranger filled her with pity and admiration. The king and his counselors held the life of the captive in their hands, and already the voice of this gentle girl was raised in entreaties for his safety. But to suffer so formidable a foe to live, was adjudged imprudent. The sentence was pronounced, and immediate measures for its execution were commenced.

"Two large stones were brought and placed at the feet of the Indian monarch. Then as many as could grasp him, seized the prisoner and forced him down, with his head upon the fatal resting-place. The clubs of the savages were raised, and another moment would have closed the life of a hero. But at this critical instant, Pocahontas, with a cry which thrilled through the assembly, threw herself upon the prostrate captive, and clasped her arms around his neck. Her own head was interposed to receive the threatened blow, and raising her eyes, which spoke the eloquence of mercy, to her father's face, she silently awaited the result. The bosom of the monarch relented. He could not take the life of one for whom the child of his own nature thus interceded. Smith was raised from the ground and kept alive to minister to the pleasure of the generous girl who had thus preserved him."

We think we have cause to complain that antiquaries in Virginia have not used some means to ascertain and signalize the spot where this event, worthy of the Grecian buskin, took place. Localities have been pointed out to us, but not with due notes of verification. As to the fact, we love to believe it; and the extraordinary truth of Smith's surveys and maps, considering the

time and circumstances in which they were made, adds credibility to his narratives.

It is pleasing to observe, whenever a gentleman of Boston visits Virginia, or a cultivated Virginian goes to Boston, and mingles freely in society, that amidst many provincial differences in speech and habitude, there is a mutual recognition of resemblance. No marvel; for both parties are of the pure 'English undefiled,' without admixture of German, Dutch, or even Scotch or Irish blood, as is common in many of the intervening tracts. But never were two classes of the same origin more unlike, in several important respects, than the gentleman of southern adventure and the Puritan, and the impress will long endure in the posterity of each. This has been fully indicated by our author, whose language we partially make our own. In Newport's party, of 1606, there were one hundred and six settlers. Besides the clergyman, Mr. Hunt, and the council, we find the names of more than fifty cavaliers, recorded as 'gentlemen,' with but eleven professed labourers. There were however a barber, a tailor, and a drummer: it was a colony of gentlemen. Such men would scarcely have endured the wintry trials of Miles Standish and the men of Plymouth. The new arrivals of 1609 were still more loose in their habits. Gentlemen reduced by gaming and dissipation, too proud to beg, too lazy to dig—broken tradesmen—footmen—rakes—and 'unruly sparks, packed off by their friends to escape worse destinies at home'—such as figure everywhere in Beaumont and Fletcher—these were the founders of the new state. The seditious turbulence which ensued needs no elaborate explanation; it is faithfully depicted by Mr. Howison.

Throughout that portion of the narrative, in which Powhatan, Pocahontas, and the savage tribes in general, continue to appear, we recognise everywhere the elements of a historic interest, which need not shrink from comparison with the wildest stories of Herodotus. Mr. Howison does justice to the sylvan excellencies of these aboriginal heroes; and is never more felicitous than where he touches on the fortunes and the death of the famous Indian maiden. He has done well, in allowing himself full space in this part of his work, and here his ability for graceful composition displays itself to most advantage. We almost

lament the change, when the red men leave the stage, and give place to the intestine squabbles of colonial misrule.

It would be altogether aside from our purpose, to follow the chain of events, under the successive governors. Occasional jars, quarrels, oppressions, and even rebellion, do not prevent our considering the progress of the settlement, during the seventeenth century, as constant and even prosperous. In the same proportion, the material of interest in the annals is diminished; and we must not blame the historian, if the mind flags somewhat as plantations are extended, and agriculture and commerce take their shape. The conduct of the general and public narrative strikes us as being judicious; there are no abrupt chasms, and, for the most part, we coincide with the author in his reasonings and reflections. Here and there, we are led to pause, with more than usual interest, before events which project their influence into the remote future. Such, by way of eminence, is the introduction of slavery; concerning which we read as follows:

“(1620.) An incident now presents itself, upon which none who have proper feelings, can look without melancholy interest, and which few Englishmen or Americans can regard without deep humiliation. It is not a purpose here entertained to enter upon a history of slavery; to go back to the time when man first bought and sold his fellow-creatures, or when, under the Divine constitution, it first became lawful for one mortal to control another as his property. Whatever may be the ravings of fanaticism on this subject, it is certain that the father of the faithful, the chosen servant of the Almighty, owned and governed slaves in a mode as absolute as any that has ever prevailed in the Southern States of the American Union. It is also certain, that the inspired Apostle of Christ, who enjoyed more abundant revelations than any other writer of the New Testament, has laid down laws to govern the relation of master and slave; thus proving it to be lawful. For neither has the Deity, nor have righteous men, at any time given laws to regulate an unlawful relation, as that of adulterer and adulteress, receiver and thief. But upon a subject which has excited, and is still producing so profound emotion in the world, we will not enter the arena of debate. Inexorable necessity alone could induce the people of Virginia to continue an institution which, however lawful, is not desirable; which has been entailed upon them by British ancestors; which they have perseveringly struggled to mitigate; and from which they hope finally to see their land wholly delivered. It is rather the duty of the historian to trace evils to their sources, and, without fear or malice, to attach censure to those who have rendered themselves ingloriously immortal, by giving birth to ills which are destined to curse the world when their bodies have, during ages, slumbered in the dust.

“England has always held slaves under her control: villeins in the feudal ages—kidnapped Africans under Elizabeth—negroes in her American islands—white children in the mines and factories upon her own soil—conquered Hindoos in her vast East Indian domain. Nevertheless, it is true that the bondman who now

touches her soil becomes free, and may have a writ of 'habeas corpus' to secure his liberty! So skilful is she in retaining the substance without the form, in giving to her poets and orators a phantom upon which to waste their eloquence, while she relaxes not her grasp upon the enslaved spirit thus disembodied! Sir John Hawkins was the first Englishman of note, who openly engaged in the slave trade. In 1562, he visited Africa, enticed the unsuspecting negroes aboard his ship, attacked and captured a large number of a hostile tribe, promised them all much comfort under the pleasant skies of Hispaniola, sold them to the Spaniards upon that island, and returned to England 'with a rich freight of pearls, sugar, and ginger,' to excite his countrymen to emulation, and to allay the qualms of the Queen's conscience by displays of wealth, and promises of great moderation in his future kidnappings. Thus, while the Pope of Rome was steadily hurling anathemas at this inhuman traffic, a Protestant princess received it under her especial care and countenance.

But though England sanctioned the slave trade, sold her own people into servitude, after the unhappy rebellion of Monmouth, in the reign of James II., and afterwards contributed heavily to swell the number of Africans on the soil of America, yet she did not originally introduce them. James I. was content to prepare the minds of the colonists for enslaving their innocent fellow-beings, by sending guilty wretches from Britain to servitude in the settlement. In August, 1620, a Dutch man-of-war sailed up the James, landed twenty negroes from the African coast, and soon obtained a sale for them from the planters, who were willing at any expense, either of money or of feeling, to secure suitable labourers for their lucrative staple. We will not further dwell upon this circumstance, or upon its results. The number was small, but the practice was commenced; the virus was introduced into the blood of the patient, and centuries perchance will yet elapse ere she will recover from its influences."—pp. 219—222

These statements we consider just and moderate. No class of men is at this moment more wronged by an extensive public opinion, than the slaveholders of the south. That they are in the performance of all their duties, in regard to the African race, we will not aver; that the laws respecting this subject are what they should be, we dare not pretend. But that the actual proprietors of the southern states should be held responsible for the growth of a system, which they did not originate, in which they were born, and which owes its gigantic expansion to the irrepressible laws of human increase; for a system in which the merchants of New England and of Britain had full participation, with abundant gains; and still more, that they should be challenged to sever at a blow, ties which are indispensable, for a time at least, to the welfare of the very objects of this ignorant sympathy; all this is unreasonable and unjust in the highest degree. Those who have the slightest acquaintance with the history of legislation in Virginia need not be informed, that nothing has so much retarded the sure and peaceful adjustment of

this question, as the mischievous intermeddling and bitter vituperation of a small party of agitators in the north. Our sentiments on this subject have been openly expounded, and the progress of events has served only to confirm us in what we have long since written. We live in the confident expectation, that Virginia will by a process more rapid and effectual than superficial observers suppose, be drained of her slave population, and become a free state. And while we await this revolution, which pragmatism does but postpone, and which is to be wrought by the mighty yet silent hand of Providence, our chief anxiety is, that the African bondman may receive in all its fullness the light and consolations of the gospel. Instead of weeping over his imagined physical privations, which are less than those of the New England sailor, we should better aid the work of true philanthropy, by seeking to extend to him the inestimable blessings of the word of God.

There is a single paragraph in the work before us, in which we take a special interest, because it is the only one which seems to allude to our church. It is as follows :

“ As the minds of men became expanded by knowledge, toleration for the opinions of others on religious subjects had been gradually established. Yet the very existence of this word ‘ toleration ’ will prove how far public opinion yet fell below freedom and truth. No insolence can exceed that of human governments which have declared their purpose to ‘ tolerate ’ what the laws of God have placed beyond their control. It would be wiser in them to announce *toleration* to the course of the sun in the heavens! Governor Gooch was religiously inclined, but his religion was bounded by the rubric; he knew some Scripture, but it was all from the English Prayer Book. (1745.) In the midst of his administration, there appeared in the colony a large number of fanatics, composed of Methodists, Moravians, Quakers, and a sect known as New-light Presbyterians. What these last-named persons believed is not certainly known, but they were doubtless impressed with the delusive hope, that an immediate revelation had been made to them by the Deity—a hope which, from the death of the Apostles to the present hour, has been invariably productive of folly and crime in those encouraging it, and of relentless persecution in church authorities. These wild declaimers spread themselves abroad, preaching their doctrines to all who would listen. We do not learn that they were guilty of any deeds adverse to the substantial interests of the state. If they were disorderly, they were amenable to police regulations; if they were rebellious, Virginia had a law of treason. No unwonted rigour seemed to be required. In later and happier times, the flames of their zeal would have been permitted to expire for want of fuel. Resistance tended only to make them more determined and enthusiastic. (April 25.) But the Governor was greatly scandalized by their course, and at the next meeting of the General Court, he proceeded to deliver an edifying charge to the Grand Jury, directing their thoughts to these persons, and urging them to present or in-

diet them under the laws requiring conformity. The chief offence of these hapless dreamers seems to have consisted in the doctrine, that salvation was not to be obtained in any communion except their own. Of this the Governor complained; but he might with justice have been reminded, that such doctrine was neither unknown to nor unapproved by many in the church to which he adhered with all his powers, both of mind and body."—pp. 429, 430.

On our first perusal of this passage, we were painfully impressed with the belief that it was the intention of the author to strike at the genuine Presbyterians of Virginia, by a passing sneer; especially as the beginnings of our church are nowhere else mentioned. On a more mature examination, we acquit him of such an intention, but we still have just ground of complaint. He should have said either more or less than he has said. Having named Presbyterians, and this by a title, which however ambiguous, was often applied to our ecclesiastical predecessors, he should have added some note of discrimination, as a line between them and a supposed body of fanatics.

But over and above this, we entertain no doubts that the persons intended by Governor Gooch, in his proclamation under the name of 'New Lights,' were such men as Robinson, Tennent, Blair, and Davies. We have no evidence of the existence of any other Presbyterians, within the jurisdiction of Gooch; we have evidence that these, and such as these were denominated 'New Lights,' in Virginia; though their common appellation in the middle states, was the 'New Side.' In 1738, and again in 1745, Gooch expressed his willingness that the Synod's ministers should labour in Virginia; but we regard this as altogether compatible with his subsequent dislike of their proceedings. Indeed we may fairly presume, that a high churchman of his temper would feel little favour for the reforming and agitating piety of these preachers.

We record our dissatisfaction with the statement of Mr. Howison, as one fitted to grieve the Presbyterians of the south; yet we do not press the matter to extremity, as we have good reason to believe, that his error arose from too hasty an assent to the Episcopalian authorities, and that it is one which he will gladly correct in future editions. But for this persuasion, we could find matter in the paragraph just cited, and in the vagueness and laxity of the charges it contains, for very serious and extended animadversion.

This volume reaches far enough to include the military expe-

ditions of 1759, the capture of Fort Duquesne, Braddock's defeat, and, of course, the rise of Washington. Of these great events, Mr. Howison's narrative is succinct and pleasing. He has still before him a period which more than any other is suited to try the pen of the historian. Between the settlement of colonial peace, and the outbreak of revolutionary zeal, we must acknowledge, the tract is uninviting. Here and there a stirring incident catches our attention; but generally speaking the prosperous quiet of the "Old Colony and Dominion" is dull and dreary. It would have diversified and animated the picture, if more special and individual trials had been admitted; if the general dignity of the public story had been occasionally sacrificed; if we had been introduced to a nearer view of manners and men, of household ways, of amusements, foibles, and adventures. In all this period, no events are really more awakening, than those which relate to the spread of Christianity; the extension of the church; the struggles for religious freedom; and over these our author has passed with a singular inattention.

In regard to the manner in which Mr. Howison has executed his plan, we are disposed on laying down the volume to speak with much respect. Every contribution to our national annals deserves our considerate regard; but the present work need not shield itself under this statement merely, for it possesses intrinsic worth. We have not pursued the particular statements to their authorities, nor ransacked the alleged sources; but every page shows signs of extensive, laborious, and competent research. The margin is studded with notes of reference and citation; sometimes, even to excess; as in cases where no point is to be settled, and where all that is gained is literary allusion or embellishment. Yet we consider the abundance of historical authority as a principal excellence of the book.

The style of the performance merits remark. It is such as could have proceeded from none but a scholar and a man of taste. It is, without an exception, perspicuous. It is never slipshod and never ragged. It never approaches the voluminous, overstrained, or bombastic; and after all it is faulty. There is an excess of care bestowed on the dignified march of the period; hence a loss both of animation and simplicity. As we would far rather write Hume's worst page than Gibbon's best; so, without going to such extremes of style as these, we would barter all the

stately correctness of Robertson, for the transparent flow and exquisite naturalness of Southey's prose. To express our meaning by a single citation, we earnestly wish our author would refrain from every such form of speech, as that in which he tells us that Captain Smith "sought the shores of Caledonia." p. 94. If he is still a young writer, it is not too late for him to become one of our best; but we see a leaning towards the side of an undue, and we rejoice to say a somewhat obsolete, formality of diction. The extreme of the evil which we intend, may be seen in any page of Sharon Turner. We owe it to Mr. Howison, to admit, that in his writing the tendency is slight, and reveals itself only here and there. The great models of historical writing, we need scarcely say, are Herodotus, Thucydides, Xenophon, and Cæsar; we earnestly ask attention to the directness and simplicity of their style.

So far as the matter of the history is concerned, the selection of facts is full and judicious, but there is little revelation of forgotten events. We have already hinted at a defect, the absence, we mean, of graphic details. These give charm to national story; and sometimes a single incident reveals more of the condition of a people, than the most elaborate generalities. It is remarkable how few are the occasions in which Mr. Howison leads our minds to connect great events with any striking locality; how seldom he pauses before any great wonder of nature; and how rare are the scenes which will recur to the imagination of the reader. Yet a history may be just, and even satisfactory, without these; such is the one before us.

Mr. Howison deserves well of his native state for this filial tribute. We hope he will persevere, and carry his purpose to successful completion. From the unfeigned interest which we have taken in this volume, we indulge pleasing expectations of that which is to follow.

The uncommonly accurate and beautiful typography of this work merits a special commendation; being such as fits it to be placed with the best productions of the American press.