

tions astonish me. I must respectfully suppose that Physiological Botany has not been one of the author's studies. His second assertion, upon irregularity, is indeed true; but in such a manner as to bear strongly against him; for, when irregularity exists, it is in the way of weakness and deficiency. In a feeble tree or an unfavorable season, a layer may be unusually thin and even with difficulty discernible; so that, in careful counting, a ring or two might be omitted, *diminishing* the estimate by so many years. As for his first and third assertions, they are almost equivalent to saying that trees are not trees; they imply a denial of the very nature and the first laws of exogenous vegetation.

Mr. de Candolle, whom all revere as one of the princes of Botanical science, has expressed himself upon this point in the clearest and strongest manner. He shows at considerable length that there is not a law of nature on whose invariable validity we may with greater confidence rely, than in this instance. All that is wanted is ability and care in making the observation. Any variations that may occur, are in the earliest stages of growth: afterwards the greatest regularity is established: and, though in young trees the liability to error leans to an excess of calculation, the tendency is the reverse in the more advanced stages of growth.*

[C C.]

Referring to pages 126—131.

PROGRESS OF CHRISTIAN PIETY IN THE VOLCANIC DISTRICT OF THE PUY
DE DOME.

As the design of these lectures is to serve the highest interests of mankind, I need no apology for introducing some parts of a letter, which has appeared in some of the public papers of London and Paris. The writer is a clergyman of the English church, well known and highly respected. His veracity is unquestionable, and his narrative cannot fail to give pleasure to those who are the best friends of mankind and sincere disciples of Christ.

* *Biblioth. Univ. Sciences*; vol. XLVII. p. 49, &c. 1831. Mr. Darwin records his own observation confirmatory of this fact: *Voyages of the Adventure and Beagle*, vol. III. p. 157. Mr. Babbage has also given us an instructive example of reasoning upon our very subject, from this law of the vegetable economy, in his *Ninth Bridgewater Treatise*, p. 256—264.