

near Gambroon because a company of Banian or Hindoo traders had encamped under it. The word *Ap-proper* acquired notoriety in the treason trials at Dublin. This word appears in the fifteenth century in the form *Provoir*, one who offers to prove something in a court of justice, without necessarily confessing his own guilt as a preliminary step. Oxford men will read with interest a discussion of their familiar words *Battels*, and the grounds there are for connecting it fundamentally with the idea of nourishment. The critique on the work speaks in eulogistic terms of the scholarship displayed in editing the work, as well as the great pains and expense to make it perfect. It is expected that after this two parts will be issued each year till complete.

With another, "*Memoirs of Adam Black*," disappointment is expressed at the meagreness of the information given of the great publisher and bookseller's connection with the trade, too much space being given to parliamentary and other occupations of the founder of the house of A. & C. Black, a house known wherever an English book reaches. The firm, as the publishers of the "*Encyclopædia Britannica*," and of Sir Walter Scott's works, are justly famous.

Notice is favourably given of William Black's "*White Heather*," a decidedly characteristic Black nomenclature, and D. L. Murray's "*Rainbow Gold*," two of the leading novels of the month.

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS announce "*Valentino*," a romance, by Hon. W. W. Astor, late Minister of the United States to Italy. The name of the author was not made known to them until the book had been accepted for publication, as it was Mr. Astor's desire to have it accepted or rejected on its merits. "*Valentino*" is already in print, and will be issued before Christmas. It will make an octavo volume of about 350 pages.

In the spring will be published Mr. A. Carnegie's new work, entitled "*Triumph of Democracy; Fifty Years' March of the Republic*." It will be, judging from the announcement, one of the usual style of such works, lauding to the skies our southern neighbours at the expense of mother-land.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co. send us their handsome yearly catalogue, not only not "*diminished by the course of time*," but enlarged and beautified. Their holiday bulletin announces a few choice books, the old familiar names still to the fore—Longfellow, Holmes, Whittier, a noble trio—with others of scarcely less note. A house that publishes only works of merit, printing them at the famous Riverside press, ranks high among the many.

In a copy of the June edition of the First Prayer Book of Edward VI., two fresh autographs of William Shakespeare have been found. Their history is very curious. The book came, with other volumes of theological interest, into the hands of a country doctor, in 1878, having long been on the shelves of a grammar school library, the sapient trustees of which wanted to buy more modern and interesting works for their young charges. Dr. Furnivall's opinion is, that, while not Ireland or Collier forgeries (we think the last name needlessly introduced) but genuine seventeenth century signatures, they are those of some William Shakespeare other than the

great dramatist. At the British Museum there is much difference of opinion; the head of the MS. department pronouncing against their being Shakespeare's, and others being inclined to think them his. The volume, however, had the very rare leaf containing Edward VI's Proclamation, which was wanted in the Museum copy, and is now supplied; and a facsimile of the missing leaf was given to Mr. Toone, the well-known book-seller of Leicester-square, into whose hands the volume had come by exchange. As he only asks ninety pounds for the treasure, he is not likely to go long without a customer.—*The British and Colonial Printer and Stationer*.

THE preface, by Mr. Austin Dobson, to the facsimile reprint of the "*Vicar of Wakefield*," show some facts which place the usually received account of the sale of the story in some danger. They are derived chiefly from the account books of Benjamin Collins, a Salisbury printer, in the last century. Collins was intimately connected in business relations with John Newbery, and Mr. Charles Welsh's forthcoming life of the latter will illustrate this and other facts from original and unpublished sources.

Cardinal Manning is said to have in the press, under his supervision, an authorized translation into English, the original metres of the world-famous hymns of the Roman Breviary and Missal. We are glad to hear this, for the previous books of that character are certainly not of high literary merit; and it was not creditable to the Roman body in England, that the best translations in English should be those of churchmen and nonconformists, rather than from the pens of English Roman Catholics themselves.

THE *London Journal* has adopted the expedient of repeating one of its old stories, "*Minnie Grey*," by J. F. Smith, with illustrations by Sir John Gilbert. The story enjoyed immense popularity when it first appeared, and greatly increased the circulation of the *London Journal*. Smith may be said to have originated a distinct class of melodramatic fiction. He was thoroughly master of the art of entertaining readers of the class for whom he wrote, and of keeping them in eager suspense from chapter to chapter until the climax was reached. Although in a literary sense his stories do not rank very high, they are extremely clever of their kind, and were by far the most successful serial stories of their day.—*The Bookseller*.

AN English paper is responsible for a statement that an examination of the Archduke Reiner's papyri has brought to light an interesting and valuable fragment of Homer's *Odyssey*. This copy dates from the second century. There was also discovered a strip of Arabian paper of the ninth century, containing a wood-cut with ornaments and initials.

ANOTHER paper says that in repairing an old church in Norway recently, there was discovered a book consisting of six tablets made of boxwood covered with wax, on which drawings made with a stylus appear, excellently preserved. The tablets are fastened together at the back and the cover is carved and inlaid with coloured woods. Yet this only dates back to the thirteenth century.