

of the brilliancy of the "Life of Christ;" and could scarcely help regarding its author as a "rhetorical phenomenon." To many there would occur, in spite of their admiration, the description which, on a famous occasion, Lord Beaconsfield gave of his great antagonist. Dr. Farrar seemed to be exactly hit off in the "rhetorician inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity." We are glad to see that, in his later work, Dr. Farrar keeps his imagination under better restraint; and his style is no longer overburdened with excess of ornament and stiff as cloth of gold. It is however, with surprise that we notice a few expressions to be found in these volumes. John Bright boasted that he had ever striven to be a guardian of the purity of the English tongue. A writer who has such command of its resources as Dr. Farrar, if animated by the same spirit, would scarcely have spoken of persons who were "guilty of semblable apostacy," and of the language of others being "semblably orthodox." We do not like the expression "criminous bishops" and "criminous priests." Nor do we care to hear of persons who are "purpureal" or of an imperial family being "pageanted about like idols." These, however, are but infrequent and trifling blemishes in a style which is still sufficiently rich and glowing, though more sober and chaste than that of his earlier works. The volumes in truth are charmingly written, and furnish the most delightful as well as interesting reading.

The biographies, contained in these volumes are eighteen in number; and the most eminent of Greek and Latin Fathers, from Ignatius Polycarp to Augustine and Chrysostom, with the times in which they lived, pass in turn under review. Dr. Farrar's plan in general is to give all the known facts in the history of each of these Fathers,—then an account of his writings and their contents, and finally, where it is needed, an estimate of his theology. We do not know any other English work on the subject will compare with the one now before us. We are persuaded that there are many who have spent large sums in purchasing sets of the "Ante-Nicene and Nicene Fathers," and who have wasted more or less time in the struggle to take an interest in their study, who have failed to gain anything like so full an acquaintance with the Fathers of the Church and their history and productions, as they would gain by the careful reading of this work. Not only the ordinary reader, but the ordinary theologian will find in it all that he needs to know; unless he desires to make a speciality of the subject, and prosecute the study by an examination of the original sources on his own account.

Dr. Farrar's estimate of the Fathers is always generous and appreciative. Though not blind to their faults he is ever ready to make excuses for them. We would not have been sorry to find him reprimand more severely than he does some of the defects and blemishes which attached even to these great and good men—such, for instance, as the fanatic eagerness for martyrdom displayed by Ignatius, the haughty ecclesiasticism of Cyprian, Jerome's absurd exaltation of asceticism, and the scurrilous abuse of opponents which disgraced more than a few of their number.

It is what we might have expected that in the estimate of their theology the milder aspects of the truth would most commend themselves to Dr. Farrar. His sympathies are more with the soft and somewhat molluscous systems of the Greek and Alexandrian schools than with the more rigid and sharply defined theology of the West. Dr. Farrar gives ungrudging praise to the noble life and character of Augustine, but we could hardly expect him to furnish a favourable estimate of Augustine's theology. We regret that he should join in the reckless abuse of that system as "prolific of horrible inferences, dishonouring to God, and revolting to the conscience of mankind." No such consequences can fairly be imputed to Augustinianism when properly defined. It simply declines to close its eyes to the sterner facts of Divine providence and express statements of God's word. It denies as firmly as Pelagianism that God is the author of sin or that He interferes with human liberty; while it claims that He is the author of all the good that is in man, and that all events are under His control. If there is a God at all, we may conclude that He rules the universe, and that he does not govern by haphazard. The doctrine of predestination simply means that what God does or permits in time, He must have purposed to do or permit from all eternity. If His action is right the purpose could not be wrong. This has been received as in accordance with Scripture and sound reason in all ages; and we stoutly dispute Farrar's assertion that semi-Pelagianism has been and is the general doctrine of the Christian Church.

We may say in closing that perhaps the deepest impression left on the mind after reading the lives of the Fathers and their works, is their immense inferiority to the first disciples of Christ. How can we account for the fact, that not only the lives and characters, but the writings of Ignatius and Polycarp, of Origen and Athanasius, of Jerome and Augustine, are removed to such an enormous distance from those of Peter and John and Paul? The writers of the New Testament lived almost in the same time, breathed the same atmosphere, moved in the same environment as the Fathers of the church who came after them. Yet the New Testament surpasses the best works of the Fathers and outshines them *sicut Luna inter minora sidera*. Its unique character and excellence attest its supernatural origin. The only explanation is that its writers had companied with the Son of God, and spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. Well may Dr. Farrar, in his closing page, quote from Luther these words: "What are the saints compared with Christ? They are but shining dewdrops in the locks of the bridegroom, entangled among his hair." M.

THE *Contemporary Review* for June (New York: Leonard Scott Publication Co., 29 Park Row) opens with a highly interesting and important paper, by Archbishop Walsh, entitled "Arbitration or the Battering-Ram," in which he relates some of the leading incidents that have marked the course of his efforts in the cause of peace. Sir Morell Mackenzie contributes the first of two papers on "Speech and Song," which in view of the author's connection with the late Emperor Frederick promise to possess exceptional interest. Frederick Greenwood traces the decline of English influence in Continental politics in a paper entitled "The Mysteries of our Foreign Relations." Vernon Lee presents some irrelevant talks on the use of the beautiful in a readable paper entitled "Orpheus in Rome." Edwin Hatch argues that the tendency of the present age has been to transfer the basis of theology from metaphysics to history. E. J. Goodman describes that well-known English institution, the Savage Club, and tells some interesting stories in connection with it. G. B. Hill presents a somewhat novel view of Dr. Johnson's character in an article on "Dr. Johnson as a Radical." Sir William Dawson contributes a brief note in which he defends himself on some of his views of Genesis. The number concludes with two papers on the volunteers by C. B. Brackenbury and Lord Mayor Whitehead.

EUROPEAN scholars are devoting much attention at present to the centenary of the French Revolution, and its influence upon European politics. The *Fortnightly Review* for June (New York: Leonard Scott Publication Co., 29 Park Row) opens with two papers on the Revolution, the first "What the French Revolution Did," by Frederic Harrison, a brilliant and scholarly paper, and the second by General Viscount Wolesley, entitled "The French Revolution and War" in which he investigates the influence which that event exerted upon the science of warfare. The Marquis of Lorne presents a review of "Five Years' Advocacy of Provincial Parliaments" which he suggested some time since as a solution of the Irish difficulty. E. C. K. Gonner writes on "The Foreigner in England" and maintains that there are many serious grievances arising from unrestricted immigration to England calling for immediate action on the part of the authorities. Prof. E. A. Freeman contributes a note on "The House of Hapsburg in South-eastern Europe" in which he questions some statements made by Mr. J. D. Bouchier in a paper on the same subject in the March number of the *Review*. Dr. Robson Roose presents some good and careful rules on the "Art of Preserving Life." An anonymous writer criticises some recent changes made by the British Government in the matter of the Egyptian bonds, and Frederick Greenwood contributes an interesting sketch entitled "A Conversation in a Balcony." The number concludes with an eminently readable paper on "The Women of Spain" by Emilia Pardo Bazan.

THE *Nineteenth Century* for June (New York: Leonard Scott Publication Co., 29 Park Row) opens with an appeal against women suffrage signed by a number of representative English women. Prof. Edward Dicey presents a short but strong article on the "Ethics of Political Lying." In an article on "A Bird's Eye View of India" Lady Grant Duff argues that India is a continent, not a people, and that its real characteristics are practically unknown in England. Lady Verney writes on "Six Generations of Cæsars," summarizing the personal history of the Cæsars for the last two hundred years and deducting therefrom the personal traits of the present ruler. Prince Krapotkin writes on the "Great French Revolution," which he regards as a necessity and the greatest moving force in modern history. He argues that the condition of the Russian peasantry to-day compared with that of the French is sufficient proof of the benefits wrought by the revolution. Mrs. Priestly writes on the "Mysteries of Malaria," reviewing the recent progress made in analyzing the disease. Edward Clifford, whose paper on "Father Damien and the Lepers," last month, attracted so much attention, contributes an intensely interesting article on the "Hawaiians and Father Damien." E. N. Buxton contributes an eminently readable article on "Sardinia and its Wild Sheep," descriptive of a hunt in the wilds of Sardinia. Lord Ebrington describes a "Bye-election in 1747," giving the full details of the expenses of parliamentary methods more than one-hundred years ago, and throwing much light on early politics. The number concludes with a long essay by Prof. Huxley on "Agnosticism and Christianity," written in his most characteristic vein, and which forms an important contribution to the already extensive list of papers on this subject published in this review.

#### LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

THERE is to be a permanent exhibition at Keighley, England, of relics of the Brontë family.

BRENTANO will issue simultaneously in London and New York, "Romance of an Alter Ego," by General Lloyd Brice.

ROBERT BUCHANAN has arranged Scott's "Marmion" for the stage without sacrificing the metrical form of the original.

THE Blackwoods are to publish soon translations from Schiller by Sir Theodore Martin, upon which the writer is now engaged.

VIZETELLY, the London publisher, who has been imprisoned for selling Zola's books, has been reported ill in the jail hospital.

JOHN BURROUGH'S books now bear Houghton, Mifflin & Co.'s imprint. They have been reduced from \$1.50 to \$1.25 a volume.

THE June *Forum* contains a contribution from the pen of Mr. W. Blackburn Harte, of this city, on the "Drift Toward Annexation."

THE whole of Kinglake's "Invasion of the Crimea" is now in the Tauchnitz Series, the fourteenth and concluding volume having just been added.

D. APPLETON & Co. have ready "The Ice Age in North America and its Bearing on the Antiquity of Man," by G. Frederick Wright, Professor in Oberlin Seminary,—with an appendix on "The Probable Cause of Glaciation," by Warren Upham.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co. will publish, in connection with Bickers & Son, of London, an *édition de luxe* of Swift's works in nineteen volumes, octavo. Only 250 copies will be placed on the American market. The reprint is after Sir Walter Scott's second edition.

M. TAINÉ has been visiting London and Oxford. In spite of his important writing on English topics, M. Taine has lived for only short periods in England. Except for a brief visit made a few years ago for some domestic purpose, it is about twenty-five years since his last visit.

THE *Home Journal*, of Boston, in its issue of June 12, publishes a summer-resort guide which contains facts of interest concerning summer hotels. The guide gives the features of the hotels, the number of guests each accommodates, with the tariff of charges, the distances, and how to reach the different points.

IN the first number of *The New Review* which Longmans, Green & Co. (London), have just issued, Senator Magueb, a partisan of General Boulanger, states the General's case by authority and is answered in the following pages by M. Camille Pelletan. "The Unionist Policy in Ireland" is discussed by J. W. Russell, M.P. Lady Randolph Churchill contributes notes of travel called "A Month in Russia;" and Mr. Henry James supplies an article entitled "After the Play."

WARD & DOWNEY will publish shortly the first authentic narrative of the early proceedings of Stanley's expedition to relieve Emin Pacha, under the title of "With Stanley's Rear Column." The author, Mr. J. Rose Troup, who was the transport officer of the expedition, will give a full account of the experiences of the party left at Yambuya. His narrative will include a description of the voyage up the Kongo, the camp on the Aruvimi, and a complete diary, showing how events led up to the assassination of Major Barttelot, and the failure of this branch of Stanley's expedition.

#### MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

##### THE GILMORE CONCERTS.

THE military band may be admitted to have reached its perfection as far as America is concerned in Gilmore's excellent organization. In point of volume and richness of tone, and of artistic performance it would be difficult to imagine its superior of equal size. So also thought the thousands who have recently attended its concerts. Rarely has there been so much enthusiasm at concerts as was shown at these entertainments; and Mr. Gilmore, with the greatest good nature, played encore after encore until the concerts were generally extended to the space of two hours and a half. The band's playing is best described by the word "splendid." Whether in musical drolleries like the "Barnyard" or "Plantation" pieces, or in selections of standard work like the "Tannhäuser" overture or "William Tell" ballet music, the band is alike at home and excellent. In the "Tannhäuser" overture the resemblance of the clarinet tone to that of violins was most remarkable, and the difficult passages were executed promptly and correctly. Equally good were the renditions of the other overtures—the "Fidelio," "Freischütz," and "Robespierre." No less remarkable were the transcriptions of well-known piano pieces, which sounded very odd when played by the band. The instrumentation was clever and ingenious, but it is questionable whether such things have any great musical value. It is different, however, with the Liszt "Rhapsodies," which very readily accept the richness of colouring that the band gives them. One of the cleverest things played by the band was the old German air "Ein Vogel," which was played first in its simple form, and then in a manner illustrating how various noted composers would have written it. These illustrations were very amusing in their adherence to the styles of the masters. But popular favour was undoubtedly with the "Charge of the Light Brigade," which, with its cheers and dash and rattle, captured the enthusiasm of every one present. Altogether the band's playing and its programmes were so good that no one thought of criticizing either. The chorus of the Philharmonic Society assisted at each concert; and, while it consisted mostly of ladies at the matinees, it was well-balanced and, in most instances, sang with all its usual brilliancy. The "Gloria" from the "Twelfth Mass," and the "Tannhäuser March" were splendidly sung under Mr. Torrington's direction, as was also "The Heavens Are telling." Not so good were the "Lohengrin Finale," which was very uncertain; and the chorus part of the "Lucia" sextette, which was almost omitted.

The vocalists who were with the Band were of unusual excellence, and all will hope to hear some of them again. Mme. Blanche Stone-Barton has a beautiful bright soprano