

Literary Chit-Chat.

Gen. Beauguard will give a history of the Shiloh Campaign in the January number of the *North American Review*.

Canon Farrar has an article on the Church in America in the January number of the *North American Review*.

The Marquis of Lorne, Col. Ingersoll, Millionaires Astor and Carnegie, an Irish Member of Parliament elect, John Boyle O'Reilly, Cassius M. Clay, Sir John Macdonald, and Frank B. Sanborn have articles in the January number of the *North American Review*.

General Grant in his memoirs frequently shows a keen sense of humor. In fact, he seems, throughout the work, inclined to show the reader he was not the grim, matter-of-fact soldier that the world believed him to have been.—*The Current*.

The *Chicago Current* which won for itself a good reputation under the old management bids fair to do still better under the new. Its publishers say, and their journal thus far approves the claim, that the *Current* will be a live journal, interesting itself in all the current topics of the day, literary, artistic, political, and social, and interesting in their discussion some of the ablest people in America. All sides of a discussion will be heard, though *The Current* will strictly preserve its neutrality.

For Friday Afternoon.

SAYS HE.

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY.

"Whatever the weather may be," says he—
 "Whatever the weather may be,
 It's the song ye sing and the smile ye wear
 That's makin' the sun shine everywhere—
 And the world of gloom is a world of glee,
 Wid the birds in the bush and the bud in the tree;
 Whatever the weather may be," says he—
 "Whatever the weather may be.

"Whatever the weather may be," says he—
 "Whatever the weather may be,
 Ye may bring the Spring, wid its green an' gold,
 An' the grass in the grove where the snow lies cold,
 An' ye'll warm your back, wid a smilin' face,
 As ye sit at your heart like an old fireplace,
 Whatever the weather may be," says he—
 "Whatever the weather may be."

SMILE WHENEVER YOU CAN.

When things don't go to suit you,
 And the world seems upside down,
 Don't waste your time in fretting,
 But drive away that frown;
 Since life is oft perplexing,
 'Tis much the wiser plan
 To bear all trials bravely,
 And smile whene'er you can.

Why should you dread to-morrow,
 And thus despoil to-day?
 For when you borrow trouble,
 You always have to pay.
 It is a good old maxim,
 Which should be often preached—
 Don't cross the bridge before you
 Until the bridge is reached.

—Selected.

Literary Reviews.

RECEPTION DAY—No. 4. E. L. Kellogg & Co., 25 Clinton Place, New York.

With such a series as that before us there can be no lack of desirable material for Friday afternoon exercises. "Reception Day" is a handy little volume of 166 pages and contains short dialogues, recitations, and declamations, many of which have appeared in the pages of the *N.Y. School Journal*. The substance of them is pure and edifying and the dialogues, especially, are extremely well compiled. We can heartily recommend this useful series to the notice of teachers of public schools. The price is 25 cents.

TATE'S PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION—With introduction by Edward E. Sheib, M.A., Ph.D. E. L. Kellogg & Co., 25 Clinton Place, New York.

The author of this book wrote the preface to it in 1857, and although the work is therefore nearly thirty years before the teaching profession there are few who can peruse it now without adding considerable to their professional knowledge. Unless a teacher be a mere machine—an automaton—he cannot fail to increase materially, in his own school, his stock of experience every day; and if he be sufficiently observant he will discover for himself a philosophy in education which will be of incalculable benefit to him ultimately in his work. He may not be able to elaborate his ideas in the masterly manner that Mr. Tate has done, but his practical pedagogy will attest his comprehension of the *science* of teaching while his success in imparting instruction will evidence his grasp of the *art*. It is impossible to do justice to this work before us in a short notice—the book must be read to be appreciated. The wisdom gathered from a long experience in actual teaching is here condensed and classified. Details are traced up to first principles, effects to causes, causes to facts; progression from the Known to the Unknown, from Simple to Complex, from the Concrete to the Abstract, is here exemplified; in short, the fundamental principles of practical and successful pedagogy are carefully laid down in plain, effective and instructive language. Teachers who do not read this book may do well working on their own plans, but those who study "The Philosophy of Education" will fit themselves for higher positions and a grander field.

SHAKESPEARE'S TRAGEDY OF HAMLET.—Edited, with Notes, by Homer B. Sprague, A.M., Ph.D. S. R. Winchell & Co., Chicago. Price 45 cents.

This is essentially a student's edition, yet to the general reader there is much that is useful. The notes are clear, concise and pointed; show considerable research; are arranged on the principle of stimulating rather than superseding thought, and give the opinions of some of the best critics on almost all disputed interpretations. As an exposition of the text they are ample without being exhaustive, and the hints given on derivation, etymology and philology are invaluable to the student. An Appendix on "How to Study English Literature," "Examination Papers," and "Some Topics for Essays," is a portion that must be appreciated for its practical utility.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION was the delight of our childhood, and has been for years the weekly treasure of our children. It is the best child's paper we have ever seen. We say this advisedly, after having tried the various high-priced magazines for children. The variety, beauty, and entertainment of the articles that appear in the *Youth's Companion* excite our constant wonder and delight. In our home the day of its arrival is known as "Youth's Companion day," and the only bad effect we have ever known to arise from its coming is that all the children, and the older folks too, for that matter, want it at the same time. The publishers are out with a new announcement showing increased attractions for the new year.

SCENES FROM EURIPIDES—*Backus*. By A. Sidgwick, M.A. Rivingtons, Waterloo Place, London, Eng.

This is a work which shows that, amid the progressive views and methods which mark the nineteenth century in all other branches, publications even on the dead languages are not being allowed to drop behind the times. Mr. Sidgwick is well known to classical students. In this particular effort he has succeeded in presenting one of the most charming plays of Euripides in an entirely modern and especially attractive form. The introductory remarks and explanatory notes are in themselves of great value to the student; but the special excellence of this little work seems to lie in the new life and interest given to the play by division into separate scenes and the insertion of stage directions similar to those found in any modern drama. Were it possible to forget the beauties of the Greek (beauties which need be sought for in no other language) and think only of the arrangement, one would fancy himself to be reading a play of Shakespeare. We recommend this edition not only to those who are reading, with the horrors of an examination hanging over them, but to those who are happy in having passed through that fiery furnace and carried with them from college a chastened love and enduring admiration for the many beauties to be found in the literature of ancient Greece.