

nothing he has before written, and that will be enough to satisfy him, or he must be very difficult to please.

PLEASANT MEMORIES OF PLEASANT LANDS—BY  
MRS. L. H. SIGOURNEY.

Mrs. SIGOURNEY is one of the most generally admired of American authors. There is a delicacy and chasteness about every thing emanating from her pen which is sure to win the admiration of those who enjoy the pleasure of perusing it. This last and newest of her books will add to the reputation she has already won, as indeed it should do, for it differs essentially from any other "book of Travels" which has recently been given to the world. Mrs. Sigourney has been on a visit to England, and she has published the impressions created on her mind by what she saw and heard. But, instead of jotting down all that was unpleasing to her, she has remembered that America was not England—that the people of the two countries were educated in different schools—and she has given only those things which occurred to her as subjects for "Pleasant Memories." Though lacking the masculine efforts of many travellers who have preceded her, her book is decidedly a more pleasant one than theirs, for it is one which may be perused without giving birth to an angry thought. In times like these, when so many are endeavouring to sow discord and dissension between America and England, this book will be invaluable. It is one which we should be happy if every Canadian would read, and being so, we have much pleasure in recommending it to their perusal.

HISTORY OF THE MANNERS, CUSTOMS, ARTS, ETC.,  
OF ANCIENT GREECE—BY J. A. ST. JOHN.

THE history of Ancient Greece is a subject second in interest to no other. The world is familiar with it, as, of right, it should be, for to no other country does the world owe more. But with the manners, and customs—the every day life, if we may so speak—of the Ancient Greeks, many are comparatively unacquainted. The book before us will remedy this, and enable the reader to enter the domestic circle, and watch the formation of those glorious characters which have shed their lustre over all succeeding generations and times.

The object of the work, as described by the author, was "to open up, as far as possible, a prospect into the domestic economy of a Grecian family; the arts, comforts, conveniences, and regulations, affecting the condition of private life, and those customs and manners which communicated a peculiar character and colour to the daily intercourse of Greek citizens. For, in all

his investigations about the nature and causes of those ancient institutions which during so many ages constituted the glory and happiness of the most highly gifted race known to history, he found his attention constantly directed to the circumstances of their private life, from which, as from a great fountain, all their public prosperity and grandeur seem to spring."

Mr. St. John, however, has not confined himself to the plan he laid out for himself; to follow. He has entered into a history of the original inhabitants of Greece—presented a clear and faithful geographical sketch of the whole of the Morea—furnished faithful descriptions of the ancient cities of Athens and Sparta—besides gathering together a multitude of matters in which no one can fail to feel a deep and enduring interest. The book is written in the easy and "popular" style which, at the present day, is so much in fashion, and, with the real attractions it possesses in the matter it contains, it must become a general favourite wherever the language of England is spoken, and the character of the Ancient Greeks admired.

LETTERS OF MARY, QUEEN OF SCOTS—WITH AN  
INTRODUCTION, BY MISS AGNES STRICKLAND.

WITH the life of the ill-fated Mary of Scotland there are few who are not acquainted—few who have not sympathized with her many sorrows, however strongly they may have condemned the errors into which she fell—the crimes of which she was accused. Time has softened, if not obliterated the memory of the latter, while her virtues and her griefs are still vividly remembered. Her letters are full of interest. They speak the woman as she was, and afford an insight into her character which can in nothing else be found. The introduction, by Miss Strickland, the authoress of the lives of the Queens of England, is written in the style peculiar to that eminently gifted lady. For this alone the book deserves perusal, and we take pleasure in cordially recommending it to the readers of the *Garland*.

THE AMARANTH.

We have frequently noticed with commendation this neat and excellent monthly, published at St. John, New Brunswick. It is the only magazine published in that Province, to the literature of which it does much credit. The January number of the present year shows that the spirit of improvement is at work, and if it meet with due encouragement, we are assured that the improvement will become more marked. We take the liberty of recommending it to the friends of literature in Canada, being convinced that it well deserves support.