

India which he has given to the English-speaking world. The "Gita Govinda," or Indian "Song of Songs," bears a not remote resemblance to the Hebrew Song of Songs of which it was probably a contemporary. It is a Sanskrit idyl or pastoral drama, in which Krishna, an incarnation of the god Vishnoo—at once human and divine—is first seen attracted by the pleasures of the senses, but is at last irresistibly attracted by Radha, the spirit of intellectual and moral beauty. Such at least is the interpretation given by Arnold, Sir William Jones, Dr. Adam Clarke, and others. Dr. Clarke has given a translation of these ancient Indian Canticles, which, however, is far inferior in poetic beauty to the honied sweetness of Arnold's verse. The volume contains another striking Indian poem—"The Rajpoot Wife," and several miscellaneous poems—including fine memorial verses to Miss Proctor and Florence Nightingale, a legend of "King Saladin," and several exquisite translations from the Greek poets. The original poems in this volume make one wish, notwithstanding the felicity of his translations, that the author would more frequently favour us with the "native wood notes wild," of which he has shewn himself so capable. We cannot but regard him as a sweeter singer than even his famous namesake Matthew Arnold.

Plantation Melodies. By MARSHALL W. TAYLOR, D.D. Cincinnati: Walden & Stowe Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, 75 cents.

Dr. Taylor, a coloured presiding elder of the Lexington Conference, has done much the same service to the Plantation Revival Melodies of the South, as Scott and Motherwell did for the minstrelsy of the Scottish border. He has gathered into this volume many of the quaint yet fervid and deeply religious hymns and choruses of that old slave life now passed away. His wife and another lady, both born slaves, have caught those floating melodies, and have embodied them in musical notation. Those who have heard the Jubilee

Singers know the fascination of those weird wild melodies and pathetic cadences. As our author remarks, every line reveals the pathetic moan of the slave, or the exultant jubilee of the freedman. Those melodies have sweetened the bitter pang of cruel mockings and lashings, and turned the gall into honey for the praying, singing slave. Ofttimes in the field, amid the cane, the corn, the cotton, the rice, the hemp, or the tobacco, has God owned and blessed them. In slave pen, barn, jungle, and palace they have thrilled the souls of all who have heard. Those slave songs have belted the world: Arab minstrels sing them by the Nile, and in the bazaars of Bagdad and Delhi, they linger on the listening ear. This collection is remarkably free from the grotesque, and contains some hundred and fifty of the best and sweetest of those old slave refrains.

At Home in Fiji. By Miss C. F. GORDON CUMMING. 8vo., pp. 365. New York: A. C. Armstrong & Son. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$1.50.

The success of this book has been so marked as to warrant the issuing of a second edition in one volume with map, illustrations, and appendix, the same as the original edition. Miss Gordon Cumming is an accomplished traveller and writer, and as a relative of the first British Governor of the new British dependency had amplest opportunity, by lengthened residence and minute observation, for studying the problem of Fiji. The record of the conversion of the Islanders through the labours of the Wesleyan Missionaries from savage cannibals to Christian subjects of Queen Victoria is, we think, the most remarkable in the annals of any heathen race. Both Sir Arthur Gordon and Miss Cumming have borne striking testimony to the wonderful results of those missionary labours. For picturesque narrative, dramatic interest and solid worth we know few recent books of travel to compare with this.