

BRIEF LITERARY NOTES.

[Carefully selected from various sources and compiled specially for
THE OWL.]



MERICANS are so generally aware of the universality of Mr. Ignatius Donnelly's genius that recently when the publishers announced that he was the author of the really remarkably b o o k,

Ciesar's Column, very

few were surprised. Almost anything was to be expected from the man who abolished Shakspeare. If the Minnesota sage cannot do everything, it is certain he can do many things well. In literature and politics he is alike at home. The *Cryptogram* is a lasting monument of patience, audacious conception, and laborious execution. The language of the *Atlantis* is often fascinating. Mr. Donnelly is the best stump-speaker in the North-West. He is a delightful story-teller, and his fund of anecdote is inexhaustible. As a parliamentarian he has few equals on this continent. He has sat in Congress several terms and has belonged to every party that has come up in the last twenty-five years. Yet, he has much of his future to make, as may be learned from the fact that he is but fifty-nine years of age. It is said Mr. Donnelly is now composing a semi-political poem, which is based on the most original and extraordinary conception to be found in literature. This poem, we may be certain, will turn out to be a marvel. Its sweetness will surpass that of a Minnesota stream, and its power, the devastating force of a North-West cyclone.

"There is a good deal of honest entertainment to be got out of Mr. F. W. Robinson's latest novel, *His Love and His Life*," says the *Catholic World*, in its instructive Chats about New Books. "It reminds one again of how very much good, straightforward, clean and reputable work the reading world owes to a certain class of literary English men and women

whom it is the critical fashion of the day to rate several removes from the highest in any classification of modern fiction."

The Nugents of Carriconna, by Tighe Hopkins, is a new Irish novel with a plot, plenty of artistic character painting and more than a flavor of the sort of humour which is racy of the Irish soil and can hurt no healthy sensibilities.

Dr. Bernard O'Reilly's latest literary work is calculated to attract and retain general attention. His *Life of John MacHale, Archbishop of Tuam*, is a most notable contribution to Catholic biography. Archbishop MacHale was born in 1791 and died in 1881. It will thus be seen that the period of his life covered some of the most thrilling and inspiring epochs in the history of his native land. When it is added that John of Tuam, whom O'Connell used to call "the lion of the fold of Judah," was a great patriot as well as a great churchman, and that the Reverend Bernard O'Reilly, D.D., has faithfully depicted him in both functions, it is not difficult to surmise what a great amount of interest should attach to this work.

The *Cantorinus Romanus* and *L'Archéologie Musicale et le Vrai Chant Grégorien*, two books on Gregorian chant recently published in Paris, France, are highly recommended by the Catholic reviewers of both Europe and America.

In his book, *The Disappearance of John Longworthy*, which was published some time since, Mr. Maurice Francis Egan cleverly hits off some of the incidents of the social movement in the United States. Without in the least seeming to do so, the book is made to point a useful moral. We want a whole library of just such books.

Speaking of the first instalment of the *Theologia Moralis*, by the Rev. Benjamin Elbel, one of the reprints which has just issued from the press of St. Boniface at Paderborn, the *Month*, of London, says: "The contents of this book will not be