

OUR TABLE.

PARKER'S COLLECTIONS IN POPULAR HISTORY.

THE series of publications begun under the above title, if the Publisher's promises be anything like redeemed, will form a most valuable addition to the popular literature of the day. The design is "to promote the intellectual amusement of the people," and particularly of the young, by issuing in a cheap form a great number of works, illustrative of the history, character and manners, of the different nations of the earth; prominent in the collection will also be many valuable Biographical works, Books of Travels, and Treatises upon Sciences and the useful Arts, while the whole will be enlivened with Tales, Romances, and works of fiction, which will afford profitable amusement to those who delight in receiving instruction in the pleasantest possible manner. We insert here an extract from the introductory remarks of the Publisher, which well explain the design of the publication:—

The COLLECTIONS IN POPULAR LITERATURE will, therefore, embrace most of the features of an Encyclopædia, though the subjects will not be divided into fragments, or scattered over many volumes; each subject being treated with fulness and completeness, and its information brought up to the present time.

The plan will embrace new and improved Editions of certain Standard English books, but the majority of the works will be newly written, translated, compiled, or abridged, for the present purpose; and the volumes will appear from time to time in sufficient variety to extend simultaneously, and in due proportion, the various branches of Popular Literature. The whole will be prepared with an especial view to the diffusion of sound opinions—to the promulgation of valuable facts and correct principles—and to the due indulgence of general literary taste.

It is not intended that this series shall form a periodical, according to the strict acceptation of that term. Several works are already published, and others will quickly follow: they will all be uniformly bound in cloth and lettered. There will be no necessary connection between the various works, except as regards general appearance, and each, being complete in itself, may be had separately; nevertheless, the volumes, distinct, yet uniform in their object, will together form a valuable library.

Several works have been already published, and among them a volume containing four interesting tales, which we presume, are fair specimens of those which the Publisher purposes from time to time to lay before the public. They are each excellent in their way, being illustrations of domestic life in Ireland, the Highlands, Norway and Switzerland. The volume is extremely neat in the whole of its outward adornments, and the price at which it is afforded by the publishers, here, Messrs. Armour & Ramsay, is so reasonable

as to place it within the reach of all who desire to make themselves acquainted with it. Our opinion is that to persons having families whom they are anxious to instruct, the collection will be most valuable, and we cordially recommend it to them.

MARTIN CUZZLEWIT—BY CHARLES DICKENS.

THIS story, the publication of which has occupied twenty months, has at length been brought to a close. Taken altogether, we do not think it equal to some of the previous productions of its author, who seems on many occasions to have been under the necessity of dwelling too long upon some favourite idea, as if with a view to fill the space contracted for. It is, nevertheless, a really excellent story, full of passages of great force and beauty. The characters are drawn with the pencil of a master, and presented to the reader's eye as palpably as if they lived and breathed upon the page. One of the passages in the preface, (which, by the bye, seems to be rather an "epilogue" than that which its name imports,) is intended to explain the tameness which was supposed, during the course of the publication, to mar the effect of some of the numbers. He says:—

I have endeavoured in the progress of this Tale, to resist the temptation of the current Monthly Number, and to keep a steadier eye upon the general purpose and design. With this object in view, I have put a strong constraint upon myself from time to time, in many places; and I hope the story is the better for it, now.

At any rate if my readers have derived but half the pleasure and interest from its perusal, which its composition has afforded me, I have ample reason to be gratified. And if they part from any of my visionary friends with the least tinge of that reluctance and regret which I feel in dismissing them; my success has been complete, indeed.

HISTORY OF THE SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR—BY JOHN

BRINKWATER.

TO this work we had intended devoting a considerable share of attention, it being one deserving of much more than a passing notice at our hands. The want of room, however, prevents us in the present number from entering at length into its merits; but we cannot permit the opportunity to pass of recommending it to the attention of the general reader. It is undoubtedly one of the best books of the season, and being one of the Colonial and Home Library, may be had at a very reasonable charge, at the Bookstore of Messrs. Armour & Ramsay.