

LIBRARY TABLE.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL LAYMAN'S HAND-BOOK. Toronto: Hart and Company.

This timely little volume has for its object the explanation and criticisms of the innovations which have crept in during the last half century, and is intended for the general public who would fain know the why and wherefore and yet have no time to search for information. Scholars, of course, as the preface says, do not need it, and yet many of these will doubtless be grateful for the clear and vigorous statements contained in the hand-book.

JAVA: THE PEARL OF THE EAST. By S. J. Higginson. With Map. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company.

This little volume, by Mrs. S. J. Higginson, is No. 7 of the "Riverside Library for Young People," and is full of interest and entertainment, while at the same time concise and trustworthy. The authoress has not depended alone on her own experience, but has consulted such works as that on Java by Sir Stamford Raffles, to whom an acknowledgment is duly made. Clear printing and a map contribute their quota to the book.

A JAPANESE BOY. By Himself. New York: Henry Holt and Company.

A candid little preface tells us that the most important reason which impelled the young author of this book to give it to the printer was the desire for means to prosecute his studies. We sincerely trust he will attain the desired end. Though somewhat disjointed, the sketches are full of local colour and interest, and present a very fair picture of what a Japanese boy's childhood may comprise. The reflection which presents itself to us while reading the book is the general similarity of outline in childhood life the world over, and the number of analogies that may be traced twixt Japanese and Canadian boyhood.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR BOOK, 1890. London and New York: Macmillan's.

The present, which is the 27th issue of this valuable and unique publication, is considerably expanded, although part has been re-set in smaller type. It is a vast storehouse of historical and statistical records relating to all parts of the world, and the amount of information contained between its covers renders it truly invaluable to all who have at any time need of facts and figures concerning any part of the globe. Over 300 pages fall to the British Empire out of a total of 1,093 exclusive of the index, and except for some slight errors of spelling and one of fact, we do not perceive where any striking improvement could be effected. Secretary Windom's name is spelt Hindom, and President Harrison is credited with having been reporter of the Supreme Court of "Morana" instead of Indiana, as well as Governor of Indiana in 1880, which latter to our memory is an error of fact. With the exception of these few blemishes, Mr. Keltie's work appears to have been thoroughly well done.

THE KREUTZER SONATA. By Count Leo Tolstoi. Translated by Benj. R. Tucker. Boston: B. R. Tucker.

Though embedded in much that is peculiar, even absurd, and brutally frank, there is one truth in this latest "exposition" of Tolstoi, which is worthy of being dinned into the ears of young humanity, and that is the statement contained in the first paragraph of chapter five. This said, we fail to find anything in the rest of the book to justify its existence. Audacity and frankness of statement, especially of the sensual class, are not a sufficient *raison d'être*, and people who are not visionaries will respond but little if at all to the extravagant ideas formulated on a subject of all others the most sacred and delicate. Because one who has been a debauchee and has thereby destroyed his own capability of realizing the higher planes of conjugal love realizes this, and in realizing it also comprehends his own misery, it is absurd to assert that before the human race in general can realize true union of hearts and minds, the sexual instinct must be extirpated. We refrain from giving a *resumé* of the story. Those who wish can read it for themselves. Gross minds who seek it from low motives will be happily disappointed, and those who read it with higher motives will probably be more pained and disgusted than benefited. Perhaps the real value of the book will be found in the suspicion with which it may lead many people to regard Count Tolstoi's deliverances on moral and social topics. Half *blasé*, half fanatic, with a deep tinge of assumed religious authority, is the impression left on our minds of the "Kreutzer Sonata."

We have received an interesting pamphlet on "Some of the Larger Unexplored Regions of Canada," by Mr. G. M. Dawson, D.S., F.G.S., of the Geological Survey. The brochure embodies a paper read before the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club and is replete with information.

Canada for May contains a continuation of John Reade's "The Early Interpreters"; "The Itinerary of Jacques Cartier's First Voyage," by W. F. Ganong, of Cambridge, Mass., and a paper by J. M. LeMoine, on "General Wolfe's Death," together with the usual departments.

Temple Bar for June has a very appreciative paper on "Characteristics of Russian Literature," signed J. M. A. O'Donnell Bartholomew criticises rather roughly the worth of the French decoration "Legion d'Honneur" and No. IX. of the Romance of History tells the story of William Lithgow, who apparently paid dear for his roving propensities. "The Gods of Greece" is a thoughtful essay by J. R. Mozley, in which he examines the legacy left to the world by the Hellenic system of religion. There are two short stories, one sad and the other exciting, while the serial instalments and some very fair verse make up the issue.

The *Andover* for June is a strong number. Morrison Swift contributes the first paper—a thoughtful survey of the working populations in cities and towns and the duty of the universities towards them. Professor Starbuck asks, "Shall Episcopacy be re-instituted?" referring of course to those regions where it has been abolished. Geo. A. Strong talks about revision in a paper entitled "Preterition," and Rev. Frances Johnson, Profs. Hardy, Potwin, Tucker, and Pike, all contribute papers on various timely topics. Editorials on the "Latest Theological Alarm" and "The Eight Hour Movement," with the usual departments, complete the number.

THE well-known English cricketer, W. G. Grace, looks out at us from the frontispiece of the *English Illustrated* for June, and the subject himself contributes an interesting review of "Cricket: Past and Present." Lady Blennerhasset talks, as she is well qualified to talk, about "German Girlhood," and Villiers Stanford sends a setting of the Laureate's last verses—the now well known "Crossing the Bar." Allan S. Cole (of the South Kensington Museum, if we mistake not) discourses on "Lace making in Ireland," and some fine illustrations accompany his essay. Sully-Prudhomme is criticised sympathetically by the Messrs. Prothero; Hamilton Aidé sends an account with sketches of a castle on Mount Aetna, and William Morris begins his new serial, "The Glittering Plain."

THE June *North American Review* opens with a criticism of Mr. Balfour's Land Bill by Charles Stewart Parnell, who stigmatizes the present Tory Land Bill as dishonest and insufficient. Hon. Thomas B. Reed talks about the "Federal Control of Elections," and Mrs. John Sherwood, half cynically, half kindly, writes about "American Girls in Europe." Mrs. Mona Caird sends the first of a paper on "The Emancipation of the Family" and "Criminal Politics" forms the subject of an able paper by the editor of the *New York Evening Post*. A review of Sir Charles Dilke's latest book by the Marquis of Lorne; "A Chat about Gardens," by Ouida; "The Value of Protection," by the now famous Wm. McKinley, and some criticism on Professor Goldwin Smith's late article "The Hatred of England," by prominent Americans, with the "Notes and Comments," complete an eminently readable number.

The *Ladies' Home Journal* for June discusses every conceivable point of interest to women. "Are Women Careless of Money?" is a striking article by Junius Henri Browne, in which the author takes up the question whether women ruin men by their extravagance. "How to Close a Town House for Summer" is excellently told by Florence Howe Hall, while Ellen Le Garde delightfully treats some "Our-door Sports for Girls." Lina Beard tells how to arrange "A Paper Picnic," while Mrs. Mallon, the famous New York fashionwriter, begins a department "For Woman's Wear." Mrs. Whitney, Maud Howe, Kate Upson Clark each have a serial novel, and there is also a charmingly illustrated story for girls by Fay Huntington. Dr. Talmage tells in a humorous way of "A Balloon Wedding" in which he was the officiating clergyman, while Percy Vere has a unique and admirable article on "Summer Widowers." Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher writes for mothers; Ella Wheeler Wilcox has a poem; Felix L. Oswald, Eben E. Rexford, Edward W. Bok, Wolstan Dixey, all have articles, and even then there are still a score or more of articles that will interest every woman.

Harper's Magazine for June is full of varied interest. A translation by Henry James of Alphonse Daudet's humorous story, "Port Tarascon," opens the number, with the author's portrait as a frontispiece. It reminds us more or less of a Skye terrier, so profuse is the hair. An interesting account of travel, "Through the Caucasus," is given by the well-known Comte de Vogue; and Matt Crim and George Hibbard contribute short stories. Lawrence Hutton has a finely illustrated paper, which will attract theatre-goers, on the "American Burlesque." The two solid papers of the number are "Fürst Bismarck" by George Wahl, who gives a succinct biography of the great Chancellor, and a sketch of Birmingham, Eng., as "The Best-governed City in the World." "Chapbook Heroes," an illustrated paper by Howard Pyle, tells of the famous "Knights of the Road," who generally made their exit at Tyburn. "Six Hours in Squanteed" is an amusing sketch of a traveller who oversleeps himself and is taken beyond his destination, and gives a short picture of an all too common occurrence in the States—an exploded boom. The poetry of the number is fair; and the usual departments, The Editor's Easy Chair, Study and Drawer, are more than usually interesting.

THERE is no country like France for starting journals; during 1889 no less than 950 new newspapers were brought out, of which not one remains in life; on the other hand the *Petit Journal* now claims a circulation of 1,095,000 copies daily.

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

MR. WILLIAM MORRIS is writing a novel of adventure. JOHN MURRAY has in preparation a volume of the correspondence of Sir Robert Peel.

W. D. HOWELLS has arranged to write a serial for a syndicate of English and Australian newspapers.

MADAME LANZA's new novel will be published by the John W. Lovell Company, and be entitled "A Modern Marriage."

THE house in Paris, France, in which Balzac, the French writer, spent the last years of his life, is now being demolished.

SWAN, SONNENSCHN AND COMPANY announce a new edition of "Pepys' Diary," in four volumes, printed in the best manner.

THE New York *Sun* has contracted with George Meredith for a novel, and with R. L. Stevenson for his "South Sea Letters."

THE Grand Trunk Railway have issued a neatly printed and useful guide to the fishing and hunting resorts accessible by their system.

THE Authors' Club of New York has received ten thousand dollars from Mr. Andrew Carnegie for the encouragement of literature.

WE hear that Mr. Lang, Mr. Haggard's collaborator in "The World's Desire," considers "Eric" the best romance the author of "She" has ever written.

THE stories written in collaboration by Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins for *Household Words* are to be reprinted in one volume by Chapman and Hall.

THE *Quarterly Review* has taken a new departure; for the first time it illustrates one of its articles, the one that deals with Du Chaillu's book on the Vikings, containing some half-a-dozen pictures.

THE New York *Courrier des Etats-Unis* has just put out a useful book for French immigrants, entitled "Guide Franco-Américain." It has been prepared by M. J. Roussel of the *Courrier*, and is calculated to be very helpful.

MESSRS. ESTES AND LAURIAT, Boston, announce a superbly illustrated translation of Camille Flammarion's "Uranie"; they also announce an *édition de luxe*, limited to 500 numbered copies, of Victor Hugo's "Hans of Iceland."

WILLIAM T. STEAD now appears this month as the sole proprietor and publisher of the *Review of Reviews*; he has parted with George Newnes, his partner, paying three thousand pounds sterling. Mr. Stead is out of health with overwork.

LORD TENNYSON has yielded to a request to recite his "Charge of the Light Brigade" and parts of "The Princess" into an Edison phonograph. His son says the tones of the poet's voice as heard through the tubes are reproduced with startling fidelity.

A PORTRAIT of Alphonse Daudet, drawn by J. W. Alexander, forms the frontispiece of the June number of *Harper's Magazine*, which contains the first instalment of the distinguished author's "largely, hugely laughable" new novel, "Port Tarascon."

DURING Professor Henry Drummond's visit to Australia, it is announced that he will devote his spare time to writing a book on Christianity in the light of evolution, which will be a sort of sequel to his "Natural Law in the Spiritual World." He hopes to publish it in the autumn.

NEWSPAPER reviewers are puzzled over the authorship of "God in His World," the recent anonymous work published by Messrs. Harper and Brothers. To some it suggests Phillips Brooks. Others say it could not have been written by a divine. One paper believes that it may be the work of a woman.

MESSRS. SCRIBNER AND WELFORD have acquired the rights in the United States to Walter Scott's "Contemporary Science" Series, the next two volumes of which will be "The Criminal," by Havelock Ellis, and "Sanity and Insanity," by Dr. Charles Mercier, both fully illustrated. The former appears this week.

WE notice that our valued contributor, Mr. W. D. Lighthall, of Montreal, is on the list of the Farmington Lectures for 1890. Mr. Lighthall lectures on June 20, on "Green's Ethical System Viewed in its Relation to Utilitarianism," together with a statement of a new theory of ethics, "New Utilitarianism."

AN enterprising Englishman, Mr. George Bainton, has made a book which he calls "The Art of Authorship." The idea is Mr. Bainton's, but the work is not. The book is written by a galaxy of well-known authors of England and America, of whom he enquired their opinions on the subject of literary style.

THE family of the late Hon. Alex. Morris have presented to the library of the Royal Military College some books written by their father, viz: "Treaties made by Canada with the Indians of the North-West," and "Nova Britannia." Besides this, they have given, from their father's library, "Southey's Peninsular War" and a large and valuable Atlas, showing the "movements, battles and sieges in which the British army was engaged, during the war of 1808-1814, in the Peninsula and South of France." These latter works have the autograph of Lord Metcalfe on the title page, and were, we believe, presented by him to Mr. Morris' father. It is to be hoped the college library will be enriched by many more such generous gifts.