

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

VIRGIL'S *ÆNEID* (Book V., 1-361); edited, with Introductory Notices, Notes, and Complete Vocabulary for the use of Intermediate and University Classes, by John Henderson, M.A., Collegiate Institute, St. Catharines. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co., 1882.

WE are glad to have an addition to our school literature, and another contribution from Mr. Henderson's pen. Mr. Henderson's labours in Classics would be welcome to the profession at any time; but so long as our University authorities pursue their policy of prescribing fragments of books and scraps of authors from year to year, and so long as masters and pupils, owing to the pressure of the Intermediate and other examinations, have little time to go to original sources, Mr. Henderson's industry will be doubly acceptable. He has made good use of his opportunities, and produced a work which will add to his reputation as a scholar and a teacher.

The Fifth Book of the *Æneid* is unbroken ground to most of our High Schools, and contains much matter which, although not unfamiliar in spirit and expression to readers of the sporting columns of a modern newspaper, is yet so far removed from the *Dilectus* and the Reader as to require special effort upon the part of the teacher and the commentator. Mr. Henderson is justified in making use of all appliances to break this stubborn glebe. In our opinion, Virgil, in any of his works, is too difficult for early reading.

We may now take a hasty run through the volume, bearing in mind the aims of the author. The *Life* is a judicious compilation, and is well arranged, with marginal references and foot notes explanatory of the more difficult terms and phrases. This last is a happy thought. If the matter of our school books is to be so complete as to obviate the neces-

sity of the pupil's consulting a dictionary or other work of reference from year's end to year's end, the supply of ready-made knowledge must be copious indeed. In this respect Mr. Henderson is fully abreast of his contemporaries—no slight matter where the rivalry to supply patent extracts and concentrated essences of knowledge is so keen as to bewilder the purchaser. But this is of small account. The modern school-boy must be cradled and rocked and dandled into a scholar, and be fed with pedagogic pap until his University beard be grown.

The dissertation on Idyllic poetry, the *Eclogues* and *Georgics*, although irrelevant to the subject-matter of the *Æneid*, will be found useful in preparing the other Latin selections for the Matriculation Examination. In any case, it may stand to complete the review of Virgil's Works. The examiner in Classics and Literature now-a-days is given to setting questions *off* the work in hand, and in this way, too, the dissertation may be useful.

The Tables of Roman Epic Poets and the Chronology of Virgil's Time are excellent features, and will be found most helpful. The General Questions on Virgil—eighteen in number—are not the less useful for being old and well worn. It would not have been amiss to have added special questions on Book V.

Mr. Henderson has not taken us into his confidence as to the sources of his texts, notes, and vocabulary. As to the text, it is certainly not that of the purists in Virgilian orthography, such as Conington and Kennedy. We have examined some scores of lines in White's edition and find the texts identical, save for the omission in the present work of the doubtful finals usefully marked in White's texts. White's is no doubt a good common text, but of very little use to those