

OUR TABLE.

Mr. R. W. Lay, 193 Notre Dame street, has placed upon our table several new works to which we would call the attention of our readers. They are as follows:—

MAHOMET AND HIS SUCCESSORS BY W. IRVING.

THESE two volumes contain a clear and unpretending narrative of those startling events in the career of "the great apostle," which attended the early history of his religion. They are written with Mr. Irving's characteristic purity, clearness and simple beauty. They are popular in their character. "The whole aim of the writer has been to digest into an easy, perspicuous and flowing narrative, the admitted facts concerning Mahomet, together with such legends and traditions as have been wrought into the whole system of oriental literature; and at the same time to give such a summary of his faith, as might be sufficient for the general reader." The first volume which gives us a biography of Mahomet and a brief outline of his religion is written with great candor. It is far more readable than Okley's—more impartial and truthful than Prideaux's—but is less eloquent than Gibbon's masterly sketch of "the leader of the faithful." The second volume contains a very spirited narrative of the rapid progress of the religion and the arms under the immediate successors of Mahomet. As we follow the pen of the historian in his sketches of the personal exploits, and the acts of daring intrepidity which distinguish the early course of the simple Arabs of the desert, we can hardly divest ourselves of the feeling that we are in the realms of imagination instead of the sober domain of history. The unparalleled and swift tide of conquest which followed these hardy and irresistible warriors, the occasional gleams of lofty heroism that lighten their path, the ardent, though merciless enthusiasm that roused their courage and nerved their arm, these, as they are portrayed by the accurate and faithful narrator, possess the interest of a drama. To all who desire a popular and truthful sketch of Mahomet and his successors, we commend these volumes.

RAMBLES AND SKETCHES BY J. T. HEADLEY.

THE author of this work is well known to the public by a series of graphic, highly colored and *flashy* portraits of "Napoleon and his Marshals," "Washington and his Generals. In a former number we have given him a more extended notice, all that we will now add, is, that Mr. Headley improves by experience. His style is becoming more simple. These sketches are varied and spirited.

They are marked, more by a power of description than a discrimination of men and the principle at work in society. They are, however, what they pretend to be, sketches:—and, as such, will be found full of interest and life—very much less turgid than some of his earlier efforts. This book, like his others, has decided popular tendencies, and expresses generous sympathies. He predicts, in the process of time, an entire emancipation of Europe. "If," says he, "there be one thing fixed in destiny, it is the steady, restless progress of the republican principle. Struggle as despots may—surround themselves as they will, with all checks and restraints on popular feeling—bind and torture, and exile and slay, the terrible day of reckoning is slowly advancing. Before this single principle, Europe is incessantly pushed forward to the brink of a frightful gulph. On that brink, despotism will make its last stand, and its final struggle." Upon the whole, this is a very pleasant book to lighten a heavy hour, or as a travelling companion. If one wishes for anything acute or profound, they must look for them somewhere else. They are not here.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, ARRANGED ON A NEW PLAN BY THE REV. S. FIGGOTT; A. M. J. AND F. TALLIS, LONDON AND NEW YORK.

THIS is designed to be "completed in twenty parts, at one shilling each; each part embellished with two beautiful steel engravings." This novel, but commendable publication, is enriched by notes, "introduced to obviate prejudices, to satisfy doubts, to illustrate what is obscure, and to impress the great, pure, simple, Protestant truths of the gospel, on which these prayers were founded by the Martyrs and Saints who composed them." It is really a pleasure to see the "Book of Common Prayer" in such large, clear and beautiful type.

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF IRELAND, PART FIRST, By the same publishers, is also a beautiful number of a new work. Besides the two fine engravings, we are glad to see a map of the country. This is a valuable aid; and no history should ever be without one. To read of different places, in a nation without some conception of their situation and geographical relation to each other, serves to give the mind vague and uncertain impressions. This History begins at the earliest period of the Irish annals, and continues to the present time.