

LITERARY NOTES.

A difficulty has arisen over the mass that Verdi has undertaken to compose in memory of the late Manzoni. The clerical authorities at Milan decline to permit women to sing in it, and the maestro is not disposed to cut down his ideas to the standard of intelligence and ability possessed by boy choristers.

Mr. Jefferson Davis is, it is stated, still engaged with his "History of the Confederate States," though his impaired eyesight forbids much continuous reading or writing.

At the next winter exhibition of the Royal Academy, the collection will chiefly consist of the works of deceased British artists, in oil, water-colours, and sculpture.

A memorial of the late Field-Marshal Sir George Pollock, executed by Mr. E. Physick, has just been placed in Westminster Abbey. Mr. Foley's statue of Sir James Outram, which is to be sent out to India, has been temporarily placed on the open space near the Duke of York's statue, nearly opposite the United Service Club.

Sir Joseph Whitworth has offered prizes of the value of £100, to be obtained through the Society of Arts, for the best essays on the "Advantages that would be likely to arise if railway companies and limited companies generally were each to establish a savings bank for the working classes in their employ."

Dean Stanley read an interesting paper the other evening, at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, "On the Tomb of Richard II.," recently opened in Westminster Abbey. The skeletons of the King and Queen were discovered in it, and objects of later date, the tomb having been opened at an earlier period, and an inscription being placed within recording the circumstances.

The trustees of the British Museum have, it is announced, purchased the correspondence which formed the bases of Mr. J. L. Cherry's recently published "Life of John Clare," the Northamptonshire Peasant Poet. There are more than eleven hundred letters, and among the writers were Charles Lamb, Thomas Hood, Allan Cunningham, Admiral Lord Radstock, Sir Charles Elton, Cary, the translator of Dante, Hilton, the painter, Behnes, the sculptor, and many others.

Messrs. Rivingtons have just added "The Christian Year" to their elegant "Red Line Series" of Devotional Works. They omit the hymns for the three dropped state services, but give that for the Accession. They also issue a very neatly-printed sixpenny edition in paper.

Among English books newly published or soon to

appear, we find: Messrs. Longmans announce 'The Chronology of the Bible and Historical Synchronisms,' by that able writer if not always safe theorist, M. Ernest de Bunsen; Macmillan & Co. will publish an octavo volume of 'Sermons preached in Country Churches,' by the late F. D. Maurice; Mr. Stopford Brooke's 'Sermons preached in St. James' Chapel' have reached a fifth edition; Bishop Colenso has published (Longmans) 'Lectures on the Pentateuch and the Moabite Stone,' with appendices on the following named subjects: The Elohist Narrative, the Original Story of the Exodus, and the Unity and meaning of the Pre-Christian Cross; Mr. J. Jewbery, of Oxford, publishes a new edition of a clever and successful little anti-Evangelical squib called 'The Deformation and the Reformation,' which, besides some fun for the worldly, has in it not a few grains of profitable instruction and reproof for various sorts of Churchmen; what 'Common Sense Theology' may be we do not know, except that it describes itself in its second title as 'Natural Truths in Rough-Shod Rhyme'; we mention it because of its going to England from Lewiston, Maine.

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson and Co. have just issued the second edition of "Punshon's Memorial Volume," being Lectures and Sermons of the Rev. Wm. Morley Punshon, D.D. This is the only authorized edition of Mr. Punshon's works in Canada, and the only one from the publication of which the author derives any benefit.

Dr. Scadding's "Toronto of Old," published also by Messrs. Adam, Stevenson and Co., has met with a very hearty reception throughout the country. It is a work teeming with interest to old residents of Ontario and their descendants. In an appendix is given a list of the early settlers of York from 1794 downwards.

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson and Co. have in press a Canadian reprint of Miss Phelps' little book, entitled "What to Wear?" This book has produced no small commotion in the United States, and will, no doubt, be widely read in Canada. The Boston *Journal* says: "Miss Phelps' opinion as to what woman should wear differs very materially from the conception of most *modistes* and milliners. With all its extravagance of statement—and half the charm of Miss Phelps' style is due to its extravagance—we are inclined to think that there is considerable sound sense in it. There are hints in it which we wish all women might act upon; and we are quite sure there would be fewer feminine invalids—broken down in what would be the prime of their womanhood—if hygiene should be heeded in the place of fashion."