

the Latin; a list of Proverbs, and familiar sayings in French, German, Italian, and other modern languages; a department of Latin law terms, and a department of ecclesiastical terms or definitions, which are particularly valuable; and a biographical dictionary of the names of the 1,200 authors quoted in this work. There are, besides, two hundred and eighteen closely printed pages of a concordance to English quotations, and twenty-five pages of a concordance to English translations of the Latin.

Thus, if one can remember but a single prominent word of a quotation, he will be almost sure to find it. Such books as concordances to Shakespeare and Tennyson are thus rendered almost superfluous. Again, if one wishes to know the most striking thoughts of the great writers of the world, ancient or modern, he will find them grouped under their respective heads. Turning to the sombre but important subject of Death, for instance, he will find fourteen columns of quotations, from Callimachus and Cicero down to Tennyson and Edwin Arnold; and the book, play, act, scene, chapter and verse, or line, are indicated. On the pleasant topic of Love, he will find over twenty-four columns. The veteran *litterateur*, O. W. Holmes, says he will let this book lie near his open dictionaries, and Longfellow writes that he shall often read and enjoy it.

In the proverbs of many lands, the wisdom of many is by the wit of one coined into pure gold, which is current in the commerce of speech in every age and every land. The impress of ancient wisdom and morality is like the stamp of the mighty kings of old on the shekels of Judea, the scarabæi of Egypt, the drachmas of Greece—a certificate of their genuineness and antiquity—as the imperishable mental coinage of mankind.

The above estimate of this book is entirely spontaneous and unsolicited, as the copy we possess is our own private purchase.

*The Foster Sisters; or, Lucy Corbet's Chronicle.* By LUCY ELLEN GUERNSAY. Pp. 519. New York: Thomas Whittaker. Toronto: Wm. Briggs. Price, \$1.75.

The writing of historic fiction is one of the most difficult of literary tasks. At the same time, if well done, its results are very fascinating and instructive, and often give one a more vivid and truthful conception of past events and periods than literal historic narrative. This book is one of the best of its class. The writer, with much dramatic ability, has vividly conceived and described the condition of society of the last century. The historic grouping and keeping of the book are admirable, and are evidently the result of much careful study.

The story is that of two English girls who spent the early part of their life in a French convent near Toulon. The sketch of convent life is very graphic, indicating an intimate acquaintance with these institutions. The following is the summing up of the chronicler on this subject:—"I am sure of one thing—I would not send a child to a small-pox hospital unless I wanted it to catch the small-pox, and I would not send a girl to a convent-school if I had any objection to her taking the veil."

On returning to England zealous Roman Catholics, the girls are brought under Methodist influence, and into personal contact with Mr. Wesley. First through sympathy with the persecuted Methodists, then through the genial influence of Wesley, their prejudices melted, and they embraced the Protestant faith, and a good priest, their former confessor, becomes one of Mr. Wesley's "helpers" or preachers. The heartless frivolity of fashionable life, the political intrigues of the insurrection of 1745 in favour of the Pretender, and the power of Methodism to raise the degraded masses are well delineated. The book will be of special interest to Methodist readers, and might well find a place in our "Winnowed List" of Sunday-school libraries.