

"humorous," is often nothing more than a rehash of jokes that were old when Noah was a sailor. We see, also, that a great many specimens of this "humorous literature" depend for their success on the barbarous orthography, of which Artemus Ward, if not the originator, is at least a practiced professor. Now, Artemus is a clever fellow in his way, but the humour which he endeavours to set off in the orthography in question, bears about as much relation to real humour as grinning through a horse-collar at country fairs does to the spontaneous irradiation of countenance, to the unpremeditated puckering of the corners of the mouth, that follow upon the recital of a good joke or the witnessing of a ludicrous incident. We must now conclude by giving our readers what we consider some of the first conditions for a good laugh namely:—a clear conscience, a tight rein upon the passion for wealth, and for the pleasures of the table, and a continual observance of the axiom laid down by the wise, and pious physician, Sir Thomas Browne—"Always treat a man in this world, in such a manner that you will not be afraid to meet him in the next."

BRITISH AMERICAN LITERATURE.

Messrs. Rollo & Adam of Toronto have issued from the press "The first three Philippic Orations of Demosthenes," with notes, critical, explanatory and historical. By Samuel Woods, M.A., Head Master of the Grammar School, Kingston.

A Philadelphia publishing firm announce "The Principles of Surgery," a volume of some 500 pages; by Dr. Canniff, of Belleville, the candidate for the Registrarship of the General Council of Medical Instruction of Upper Canada, and a gentleman, well and favourably known in his profession by his contributions to the *London Lancet*, and other medical periodicals.

The Canadian public will be glad to learn, that the collected works and writings of the late Dr. Hamilton, of Scarborough, C.W., the genial "Guy Pollock" of our periodical and newspaper press of days gone by, are about being published in Scotland, to which will be prefixed a history of his life by Dr. J. R. Dickson of Glasgow.

We understand the Smithsonian Institution, through some of its officers, have made an offer to publish "The Dictionary of the Indian Languages," on which the Rev. Mr. Belcourt, of Prince Edward Island, has been engaged for the last twenty-eight years.

Messrs. Dakin & Metcalf, of Cambridge, Mass., have issued from the press, "Newfoundland and its Missionaries," pp 400. By Rev. William Wilson, of Milltown, New Brunswick.

Messrs. Hurd & Houghton, the enterprising publishers of New York, are about to produce "The Cyclopædia of Biography," edited by George Sheppard, the erst Canadian journalist.

Mr. J. B. Calkin, of the Provincial Normal School, Truro, Nova Scotia, is preparing "a General Geography" for the press. Hon. L. A. Dessaulles, of Montreal, is collecting materials for a History of Canada, since the Union. We also hear that his recent lectures on the American War, are being translated into English for a Boston publisher. Rev. John Carroll, of Guelph, intends bringing out a new historico-biographical work, to be called "Case and his Canadian Contemporaries." The miscellaneous contributions in prose and verse, together with the unpublished MSS. of the late Mr. Hickey, of Ottawa, who, previous to his premature death, wrote several clever articles for "Blackwood," are shortly to be published. It is probable that the Rev. E. H. Dewart, the author of "Selections from the Canadian Poets," may, ere long, bring out a volume of poems from his own pen. Mr. Donald Gunn, of Red River Settlement, is assisting the Smithsonian Institution in compiling a work on the zoology of North America. And to complete the list of literary announcements, we have much pleasure in informing our readers, that Mr. Daniel Carey, of Quebec, one of our "real" writers,—a true poet in every sense of the word—is engaged on a work on Canadian History designed for popular use.

A NEW MAP OF THE WHOLE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA. By J. T. LLOYD.

It is impossible to look at this map, in these days of universal geographical inquisitiveness, without a feeling of gratitude to its authors for the pleasure and information afforded us. Its chief, and we may say entirely new feature, is the large and exact scale upon which all the North and Nor-Western parts of the British Possessions in North America—hitherto almost unknown except by name—are delineated. The tracks of every Arctic exploration are accurately laid down—the boundaries of the Hudson's Bay Company's Possessions, and the course of the Telegraph line now in such a forward state between St. Petersburg in Prussia, and the United States.

Another interesting feature is the completeness of the new survey of the Western Pacific Coast.

The course of the Central Pacific Railway is also defined, and the progress that has been already made in that gigantic undertaking from its opposite approaches. Having reached the city of Placerville, in California, starting from the city of Sacramento, coming East—and the city of Toppello, in Kansas, starting from St. Louis, and going West. It embraces also the West India Islands—objects of great and new interests to us at this moment, and shows all the projected canals and railroads across the Isthmus of Panama. The agent, who is now canvassing the city, has just received a new stock.

We have this week much pleasure in welcoming to our columns a contributor, under the signature of M. J. from Halifax, N.S. Whilst we are looking for the consummation of those bonds which are to unite us in a closer political existence, we shall be happy to do all we can to make the SATURDAY READER a centre of union for the literary talent of the whole British North American provinces.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

A reprint of the March number of the Temple Bar Magazine has been called for.

Captain Gronow has left a widow and four young children utterly destitute. A subscription has been set on foot for their benefit.

From Paris we hear that M. Gustave Doré is preparing to illustrate La Fontaine's "Fables," for which purpose he spends most of his time in the Jardin des Plantes studying animals, not forgetting fourteen rats, more or less, which he keeps in an immense cage in his studio in order to observe their habits.

The Messrs. Chappell, of bond-street have made an engagement with Mr. Charles Dickens, who is to give for them thirty readings, receiving for the same the largest sum ever paid to a lecturer in England. The first reading will be "Dr. Marigold," at St. James's Hall.

The second number of the monthly Chinese newspaper, the *Flying Dragon* edited by professor Summers, has just appeared, illustrated with a map of Europe.

A most curious gathering of autograph letters addressed to the late Lady Blessington by artists, literary men, noblemen, and others, have just been sold. The names of Moore, Shelley, Landseer, Dickens, Maeready, Bulwer, Lytton, Disraeli, and many other celebrities occurred. There were also some very extraordinary relics in the shape of locks of hair of distinguished persons; amongst others, Lucretia Borgia (given by her to Peter Bembo, and presented to Lady Blessington by the Abbé Bentivoglio, keeper of the Ambrosian Library at Milan, 24th May, 1826); the Duke of Wellington, Lord Nelson, Countess Guiccioli, and Mrs. Hemans.

The London Review says—A contemporary, a few weeks since, directed very marked attention to the practice of a foreign West-end bookseller in twisting adverse criticism into good ones for advertising purposes—thus deceiving the public; and, as the journal in question stated, "converting condemnation into entirely unmerited eulogy." Another instance has just been shown to us. In a denunciatory review of a work by a new poet, the writer remarked:—"And this extraordinary production Mr. ——— modestly conceives to be

equal to Goethe!" which unsatisfactory opinion was thus served up to the public in next week's advertisement:—"Extraordinary production *** equal to Goethe."

Mr. Harrison Ainsworth has made an application to Vice Chancellor Page Wood to restrain Mr. Bentley from affixing his name to *Temple Bar*, which has recently become the latter's property. It appears that Mr. Ainsworth's demand arises out of a purchase made by him several years ago from Mr. Bentley, when it was stipulated that no other Magazine would be started or published by the latter, or, at least, have his name on the cover. In the face of this arrangement, the Vice-Chancellor granted an injunction; and now, we believe, although *Temple Bar* will continue to be published at 8 New Burlington-street, it will be without the name of Mr. Bentley as publisher or proprietor.

The Bankruptcy Court is becoming a fashionable resort. Among its latest noble patrons, and in some way connected with literature, is the Georgia Augusta Frederica Henrietta Cavendish Bentinck, who got her discharge a few weeks since. The possessors of Mr. Elliott's (Grace Dalrymple) diary make like to annotate the entry of the marriage of her daughter (by George the Fourth), Miss Seymour, to Lord Charles Bentinck, by the remark that the only child of that marriage, with royal blood in her veins, is the lady to whom the Commissioners of Bankruptcy lately granted a discharge.

A Mr. J. W. Morris has "arranged" a useful little work called "The Student's Chart of English Literature" in which he exhibits, by means of coloured inks, on a lined surface, a considerable number of important facts, in such a way as to impress them firmly on the memory. He begins with Mandeville and ends with Taylor; and by a simple arrangement of lines exhibits the place of each particular author in the series. It is a very ingenious plan, well conceived and carried out.

BY THE RIVER.

In sunny meadows grass and grain
Are waving tall and green;
Small orchards dot the upland plain,
With fields of maize between.
Past rustic door, and silver beach,
When wind-tost branches shiver,
Long shadows from the woodland reach,
And tremble down the river.

The linnet loves on summer days
The broad stream's leafy side,
Where deep within cool tiny bays
The weary cattle bide.
The beauty of the peaceful shore,
Fails not to praise the Giver,
But she forgot that happy lore,
Who dwelt beside the river.

Unlike a rural maid her mien,
With oval eyes and brown,
Such locks as grace an orient queen,
And cheek of crimson down;
And calm her heart as earliest star
Whose rays at sunset quiver,
When lovers came from towns afar,
To seek her by the river.

In evil time they came to woo,
And evil fate befel;
She took the false, and left the true,
Who loved her long and well.
But her from tongue of scorn and blame
Sad hearts shall ne'er deliver,
For a stain is on fair Ellie's name,
And she lies beside the river.

Halifax, N.S.

M. J.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

THE LOST TALES OF MILETUS. By Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton. Dawson Bros., Montreal.
TEXT BOOK OF CHEMISTRY. By H. Draper. New and enlarged edition. Dawson Bros., Montreal.
WALTER GORING. A Story. By Annie Thomas, author of "Dennis Donne," "On Guard," &c. Dawson Bros., Montreal.