

LITERARY NOTES.

Mr. John Morley's 'Life of Cobden,' it is stated, is almost ready for publication.

Mr. Justin McCarthy, it seems, has been trying his hand on 'A History of the Four Georges.' The work is announced in England for early publication. It will be issued in four volumes.

An autobiography of Sir Archibald Alison, with reminiscences of Scott, Jeffrey, Cockburn, Wilson, Lockhart, Moore, Campbell, Southey, and others, is about to issue from the press of the Scotch publishing house, Messrs. Blackwood & Sons.

Mr. Darwin's new book, on 'The Formation of Vegetable Mould through the action of Worms, with Observations on their Habits,' has just been published by Mr. John Murray, of London. It will be reprinted at once by the Messrs. Appleton, of New York.

Mr. J. C. Dent, of Toronto, is proceeding rapidly with the publication of his national history, 'Canada, during the last Forty years.' Parts 1 to 8 are now ready. The book maintains its interest and asserts its claim to a high place in our national literature. The publisher is Mr. George Virtue.

An elaborate two-guinea 'Birthday Book,' with fifteen full-page water-colour drawings, reproduced in the highest style of chromo-lithography is to issue next month from what may be termed the Court publishing house of Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., of London. The book is the product of H. R. H. the Princess Beatrice.

The erst war-correspondent, Dr. W. H. Russell, is about to issue a record of his ramble through part of the United States, Canada, and the Far West, in the spring and summer of this year, under the title of 'Hesperothen, Notes from the Western World.' Mr W. Fraser Rae's graphic letters to the *Times*, entitled 'Newfoundland to Manitoba,' have just appeared and will be found interesting reading.

Another of the 'Afternoon Tea' books, with original designs in colour printing, is about to issue for the approaching holiday trade. It is entitled 'The May Blossom; or, the Princess and her People.' A delightful and artistic contribution to the same class of holiday literature appears in 'The Cat's Cradle,' which, we premise, will be a great favourite this season. The latter is published by Mr. R. Worthington, New York, and by Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto.

The autumn announcements for the English book trade, issued by Messrs. Macmillan, embrace the following notable works: 'The English in Britain,' by Dr. J. R. Green; 'A Literary History of the Nineteenth Century,' by Mrs. Oliphant; 'Science and Culture and other Essays,' by Prof. Huxley; biographies of 'De Quincey,' by Prof. Masson, and 'Charles Lamb' by Rev. A. Ainger, in the 'English Men of Letters Series'; a volume of 'Lay Sermons' by Prof. Blackie; and a new work entitled 'Natural Religion,' by the author of 'Ecce Homo.'

A new era of cheap publishing, applied to important contemporary works, has just been inaugurated in England by the publication, by Messrs. Longman & Co., of a sixpenny edition, with illustrations, of Mrs. Brassey's 'Voyage of the *Sunbeam*,' and by an issue in five volumes, at the same price, of Sir Theodore Martin's 'Life of the Prince Consort.' Had this 'new departure' been taken earlier, the American book market might not have been lost to the British author, and the question of International Copyright would have found an easy solution.

At last Canadian literature and Canadian publishing enterprise are attracting the attention of the outside world. The *Times*, in a recent review of Mr. J. G. Bourinot's monograph on the 'Intellectual Development of the Canadian People,' makes the remark that 'altogether culture in Canada is in a hopeful condition.' Canadians should be thankful for this appreciative and spontaneous