

system to which we belong, as having all the marks of origination from one Mind."

The whole of this argument is worked out with great care, and will amply reward the close and somewhat painful attention which ordinary readers will need to bestow upon it in order to grasp the whole force and results of the author's contention.

In the second volume (Book II., chaps. 2 and 3) Dr. Martineau addresses himself to what has commonly been called the moral argument, heading his chapters with the titles, "God as Perfection," and "Unity of God as Cause, and God as Perfection." The headings of the sections of the second chapters will sufficiently indicate the steps of his argument, which has a considerable resemblance to that which Kant regarded as the only valid proof of a personal God. He sets forth: 1. Right, as universally valid; 2. Right, by social vote; 3. Right, as the Divine in the human; 4. Implied attributes of God, as apprehended by conscience.

There is very little, indeed, in this work which we cannot accept as a valuable contribution towards the great subject to which it is devoted. Even when we cannot feel satisfied that certain points are made good, we yet feel that the writer has stimulated thought, and that others who come after him may take up the question where he has left it, and advance the treatment of the subject towards greater completeness.

On one point only we would distinctly demur to Dr. Martineau's conclusion. In speaking of the foreknowledge of God, he declares that it is inapplicable to future events which are contingent. We are unable to accept this judgment; in the first place, because we believe in the prophecies of future contingent events recorded in the Scripture, and, secondly, because it is a subject on which, as finite creatures, we are utterly incapable of forming an opinion. We have been accustomed to think of the Eternal God as One to whom all past, present, and future was as a perpetual Now; and, although we may be unable to verify or justify such a view, we are equally unable to imagine one that would more commend itself to reason. We need hardly add that the religion of Dr. Martineau is in no way dependent upon what we call supernatural revelation.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

OILING THE SEA.

AN improved method of distributing oil on the waters has been patented in Germany. It consists of a rocket, to which is attached a cylinder filled with oil. It is said that the rocket can be fired with accuracy from the ship, and that when it explodes the oil is scattered just where it is wanted. Several interesting experiments have recently been made between Bremen and New York. In one the rocket was fired to a distance of 1,500 feet and less distances. By the explosion of five rockets at a distance of from 1,300 to 1,500 feet from the ship, a space of 1,500 to 2,000 square feet of water was covered with oil, and the waves were at once smoothed. The rocket was fired nine hundred feet against a gale. The importance of the invention to deep-water sailors consists in the certainty of explosion of the rocket at a sufficient distance to leave the vessel in calm water during a gale. The invention is said to have been purchased by the North German Lloyd.—*Iron*.

A GREAT TERRESTRIAL GLOBE.

ACCORDING to *La Nature*, an immense terrestrial globe, constructed on the scale of one-millionth, will be shown at the Paris Exhibition of 1889. A place will be set apart for it at the centre of the Champ de Mars. The globe will measure nearly thirteen metres in diameter, and will give some idea of real dimensions, since the conception of the meaning of a million is not beyond the powers of the human mind. Visitors to the Exhibition will see for the first time on this globe the place really occupied by certain known spaces, such as those of great towns. Paris, for instance, will barely cover a square centimetre. The globe will turn on its axis, and thus represent the movement of rotation of the earth. The scheme was originated by MM. T. Villard and C. Cotard, and *La Nature* says that it has been placed under the patronage of several eminent French men of science.

A STORY FROM THE FRANCO-GERMAN WAR.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Times* sends the following: "Some interesting information with reference to a very curious incident which occurred during the Franco-German war has just come to hand. In 1870 three French visitors established themselves at an hotel in a well-known German town, where they remained several months. Being then in want of funds, and unable to pay their bill, they were compelled to leave a package which they had brought from France in the hands of the landlord in satisfaction of his claim. This, on examination, was found to contain a sumptuously designed State chair. The name "Napoleon" was embroidered upon the silk covering of the back and seat, and on the occupant pressing his hands upon the finely-carved gilt arms a musical air was played by an instrument concealed within the upholstery. The care of this remarkable piece of furniture seemed the only occupation of the strangers, who are supposed to have been awaiting the advance of the French army, and in the event of its proving victorious would doubtless have conveyed the chair to Berlin, where, it is presumed, it was to have been used as a throne by the Emperor Napoleon. The chair remains in the possession of the widow of the Frenchmen's host."

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE BLACK ARROW. By Robert Louis Stevenson. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Paper, 50 cents.

A new novel by the author of *Kidnapped* and *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, is sure to be welcomed by the public, and almost equally sure to be indulgently criticized by the press. This one, though undeniably good, is not in his best style, and scarcely gives a suggestion of the author of the books we have just named. The tale is of the time of Henry VI., when the Wars of the Roses were raging. The scene is principally in Tunstall Forest, in which John Amend-all, a sort of later Robin Hood, has taken up his abode with a band of outlaws, to avenge his own wrongs and the wrongs of his friends. The weapon of his vengeance was a black arrow sped from the bow with deadly accuracy. The book is full of adventures, escapes, captures, assassinations, battles, romance, and all the exciting elements which make up a story one must finish when once it has been commenced.

MELANGES: TROIS CONFÉRENCES. I. De Montréal à Victoria. II. Le Journal: Son Origine et Son Histoire. III. Anita: Souvenirs d'un contre-guerrilla. Par H. Beaugrand. Montréal: Des Presses de *La Patrie*, 1888.

The three papers which M. Beaugrand has collected in this beautifully printed volume are well worth perusal and preservation. The first was read a year ago last March before the Montreal Chamber of Commerce. It tells what the author saw, and the impressions he formed in a three weeks' trip over the Canadian Pacific from Montreal to Victoria. This paper is embellished with illustrations. The second paper, which was read before the *Club National* of Montreal in 1885, contains a great deal of useful and interesting information, showing the development of the newspaper from the *Acta Diurna* of the Romans to the great dailies of modern times. The last paper, read before the Montcalm Society of Fall River in 1874, is a bright, dramatic narrative of some romantic adventures while campaigning in Mexico during the French occupation.

CARDINAL WOLSEY. By Mandell Creighton. Twelve English Statesmen Series. London and New York: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Williams and Company.

Mr. Creighton gives Wolsey a high place, not only as a patriotic Englishman, but as a far-seeing statesman, and a patient, tireless, and skilful diplomatist. "If we consider his actual achievements," he says, "we are bound to admit that he was probably the greatest political genius whom England has ever produced; for at a great crisis of European history he impressed England with a sense of her own importance, and secured for her a leading position in European affairs, which since his days has seemed her natural right. . . . He was greater than his achievements. . . . The age in which he lived was not one of lofty aspirations or noble aims; but it was one of large designs and restless energy. No designs were cast in so large a mould as were those of Wolsey; no statesman showed such skill as he did in weaving patiently the web of diplomatic intrigue. His resources were small, and he husbanded them with care. He had a master who only dimly understood his objects, and whose personal whims and caprices had always to be conciliated. He was ill supplied with agents. His schemes often failed in detail; but he was always ready to gather together the broken threads and resume his work without repining. In a time of universal restlessness and excitement Wolsey was the most plodding, the most laborious, and the most versatile of those who laboured at statecraft."

THE SEMINARY METHOD OF ORIGINAL STUDY IN THE HISTORICAL SCIENCES. Illustrated from Church History. By Frank Hugh Foster, Ph. D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

This book, of some hundred and twenty pages, serves as a useful guide to the Seminary System, as applied to the study of History or other subjects. The Seminary method is, of course, merely an outgrowth of the familiar *Historische Gesellschaft*, introduced in German Universities by Ranke, the historian. Dr. Foster fairly outlines the advantages of a system which encourages original research by assigning to each member, or group of members, of a University class, a particular division of a historical period, for individual and exhaustive treatment; the result of these labours being read and discussed before the whole class, and forming in their totality a complete and to some extent original history of the period selected.

At Harvard, the Seminary method is applied to the advanced study of the Semitic Languages, Latin, English, Psychology and Metaphysics, Political Economy, History, Roman Law, Mathematics, and the Natural Sciences. The outlines of some of these courses, as undertaken in various Universities, are given by Dr. Foster in his Appendix. This is a distinct addition to the value of the book, as the author has drawn most of his examples in the body of the work from Church History, of which subject he is Professor in the Theological Seminary at Oberlin. The author might with advantage have extended his very sensible and encouraging remarks on the method of the study of languages. To make room for this addition some trivial and rather puerile advice on the taking of notes, and the use of small, loose sheets of foolscap for the purpose, might well have been omitted.

WILLIAM THE THIRD. By H. D. Trail. Twelve English Statesmen Series. London and New York: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

There is no sovereign of England whose memory is kept so fresh in the hearts of Englishmen the world over as William Prince of Orange. His character, his achievements, the incidents of his life are well known. They are set out clearly and without partiality in Mr. Trail's book. The author does not paint the Protestant champion with the brilliant colours of Macaulay, but he does full justice to his good sense, his political sagacity, his self-restraint and his undaunted courage. After examining what he calls "the Whig legend" and showing how little William cared for political parties and parliamentary institution—"he looked upon the English Parliament as a clumsy and irritating instrument, which he was nevertheless bound to work with and make the best of."—Mr. Trail acknowledges William's ample claims to renown both as a European statesman and a benefactor to England. "If William had not all the virtues that belong to the patriot and the philosopher, he had all that go to the making of the hero. Even Macaulay who has over-painted both his kingship and his statesmanship, has not laid on the colours of his heroism with too bold a hand. Sagacious as he was in council, dexterous as he was in the management of men, keen as was his outlook on European politics, and resourceful as he was in meeting its exigencies, it is possible to contend that his Whig eulogist has credited him with far more than the keenness and sagacity, the dexterity and resource, which he possessed. But such eulogy does not, for it could not, materially exaggerate his great features as a man—his patience of delay and disappointment, his fortitude under disaster