

LITERARY NOTES.

The English *Publisher's Circular* gives the statistics of the books published in England during 1869, showing that 4,569 new books and new editions were issued. Of that number nearly a fourth, or 1,047 works, come under the classification of theology; about 500 each are devoted to education, fiction, juvenile, and miscellaneous; nearly 300 each to politics, arts and sciences, travel and geographical research, poetry, history and biography, and annuals and serials; while about 150 each are devoted to law and medicine.

The very interesting collection of photographs, illustrating the *Ordnance Survey of Sinai*, published by authority of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, have appeared. The series is comprised in three large volumes, and is published in half morocco at seventy-five dollars. The volumes are sold separately, as are also each photograph, which can be had mounted or unmounted.

The Messrs. Blackwood have commenced the issue in monthly volumes of a series of the *Ancient Classics for English Readers*. The idea that the study of the "Classics" is an imperative essential to a liberal education seems dying out, and this series, which is designed to tell general readers all that is important to know about the classics and the literature of Ancient Greece and Rome, with a summary of the stories told, and the facts recorded by the great writers of old, it is presumed will meet with large favour.

The *Autobiography of Flora Macdonald*, the preserver of Prince Charles Edward Stuart, edited by her grand-daughter, has reached a second edition, though published at a high price—\$8 for two volumes. The work is interesting in its narration of historic event and family tradition.

Mrs. Oliphant's *Historical Sketches of the Reign of George the Second*, which appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine*, have been reprinted in a cheap paper form. They treat of the Poet, the Philosopher, the Novelist, the Sceptic, the Painter, the Reformer, the Man of the World, and the Woman of Fashion of the Period, and are very lively and readable essays.

No more attractive and gossipy work has appeared of late than the *Diary, Reminiscences and Correspondence of Henry Crabbe Robinson*. We commend it highly for its literary chit-chat, its social anecdote and quaint talk, and for its hearty record of an eminent and interested literary patron.

The French *savants* lately have had a fit of popularizing science. Innumerable luxurious books have been issued from the French press, treating science in a half exact, half poetic way. A few of the more important have been translated, and they present their learned subjects in a most captivating and attractive dress, fully illustrated and simply told. We enumerate one or two, and commend them, not only as superb gift books, but as works which will highly instruct and interest—*The Universe, or the Infinitely Great and the Infinitely Little; Earth and Sea*, by Louis Figuier; *The Insect World and the Vegetable World*, by the same; *The Bird*, by Jules Michelet; *The Desert World and The Mysteries of the Ocean*, by Arthur Mangin, and *The World of the Sea*, by Alfred Fredol.

Still another coming. The announcement is made of a new work, to be issued immediately by the Rev. Dr. Cumming, entitled *The Fall of Babylon, as Foreshadowed in History and in Prophecy*.

MR. PETER BAYNE who was for some years sub-editor of "*The Witness*" (Edinburgh), has a memoir of Hugh Miller nearly ready. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY of Dr. KRUMMACHER, the author of "*Elijah the Tishbite*," etc., has just been published by the Messrs. Clark, of Edinburgh. It has a preface by Prof. Cairns.

THE HON. C. LINDSAY has just written a work in defence of his joining the Church of Rome, entitled "*The Evidence for the Papacy*."

THE REV. DR. BINNIE of Stirling has just had published, by the Messrs. Nelson, his introduction to the study of the Book of Psalms, which is said to be an important contribution to Scottish theological Literature.

The venerable Chas. Hodge of Princeton, we are glad to learn, is about to publish his *Lectures on Theology*. His son's (Dr. A. A. Hodge) recent works on "*The Atonement*" and "*The Confession of Faith*," are meeting with an extensive sale.

THE concluding volumes, 5 and 6, of Mr. John Hill Burton's *History of Scotland*, from Agricola's invasion to the Revolution of 1688, are in the press of Messrs. Blackwood & Sons.

The second part of Mr. Hepworth Dixon's *Her Majesty's Tower*, has reached a fourth edition. The work throws much light on the National history—the second part taking up the story of the Gunpowder Plot, which is most graphically narrated.