

LITERARY AND PERSONAL GOSSIP.

T. WHITTAKER AND COMPANY will publish directly Canon Cheyne's Bampton Lectures for 1889, on the "Historical Origin and religious Ideas of the Psalter."

D. APPLETON AND COMPANY have in press "Justice," being Part II. of Herbert Spencer's "Principles of Morality," begun some years ago with "The Data of Ethics." They also announce a new edition of Mr. Spencer's "Essays—Scientific, Political and Speculative," in three volumes.

THE Post Laureate has been in London staying as the guest of one of his friends. He has been "doing" the picture galleries and other sights with all his old enthusiasm, and has delighted those who have met him by the vigour, both mental and physical, which he still happily displays.

THE translation of the third division of M. Renan's "History of the People of Israel" (Chapman) dates from the time of Hezekiah to the return from Babylon. The volume shows how the work of the monotheistic prophets acquired such solidity that the terrible blow dealt to Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar failed to destroy it.

THE third edition of "Lapsus Calami" contains numerous omissions and additions; indeed, nearly half the old book is omitted, and more than half of the present issue is new. "J. K. S." in his modesty, says he will be satisfied "if everyone who bought an original 'Lapsus Calami' buys a revised 'Lapsus Calami,' and if everyone who did not buy the old one buys the new one."

THE recently completed fifth edition of Dr. M. Foster's well-known Text Book of Physiology will be followed at once by the appearance of a sixth and cheaper edition of the work in parts, carefully revised throughout by the author. The addition of much new matter to this edition of the book will permit of taking out a copyright on the American edition, which is to be published by Macmillan and Company, New York.

So much of the economic controversy of the day involves an acquaintance with Ricardo's work that a new edition of his "Principles of Political Economy and Taxation," forming part of "Bohn's Economic Library" (Scribners), is very welcome, especially when, as in the volume before us, an introductory essay is furnished and notes and appendices are added. This matter is supplied by Mr. E. C. K. Gonner, lecturer at University College, Liverpool.

THE announcement by Messrs. Macmillan and Company of "Saints and Sinners," the first of four dramas by Henry Arthur Jones, will be of interest to those who, in spite of criticism, retain a belief in the literary future of English dramatic art. Mr. Jones, already known in the United States as the author of "Judah" and the "Middleman," takes advantage of the provisions of the new copyright law which make it possible for him to publish his plays in book form without loss of stage rights.

MESSRS. LONGMAN will publish very shortly the Bishop of Montreal's autobiography; a translation by Mr. Cooke of Professor Ville's "Le Propriétaire devant sa Ferme Délaissée;" Professor Max Müller's "Gifford Lectures" for 1891; and "About Ceylon and Borneo," a book of travel by Mr. Clutterbuck, author of "The Skipper in Arctic Seas." Messrs. Longman will also publish in the autumn a collection of essays, addresses and reviews by Professor Tyndall, to be called "Fragments of Science."

THE work entitled "The Last Great Naval War," which Messrs. Cassell and Company have just published, has already created no small sensation in the limited circle which up to the present is cognizant of its production. The work not only narrates the events which might happen in the next great naval conflict, but assigns positions of command to living personages who would probably be prominent actors on the occasion. The author, whose name is strictly secret, is understood to be a man of the very highest authority in naval and military matters.

OF the two translations of Aristotle's "Constitution of Athens," lately published, it is no forestalling of criticism to say what Macaulay's schoolboy could tell at a glance, that Mr. Poste's (Macmillan) is the more literary, and Mr. Kenyon's (Bell) the more literal. There is considerable also in the attitude of the two translators to the text. Mr. Kenyon is positive that the reappearance of this treatise is the most striking event in the history of classical literature for perhaps the last three centuries; Mr. Poste, more cautious, is not yet quite sure as to its substantive character and interest.

MACMILLAN AND COMPANY announce for publication during the autumn a series of copyright novels by English and American authors. Among the volumes already arranged for in the series may be mentioned F. Marion Crawford's "The Witch of Prague," "Tim," a new story by a new writer, Mr. Shorthouse's new novel "Blanche Lady Falaise," a new collection of Mr. Kipling's stories under the title of "Life's Handicap," and a new novel by the now famous author of "Mademoiselle Ixe," the title of which is "The Exorcism of Cecilia de Noël." "David," a new novel by Mrs. Humphry Ward, the author of "Robert Elsmere," will also be published in the series in November.

MR. JOHN C. NIMMO has in the press a new translation of the "Lettres Persanes," the first published work of Montesquieu. M. Sorel, in his memoir of Montesquieu, remarks that on the death of Louis XIV., sanctimonious in his old age, France, as one man, changed from Tartuffe

into Don Juan; and it is this mocking, enquiring, unspeakably debauched libertine, this France of the Regency, that Montesquieu depicts in the "Persian Letters." Although not a work of such historical importance as his "Esprit des Lois," from a literary point of view it is probably his best. Its composition extended over a number of years; and it was not laboured at, but written as the mood seized him. It was the first unmistakable literary sign of the French Revolution, and it was the most popular book of its time. More than a century has elapsed since it was last translated into English. The version which Mr. Nimmo has in the press will be issued in a limited edition to subscribers.—*The Speaker*.

How little the best English literature seems to be read! In all the columns which have been written about, and *à propos* of, Kaiser Wilhelm (says the *St. James' Gazette*), has anybody yet quoted the beautiful allusion to him thirty years ago in the works of a great master? "Around the bride sailed a bevy of young creatures so fair, white, and graceful that I thought of those fairy-tale beauties who are sometimes princesses and sometimes white swans. The Royal Princesses and the Royal Knights of the Garter swept by in prodigious robes and trains of purple velvet . . . and by the side of the Princess Royal trotted such a little wee solemn Highlander! He is the young heir and chief of the famous clan of Brandenburg. His eyrie is among the eagles, and I pray no harm may befall the dear little chieftain." Thus wrote Thackeray in his Roundabout Paper "On Alexandrines," just after the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in March 1863.

It is a grievous pity *Punch* is so poorly edited. One would imagine that Mr. Burnand had it in his power to surround himself with capable humorists, but somehow he has never succeeded in doing so. Mr. Anstey may be reckoned as the sole literary man of note upon the staff; and though he occasionally contributes some excellent fun in his "Voces Populi"—as, for example, the tale of the embarrassed curate and the magic lantern, of a week or two back—yet, as a rule, he withholds his best. The travesties of Ibsen's plays were poor, redeemed in part by some telling illustrations by Mr. Bernard Partridge, the latest recruit to the artistic staff of the journal. It is rare indeed that a writer who bounds suddenly into notice redeems his promise. Dickens did so, and others have done so; but assuredly Mr. Anstey has not. "Vice Versa" remains his best tale despite the clever struggle of "The Pariah" to be better; and the recently-issued "Tourmaline's Time-Cheques" best proves that we are to look for nothing further from him.—*Literary Opinion*.

"PREACHERS of the Age" is the title of an important new venture which Messrs. Sampson Low, Marston and Company have in contemplation. They have made arrangements for the publication of a group of volumes by distinguished living representatives of the Church of England and the chief branches of Nonconformity. The volumes will be uniform in size, appearance and price, and each will contain some twelve or fourteen sermons or addresses specially selected by their authors for this series. The books will contain five photogravure portraits—in many cases new ones—brief biographical sketches, and a bibliography of published writings. Amongst those who have definitely undertaken to contribute volumes are: The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rev. Alexander MacLaren, D.D., Manchester, Canon Knox-Little, the Rev. Henry R. Reynolds, D.D., the Rev. J. Oswald Dykes, D.D., the Rev. A. M. Fairbairn, of Mansfield College, Oxford, the Rev. Charles A. Berry, the Bishop of Ripon, and other well-known representative men.

WE were glad to see the appreciative article in the *Boston Transcript* on Mr. Lampman from which we have taken the following extract: "The quality of Mr. Lampman's verse is fairly well represented by his sonnet in the August *Scribner*, entitled 'In absence.' The lines there—

So let her rest, so let her sink to sleep,
As little clouds that breast the sunset steep
Merge and melt out into the golden light—

suggest the fine imagery that pervades his poetry, and also the melodiousness that is inherent in it. There is something Burns-like in the way that his thoughts seem to flow of their own motion into rhythm and rhyme, though perhaps on the whole his poetry reminds one of Tom Moore more than it does of Burns. But comparisons are out of place in any estimate of a real poet's work. Mr. Lampman is certainly original and distinctly modern: though he does not follow the most modern methods of versification. No one but a thorough modern could have written that short poem, 'Heat,' which is, perhaps, the best known in the United States of Mr. Lampman's verses."

OF Marie Bashkirtseff a writer in *Public Opinion* says: "It is curiously interesting to contrast, in the 'Lettres de Marie Bashkirtseff,' the portrait that young lady draws of herself with that which M. Coppée gives in his introduction to the volume. In one of those endless letters with which she favoured M. de Maupassant (and in one of which she calls M. de Goncourt 'un vieux Japonais en perruque Louis XV.')

Marie says, in answer to one of Maupassant's letters: 'Thin? Oh, no, I am not thin, but neither am I stout. Worldly, sentimental, romantic? In what way do you mean? It seems to me that there is room for all this in one individual; all depends on the moment, the occasion, the circumstances. I am an opportunist, and, above all, I am subject to moral contagion: thus it happens that poetry fails me, just as it does you. My perfume? Vir-

tue. *Vulgo*, none at all. Yes, gourmande, or rather difficult to please. My ears are small, not regular, but pretty; my eyes are gray. Yes; I am a musician, but not as good a pianiste as any schoolmistress ought to be.' And here is M. Coppée's portrait: 'I have only seen her once, and for only an hour. . . . I shall never forget it. At twenty-three she appeared much younger. Rather small, but of harmonious proportions, with a round, exquisitely modelled face, fair hair, and dark eyes that seemed burning with thought, and devoured by the desire to see all and to know all; a mouth that was at the same time firm, good, and dreamy, with trembling nostrils like a wild horse of the Ukraine, Mdle. M. Bashkirtseff impressed one from the first with the rare sensation that with sweetness she combined strength of will; with grace, energy. Everything in this adorable child showed the superior spirit.'

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Carlyle, Thomas. Socialism and Unsocialism. Vols. I. and II. 25c. each. New York: The Humboldt Publishing Company.
Croker, Mrs. B. M. Interference. Toronto: William Bryce.
Heinzen, Karl. The Rights of Women. Boston: Benj. R. Tucker.
Lanin, E. B. Russian Traits and Terrors. 35c. Boston: Benj. R. Tucker.
Moore, Geo. Impressions and Opinions. \$1.25. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

READINGS FROM CURRENT LITERATURE.

RITUALISM.

THE Salvation Army feels the need of ritual—banners, bands, red coats, etc.—and although it is a ritual of a queer or vulgar character, yet it implies the love of colour and warmth in religion. Why should the Church be compelled to abstain from all appeal to the senses? Once more, the State has her gorgeous ritual, and we do not grudge it her, but why should not the Church be allowed her ritual also? "Fair play is a jewel." There was no lack of ritualism at the entry into London, or at the presentation at the Guildhall, or at the Review. The State carriages of the English Sovereign are grand enough—as grand almost as anything of the kind in Europe; the Guards are a pageant in themselves; the full uniforms of the high officers of the British Army are gay enough, even when compared with those of the first military nation of Europe. If Her Majesty and the Royal Family and the British Government go in so much for State ritualism, is there not a something to be said for the Church doing the same? "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery," but we do not want to imitate. Our ritual is older far than that of the oldest monarchy in Europe. We only say that ritualism in both Church and State, well conducted and well ordered, is desirable, and that it suits the order of nature, and accords to the principles of the Divine government of the world.—*Church Review*.

SHALL NEWSPAPER WRITERS SIGN THEIR ARTICLES?

THE question that has been discussed more or less for many years, whether it would be better for writers of the daily press, and particularly writers of what are called "editorials" to sign their names to what they write, has a certain actuality in that the practice of signing is spreading steadily in other than editorial departments. To the question, would signatures be better? a good many excellent judges say "Yes." I am inclined to say "No." Anyone who is at all acquainted with the papers in England, and the few in this country, in which writers sign their names, will hardly say that they are free from scandal, or "sensationalism," or rash assertion, or the gratification of personal grudges, or corruption. They are by no means so free from these as papers not a writer for which is known outside of his own calling. In either case the degree of effective responsibility is, I fear, largely fixed by the conscience and judgment of the editor and publisher, the law for enforcing it being of little use, and, I am inclined to think, incapable of being made very useful.—*From "The Point of View," in Scribner*.

DESIGN FOR A VERY FAST STEAMER.

MESSRS. James and George Thomson, of Glasgow, have modelled a new steamer guaranteed to steam at the rate of 23½ knots an hour, which will enable the vessel to cross the Atlantic within five days. The vessel is to be about 630 feet long, by 70 feet beam. The lines are very fine. The new vessel will have twin screws 22 or 23 feet in diameter, well supported. There are four funnels, and about 200 feet of the length of the ship is left for the boilers and bunkers. The engines are to be triple compound, with four cylinders working four cranks. They will probably indicate 33,000 indicated horse power. Accommodation is provided for 700 first and 300 second-class passengers and about 400 emigrants, and all the arrangements worked out in the plans are far ahead, as far as regards luxury and comfort, of anything yet produced. The plating of the ship is carried up to the promenade deck, which runs from end to end, and a width of about 80 feet on each side is left for walking. On the promenade deck are twelve machine guns, and in other respects the vessel is made suitable for an armed cruiser.—*Scientific American*.