

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

CHRISTIANITY AND SOME OF ITS EVIDENCES. By the Hon. Oliver Mowat. Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1890.

If our excellent Premier does not actually increase his reputation by this excellent pamphlet, he will certainly sustain it. It is among those things which show that public men, even the busiest of them, need not be wholly engrossed in politics. This lecture is admirable in argument, in tone, and in expression. We believe that the arguments here presented in support of our Lord's divine claims, and more especially in proof of His resurrection from the dead, are adequate and unanswerable. Moreover, they are expressed in lucid and nervous English, whilst the whole tone and temper of the writer are befitting the Christian advocate. Mr. Mowat writes like a man who not only fully believes all that he says, and is fully convinced of the truth of the religion of Christ; but who does not merely hold its truths as a belief, but who clings to them as a strength and a defence. We can have no hesitation in recommending so able and excellent a composition for wide circulation and careful perusal.

SOUVENIRS OF THE SECOND EMPIRE; or, the Last Days of the Court of Napoleon. By the Comte de Maugny. London: Dean and Son.

This book will serve as a useful refresher of the memory to those who are conversant with the inner life of the Imperial Court at the time treated by the author. M. de Maugny may be justified in giving accurate information as to the people holding the various positions about the Emperor and Empress from time to time, but we doubt if these minutiae are calculated to enhance the value of what ought to be a gossipy volume. To those who did not know them, his book will be of service in giving a glimpse of the life of the Imperial coterie, and as being a faithful picture of the Paris of the time. Unfortunately, that gay and careless Paris is not the Paris of to-day; unfortunately that is for those who visit it for pleasure. There is one story of the Empress that shows her in a most unpleasant light. There is a couplet, sung by the Princess de Metternich, in a play given at Compiègne, that would scarcely be tolerated in a music hall. So much for the inwardness of the Imperial Court. For ourselves, M. de Maugny has reminded us that we are growing old. It was in 1869 that M. Cherbulier published "Ladislas Bolski" and that M. Detaille earned his first honours at the Salon.

MUSICAL GROUNDWORK. Frederick J. Crowest. London and New York: Frederick Warne and Company.

This is a capital manual of musical form and history. The book, as a whole, though intended for beginners, would be more useful to those who have already been grounded in harmony, instrumentation, musical form, history of music, etc.; for, though well and clearly written, the remarks on these subjects are too brief and concise to be of as much benefit to the former as to the latter. The first chapter on "Music of the Ancients" is interesting and well written; a great deal is told in few words, and it will be most useful in giving a general idea of the music of antiquity. The author's chromatic scale is founded on the major, instead of the minor, or the minor and the major scales combined. The chronological and biographical table at the end of the volume will be fully appreciated by those who have gone through the difficulty and tribulation of endeavouring to fix the multitudinous names and dates of musical history in their memories, and equally so by those who have yet to learn this branch of musical study. There are one or two remarks that would give rather wrong ideas to the beginner—as for instance, that the ancients had no notation, vocal or instrumental; but we see in the preface that Mr. Crowest is himself aware that there may be some inaccuracies, but, taking it all in all, no one can fail to see what a well written, interesting and helpful book this will prove to be.

ONE OF CLEOPATRA'S NIGHTS; and Other Romances. By Théophile Gautier; faithfully translated by Laffadio Hearn. New York: Worthington and Company.

In his introductory address, on taking the chair of Modern History at Oxford, Mr. Freeman said, that in the course of his lectures he would have the courage to have a shy—the slang is ours—even at the great Mommsen. The enthusiastic tone of Mr. Hearn's introduction to the volume now under our notice tempts us to have a shy even at the great Gautier. We have always thought that Gautier was rather overestimated as a painter of scenery or the general surroundings of the action of his stories. For instance, on the seventh page of this translation he says: "After this rapid glance at the aspect of the landscape." Now the rapid glance is spread over six pages, and when we reached the end of the description we had forgotten the beginning. In truth, Gautier did not possess the power to make a scene live in these lines; such a power as Tennyson displays in "Break, break, break." He is too often a photographer rather than a landscape painter. But, enough of this. The translation is generally good, but Mr. Hearn was not fortunate in selecting as a specimen of Gautier's style his picture of the blue sea "unrolling its long volutes of foam." This particular bit of English is abominable, and, thank heaven, it is not Gautier. Of the stories selected for translation, "One of Cleopatra's Nights" is too long drawn out. "Clarimonde," "Omphale," "The

Mummy's Foot" and "Arria Marcella" are charming. They are all sketches of women, beautiful women, and therein Gautier's strength certainly lay. The last story, "King Candaules," had better been left to Herodotus; the modern writer has not improved upon his telling of it by adding to its length. Something surely might have been left to our imagination. To those who know not Gautier, we would say, by all means buy Mr. Hearn's book.

MODERN GHOSTS. With introduction by George William Curtis. New York: Harper and Brothers.

All lovers of the mysterious will warmly welcome this collection of weird, enthralling tales. Two, "The Horla" and "On the River," by Guy de Maupassant, were translated by Jonathan Sturges. "Siesta," by Alexander L. Kielard; translated from the German version of M. Von Borch by Charles Flint McClumpha. "The Tall Woman," from the Spanish of Pedro Antonio Alarcon; translated by Rollo Ogden. "Maese Pérez, the Organist," from the Spanish of Gustave Adolfo Bequer; translated by Rollo Ogden. "Fioraccio," from the Italian of Giovanni Mogherini-Graziani; translated by Mary A. Craig. "The Silent Woman," from the German of Leopold Kompert; translated by Charles Flint McClumpha. If the Society for Psychical Research were to ask the question quoted in the masterly introduction by Mr. Curtis: "Have you ever, when completely awake, had a vivid impression of being touched by a living being or an inanimate object, or hearing a voice, which impression, so far as you could discover, was not due to any external physical cause?" We think the answer of most of those who had read "Modern Ghosts" would be in the affirmative, for, coming fresh from a study of the book, our minds are filled by a subtle awe, so strong are the fascinations of these tales of the invisible and supernatural world. In the story of "The Horla," that awful being whose unseen presence stirs up in his hapless victim the demon of self-destruction; and whilst listening to the celestial harmonies drawn from the old organ by Maese Pérez, or by his disembodied spirit; and wondering following the history of the Silent Woman's voiceless penance, we feel strongly conscious of the weird spell of a great unknown world. During our eager perusal of the occurrences so vividly depicted, a gradual enthrallment of our faculties by these mystic creations seems brought about, and we are impelled to agree with Mr. Curtis, that, "These little tales, like instant photographs, bring us near to the life of other lands, and apprise us that, in an unexpected sense, we are all of one blood, a blood which is chilled by an influence that we cannot comprehend, and at a contact of which we are conscious by an apprehension beyond that of the senses."

TEN YEARS OF UPPER CANADA IN PEACE AND WAR, 1805-15. Being the Ridout Letters, with Annotations by Matilda Edgar. Also an Appendix of the Captivity among the Shawanese Indians, in 1788, of Mr. Thos. Ridout, afterwards Surveyor-General of Upper Canada; also a Vocabulary, compiled by him, of the Shawanese Language. Toronto: William Briggs.

In 1787, Mr. Thomas Ridout undertook a business journey from Annapolis in Maryland to the wild frontier regions of Western Kentucky. A long, toilsome ride across the Alleghany Mountains and past the scene of Braddock's disastrous defeat brought him to Fort Pitt, now Pittsburg. There he remained until the ice broke up in March, when he started with some others in a batteau, down the Ohio, his immediate destination being the Falls of Ohio, now Louisville. Between the confluence of the Ohio with the Scioto and the place where now stands the city of Cincinnati, the batteau was captured by a band of Indians, and Mr. Ridout and his companions became prisoners. Though the Indian, a chief of some importance, into whose hands he fell, treated him kindly, Mr. Ridout had to endure severe hardships and face grave perils; but after many dangers and a wearisome journey of many hundred miles through unbroken forests, he was ultimately brought to Detroit, then a British post, where he was ransomed. Proceeding to Newark (Niagara) and thence to Montreal, he was so favourably impressed with the country that he determined to make Canada his future home. The narrative of his captivity, printed as an appendix to this work, was written by himself in 1811, and will be found by no means the least interesting part of the book.

Mr. Ridout filled many official positions, first at Newark, and subsequently at Toronto, becoming Surveyor-General of Canada in 1810. In 1805 he sent his eldest son, George, and in 1806 his second son, Thomas Gibbs, to Mr. (afterwards Bishop) Strachan's Cornwall School, that celebrated Academy from which so many distinguished Canadians graduated. In 1809, Mr. Ridout visited England, and his sons, who in the meantime had left school, took charge of his office in his absence. In 1811, Thomas G. Ridout went to England, where he remained until the outbreak of the war, in which he served until its close, chiefly in the Commissariat department, rising to the rank of Deputy-Assistant Commissary-General.

The letters in this volume are chiefly those written by Thomas G. Ridout to his father and other members of his family from school, from York while his father was in England, from England and from the front during the war. The letters from England are most numerous and lengthy. They contain many happy bits of description, and display great keenness of observation, soundness of judgment and aptness of expression for a youth not yet

twenty, and fresh from the rude unfinished surroundings of early colonial life. These letters were doubtless written with some care, while those from the front betray the haste of the busy man amid the press of thronging events.

The title-page chosen for this volume is somewhat misleading. Mrs. Edgar's work has been much more than that of a mere annotator or editor, as the title-page indicates. "The Ridout Letters" certainly make up the bulk of the first eight chapters, and Mrs. Edgar merely connects them or explains them where explanation is necessary; but the rest of the book—sixteen chapters—is a very complete history of the war of 1812-14, in which the several campaigns are sketched with great spirit and with singular clearness. Mrs. Edgar tells the story of the marches, battles, sieges, the reverses and victories of that unequal but glorious and triumphant conflict as one inspired by the spirit of Canadian patriotism, but with the strictest regard to historical accuracy. It is a story that cannot be told too often, and one with which every Canadian should be thoroughly familiar; "not," as Mrs. Edgar says, "in order to stir up old animosities, nor to revive a spirit of antagonism towards our kin beyond the border, but to inspire every Canadian with a feeling of pride in his country, and of grateful admiration for those who saved the land in its hour of need."

The volume contains portraits of Thomas Ridout and Thomas G. Ridout and two maps, one showing the frontier, especially the Niagara frontier, during the war, and the other indicating the route of Mr. Thomas Ridout's journey, both before and after his capture by the Indians.

We have received the Second Supplement to Catalogue of the Toronto Public Library. This Supplement is prepared with the same care and accuracy which have made its predecessors such serviceable adjuncts to the Library. The arrangement is simple and helpful, and the printing is clear and sharp.

THE *Overland Monthly* for January is, as the purple letters stamped at its head indicate, a veritable Holiday Number. To lovers of the short story with a Christmas flavour, arranged with a due regard to variety and interspersed with poems, we commend the January *Overland*. Probably this magazine gives its readers a better idea of the somewhat unconventional freedom of western life—in its best literary form than any other magazine with which we are acquainted.

*Belford's Magazine* for January has in "Sarz," a story of the stage, by Celia Logan, a novel that is worth the reading. Frederick T. Jones contributes a well considered article on "Interest and the Usury Laws." That most attractive subject, "The Women of Louisiana," is delicately treated by Charles Gayarré. It cannot be said that United States writers neglect United States genius. Sidney Lanier is again considered, shortly, but lavishly by G. D. Black. Then follow in quick succession: "The Lake Region of Wisconsin"; "George D. Prentice"; "Laying A Man Trap: A Story"; "How long will our Navy be Effective?" "Physical Culture," Part I.; "Omar Kayyam"; "A Quartette of Sparrows." Then "Popular Science," and the usual departments close a well sustained number. The poems of this number are meritorious.

*Lippincott's Magazine* for January opens with Rudyard Kipling's "Light that Failed." It is the story of an artist's life and love, and is really the first novel with which this clever and prolific young author has favoured the public. In "The New Spanish Inquisition" Julian Hawthorne writes an enthusiastic eulogy of two Spanish dancers who are winning plaudits in New York. "Christmas Gifts" is an old plantation story, charmingly written, by Ruth M. E. Stuart. In "I Remember" the well-known comic actor, Francis Wilson, tells how he has played his part in life. Major Moses P. Handy, in an elaborate and carefully prepared article, describes "The State of Washington." Lewis M. Haupt, C.E., writes thoughtfully on "The Rood Movement." "In an Old Garden" is a pleasing poem by E. E. Rexford. And "Perversity" is a perverse little octet by Charlotte Fiske Bates.

THE *Andover Review* for January opens with an incisive review of Dr. Martineau's criticism of the Gospels in his "Seat of Authority in Religion," by Prof. Hincks. In stating his conception of religion, Dr. Martineau attempts to dissipate the claim of Christ to spiritual authority by attacking the historical character of the Gospel records. It is here that Prof. Hincks joins issue with him, and in a clear and convincing manner re-states the argument for the authenticity of the portraiture of Our Lord presented by the Evangelists. The second article is on "Disestablishment in Scotland from the American point of view." It is timely in view of recent political events in England; it does not seem unlikely that "Disestablishment in Scotland" will replace "Home Rule" in the Gladstonian programme. Mr. Henry S. Pancoast has a clever and amusing paper upon "Some Paraphrasers of Milton." Mr. Wendell P. Garrison has a concluding paper upon "The Preludes of Harper's Ferry." In "Ethics and Economics" Prof. J. H. Hyslop argues powerfully for the right of ethics to control economic action. The editorial notes are on "The Public Schools and Religious Education," "Relief of the Submerged Tenth," and "Do the Country Churches want an Educated Ministry?"

In *Harper's Magazine*, for January, Charles Dudley Warner describes "The Outlook in Southern California." Many illustrations of scenery and interesting objects in the fruit-growing regions of California accompany the paper.