

OUR TABLE.

LIVES OF THE QUEENS OF ENGLAND—BY AGNES STRICKLAND—VOL. IV.

ANOTHER volume of these pleasingly written biographies has just appeared. It is a worthy successor to the previous volumes, being full of interest to every reader who takes a pleasure in the elucidation of the truths of history. The fate of the hapless dames who sat in high places in these "days of the olden time," as portrayed in these volumes, was not such as to awaken envy. It might have been said of them, and said truly, that "unhappy lies the head that wears a crown," for with scarcely a single exception, the early Queens of England were the favourites and handmaids of misery, often drinking her bitter cup to its lowest dregs. Miss Strickland has given a faithful portraiture of their woes, extenuating nothing which exercised an influence upon their lives; and the fruits of her labours are an enviable popularity and a growing fame. To adopt the words of an English reviewer, "Miss Strickland has the merit of having created for herself a new department in historical literature, and in the execution of her self-imposed task, she has displayed great industry and research. Her narratives are written in an unpretending style, and replete with novelty to all who have not examined history at its fountain head. Upon the whole, there have been few modern compilations of history that have been so well received by the public, or that have so well deserved the popularity achieved."

THE TWO ADMIRALS—A TALE OF THE SEA—BY J. FENIMORE COOPER.

THE true element of the author of the "Water Witch" and the "Prairie," is the glorious sea, or the scarcely less trackless wilderness, among the children of the forest. He is lost amid the murky atmosphere of towns, and the "cramped and cabined" laws which bind the circles of fashionable life together. Among the latter he never ventures, and returns to his own haunts scatheless and untainted. But wherever nature is the presiding deity, he is at ease, and his genius soars on a free and untrammelled wing. We welcome him, then, on his return to his familiar home, with a pleasure which will be shared by thousands. It is true, that, to our thinking, the new novel lacks some portion of the freshness, and, perhaps, a little of the spirit, which gave to his first essays so peculiar a charm; but it is still brimming with interest, and of exciting incident, which, told in the graphic and powerful language of the author of "the Spy," must impart to those who read it some portion of the fire with which it burns. The "Two Admirals" will do much to retrieve the fame which its author lost by his "Home as Found," in which was betrayed a captious and narrow spirit, unworthy of one whose aim should be to fill a large space in the eyes of his countrymen and of the English-speaking world. The crowded condition of our pages leaves us little room to enter into its merits, or to quote from it, in illustration of our commendation; but, we will not fail at an early day, to lay some of the more easily detached portions of it before our readers.

OUR MESS—JACK HINTON, THE GUARDSMAN—BY HARRY LORREQUER.

THIS story, which appears in the *Dublin University Magazine*, (of which its author has recently been elevated to the editorial chair,) improves in interest with each successive number. So far, however, it will not eclipse the fame of his former works,—we scarcely think that it will rival them. The characters bear a strong family likeness to those in Charles O'Malley, but the incidents and adventures in which they figure are widely dissimilar. It would be premature to pronounce judgment upon it, nevertheless, and we will hold the subject open for future reference.

THE ENCYCLOPÉDIE CANADIENNE—EDITED BY M. BIBAUD.

WE have to acknowledge the receipt of a periodical, published in the French language, under the above title, which promises to be an able ally in the field of literature, which, hitherto, we have cultivated almost alone. It is under the editorial management of a gentleman who is