

fervid; but that is better than being dull, and there is not a dull page in the book. It has a *fac simile* autograph letter of authorization.

*Voyages of a Merchant Navigator of the Days that are Past.* Compiled from the journals and letters of the late RICHARD J. CLEVELAND. By H. W. S. CLEVELAND. New York: Harper Brothers. Price \$1.25.

This plain unvarnished tale has all the interest of romance. Indeed it abounds in those truths which are stranger than fiction. Captain Cleveland was one of those famous skip-pers who made old Salem renowned throughout the world. He went to sea at nineteen and traded with great success in all parts of the world. He made and lost large fortunes and achieved feats of navigation deemed by old salts impossibilities. During the stormy days of the embargo and of the war of 1812-14 he had many stirring adventures by sea and land. Like many another ancient mariner he found himself after a long life of toil a comparatively poor man. But he had developed a noble, manly Christian character, and went to an honoured grave. At a time when such conduct was a rare exception, he was a total abstainer from liquor and tobacco, neither of which he touched during his long life of eighty-seven years.

*Two Thousand Miles through the Heart of Mexico.* By J. HENDRICKSON MCCARTY, D.D. Pp. 288. New York: Phillips & Hunt. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.00.

This is a pleasant gossiping account, rather discursive at times, of a journey to and through the republic of Mexico. The writer travelled extensively throughout the country, and gives a graphic account of his varied adventures. The happy-go-lucky *dolce far niente* of the country is

very exasperating to a go-ahead Yankee or Canadian. The author gives a not very flattering account of the Romish system which holds in its "grip of steel" the greater part of the people and resources of the land, but there are not lacking signs of civil and religious progress.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

With its November number the *Magazine of Art* ends the tenth year of its valuable existence and closes the volume for 1886. The frontispiece is a reproduction in brown of Sir Joshua's famous portrait of the Hon. Miss Ann Bingham. Canada has been said to have no literature, but no one can deny, from the evidence in this magazine, her claims to a National School of Painting. "Art in Canada" occupies several pages of illustrated letter-press.

Professor Charles A. Young contributes to the November *Popular Science Monthly* an instructive paper on "Recent Advances in Solar Astronomy." In it he summarizes in a very readable way the results obtained and the discoveries made during the last five years by the principal investigators who have been studying the physics of the sun. This magazine is the best we know for keeping the general reader abreast of the progress of scientific thought and discovery. It is published by D. Appleton & Co., New York; price \$5 a year.

The *New Princeton Review* with the November number completes its second volume. It has a valuable analytical index and an important condensed record of contemporary public events, American and foreign, and of current topics in literature, science and art. This Review has a particularly strong *corps* of contributors. The leading article in the present number is by Dr. McCosh on Realism, its Place in the various Philosophies.