

WALTER GORING. A Story. By Annie Thomas, author of "Dennis Donne," "Our Guard," &c. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

"And yet believe me, good as well as ill,
Woman's at best a contradiction still."

These lines are a key to the author's purpose in writing this book; and of course with this couplet on the title page, she has not attempted to claim as perfect either of the female actors in the story. The three principal characters are carefully studied creations, representatives of widely distinct classes, each exhibiting in their career the contradictory aspects of character we meet with in real life.

A few retrospective sentences at the opening of the story tell the tale of Walter Goring's past life. As brother with sister, he had been brought up with his cousin Horatia Leane. When arrived at years of discretion the two had fallen in love with each other, but the passion had not prospered, for eventually the lady "had taken fright at matrimony on nothing a year, and had released her cousin lover with a great deal of affected magnanimity and real affection." Shortly after, she married a Mr. Walsh, who was a merchant by profession, but an artist by taste. As Mrs. Walsh she becomes one of the foremost and most interesting characters in the book.

Walter Goring is a true representative of the Bohemian, poor, talented, idle, yet capable of sustained exertion; the author of two or three successful novels, and, in the general acceptance of the word, "a good fellow." He is an ever welcome guest at the Walsh's villa, at Roehampton, for the rupture of his engagement with his cousin had led to no reproaches or revilings on his part, and he still bowed at her shrine with a pure, if at times—as we conceive—a too outspoken devotion. And "the grand looking woman, fair and large, but not tall—with a wealth of golden hair—a pair of haughty blue eyes—a good head and sound heart," still retained a never-flagging interest in the boy who had been brought up with her—the lover whom she had rejected, and the man whose good she most earnestly desired.

Early in the story, through the death of an uncle, Walter Goring comes into the possession of a large estate, coupled, however, with certain conditions which we need not specify. He also finds himself appointed guardian to Daisy, the daughter of his late uncle, but over whose birth the purity of wedded love smiled not. This not over-scrupulous young lady—gifted with great dramatic power and eager for admiration, exercises no inconsiderable influence over Mr. Walter Goring's career.

In addition to the characters indicated above there are two others who will be favourites with the reader. Frank St. John, a lieutenant in the navy, and his sister, Charlotte St. John, a truthful, high-spirited, clever woman, little understood in her sister's home—ill-matched as a wife—falling occasionally into errors of judgment and conduct, yet striving to be dutiful and true whilst rebelling in her heart against the selfishness and blindness which surround her.

We will not mar the pleasure our readers may feel in the perusal of this novel by giving further details of the plot, but refer those interested to the book itself. The story is well told, and the incidents are sufficiently interesting, but in her eagerness to carry out her plan we think the author has occasionally permitted her characters to act in a manner which would be deemed remarkably inconsistent in real life.

TEXT BOOK ON CHEMISTRY. By H. Draper. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

This work, intended for the use of schools and colleges, embodies the valuable parts of a work on the same subject published by the author's father in 1846, and which rapidly passed through over forty editions. In preparing the present issue a free use has been made of all the recent authorities both in the English and other languages; and in order to bring the subject fully up to the present time one hundred pages and a

considerable number of new illustrations have been added. The private student of the mysteries of this interesting science will find Mr. Draper's text book valuable, as the various subjects are treated in a practical way and all needless technicalities are avoided. At the bottom of each page a number of questions will be found which are intended to assist pointing out the more essential facts.

"THE CHURCH OF OLD ENGLAND."

The first number of a new monthly has just been issued from the press; it is entitled, "The Church of Old England," and proposes to devote its space to "the interests of the Church in Canada, the advancement of education and temperance." We know and respect the editor and proprietor, Mr. John Poynter McMillin, and for his own sake we wish he had issued three-fourths of the matter which appears in the first number of his magazine in the form of a prospectus, and not as a part of the periodical. Mr. McMillin is a gentleman of education and talent, who has held many honourable positions in the Southern States, both previous to the war and during the days of the Confederacy. He was judge advocate of a military court at the time of the collapse. In the front pages of the magazine he prints a number of very flattering testimonials from such men as Generals Price, Harris, Pemberton, &c., all of which speak of him in such high terms that we are reminded of those expressive words of the poet—

"A man more pure and bold and just
Was never born into the world."

Judge McMillin is a stranger in Canada, but it does not follow that he is a stranger in the church, and if he were well supported (editorially) by the clergy, as he expects, he would have a very fair chance of success. There can be little doubt that such a magazine as the "Church of Old England" ought to be, would be of great usefulness to the church, and at the low price (\$1 a year) which it is proposed to issue it, should be well supported. But in all friendliness to Mr. McMillin, and with much respect to the clergy, we would urge him not to place too much reliance on their support. It is a flattering unctious we should not like to lay to our own soul. If the "Church of Old England" has to depend for matter upon the unpaid services of the 400 accomplished divines about whom its editor speaks,—God help its readers. The clergy of the Church in Canada, however able and willing to write for a magazine, cannot do it; their labours are too arduous and too ill-paid to admit of writing for amusement. There are some who will write, some few wranglers to whom a theological discussion is a more pleasing duty than the salvation of souls. But the writings of such men are worthless, if not something worse. If the publisher of "The Church of Old England" wants to make his paper successful he must secure and pay for the services of one accomplished divine, who will do for it what Dr. Macleod has done for "Good Words," give it tone and character. The number before us is very neatly printed (by M. Longmore & Co.) in Antique Roman type, same style as the "Atlantic Monthly," but a couple of sizes larger. It is done up in a coloured cover, and altogether presents a very respectable appearance.

W. B. C.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

STONEWALL JACKSON. A Military Biography, with Portrait and Maps. By John Esten Cooke, formerly of Stuart's Staff. New York: Appleton & Co. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

THE TOILERS OF THE SEA. A Novel. By Victor Hugo. New York: Harper and Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

THE ADVENTURES OF REUBEN DAVIDGER. By James Greenwood, author of "Wild Sports of the World," &c. New York: Harper & Bros. Montreal: Dawson Bros.

MAGAZINES FOR APRIL.

"LONDON SOCIETY," "Cornhill," "The English-woman's Domestic Magazine." Montreal: Dawson Bros.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

A UNIFORM library edition of Miss Braddon's novels will be shortly issued, with the author's latest revision.

MR. WESTLAND MARSTON'S new comedy, "The Favourite of Fortune," has been produced by Mr. Sothorn at Glasgow, with complete success.

THE author of the "Misérables pour Rire" announces a "Parodie en Vers Comiques" of Victor Hugo's "Travailleurs de la Mer."

MRS. BROOKE publishes the last words of her late husband, Mr. G. V. Brooke, who was one of the passengers in the London. They were found in a bottle on the Brighton beach, and have been forwarded to Mrs. Brooke by Mr. C. A. Elliott, of Trinity College, Cambridge. The note is written in pencil on a torn envelope, and reads as follows; "11th of January, on board the London. We are just going down. No chance of safety. Please give this to Avonia Jones, Surrey Theatre.—GUSTAVUS VAUGHAN BROOKE."

MR. W. C. BENNETT proposes to collect into a single work "A Ballad History for the English People," to be composed, in the first place, of such metrical pieces as already exist in illustration of our national deeds; in the second place, of such pieces as he may either write himself, or induce other persons to write, in fulfilment of the general design. Many events in our history—most of them legendary, we fear—are already celebrated in such verses as "Chevy Chase" and the Robin Hood ballads. Mr. Bennett invites the poets of England and America to assist him in completing the series, so as to present a full history of the English race in metre.

"It is confidently reported," says the *Glasgow Morning Journal*, "that a libel will be prosecuted against the Rev. Dr. Macleod at the next meeting of the Presbytery of Glasgow," no doubt on account of the Doctor's views on the Sunday question.

THE Mitre Tavern, Mitre Court, Fleet Street, London, in the cozy corner of the coffee-room of which stood Dr. Johnson's easy chair, over which was placed a cast of Nolleken's bust of the moralist, has just been pulled down. It was here that "Johnson of that ilk," as he called himself, in allusion to his residence in Johnson's Court opposite, during his Scottish tour, planned that tour, as he sat at supper, enjoying his port wine, "of which," says Boswell, "he sometimes drank a bottle;" here, too, which his biographer calls their "old rendezvous," Johnson, Goldsmith, and Boswell frequently met at nine o'clock to partake of that social meal. On one occasion, Ogilvie was there expatiating in Johnson's company on "the great many noble prospects of Scotland." "True, Sir," replied the Doctor, "I believe you have a great many. Norway, too, has noble, wild prospects, and Lapland is remarkable for prodigious, noble, wild prospects; but, Sir, let me tell you, the noblest prospect which a Scotchman ever sees, is the high road that leads him to England."

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.—The office of the peace was established in England by Edward III. at the beginning of his reign. At that time the new monarch fearing that opposition might be offered to his accession to the crown, sent writs to every sheriff in England, commanding that peace should be maintained throughout his bailiwick on pain of severe penalties. A few weeks after the date of these writs, it was ordained in parliament that, for the better maintaining and keeping of the peace, in every county good men and lawful, which were no maintainers of evil or barrators in the county, should be assigned to keep the peace.

PARIS EXHIBITION OF 1867.—The number of intending exhibitors, exclusive of fine arts, is 2,280; in 1855 the number was 1,541. The space demanded exceeds 305,000 square feet, exclusive of space demanded in the park. The space for British exhibitors is 93,000 square feet, or considerably less than one-third of the space asked for. In 1855 the net space filled was 65,000 square feet.