

OUR TABLE.

THE ABBOTSFORD EDITION OF THE WAVERLEY NOVELS.

We have already had occasion to notice the People's Edition of the Waverley Novels. Since then we have had the privilege of examining four of the parts of the "Abbotsford Edition," and, highly as we were pleased with the elegant sample accompanying the prospectus, we were hardly prepared to expect a work of such surpassing beauty as that now before us. The parts to which we refer embrace the larger portion of the first of the author's novels—that from which he took the name by which he has been so long known to the reading world.

Of course, of a book so universally read as this has been it would be superfluous now to speak. It is only of the outward seeming, and of the illustrations, that any thing can be said. The four parts to which we refer have no less than ninety-one engravings—on steel and wood—the latter being equal to the very best specimens which, in that branch of art, have hitherto been produced—the former it seems impossible to excel. We may mention a few of the subjects which struck us as being particularly beautiful. Among these are, in the first part, a view of "the Highland Hills," and the vignette of "the Hunting Party." In the second part, the greatest attractions in our eyes are the portrait of Colonel Gardiner, "Davie Gallatley," and "Baron Bradwardine." In the third we especially noted a fine view of "Holyrood House," "the Highland Banquet," and a very striking sketch, entitled "the Stag Hunt." In the fourth a life-like portrait of Charles Edward is given, with several other elegant engravings.

It appears, from a notice by the proprietors, that in a very important point this edition will be much superior to any hitherto published. We extract a paragraph in explanation:—

"For this edition, the real localities of the author's scenes have been explored; the real portraits of his personages have been copied; and his surviving friends and personal admirers, as well as many public bodies and institutions, have literally placed whatever their collections afforded at the disposal of the eminent artists engaged by the proprietors."

We observe that among the painters and engravers almost every name of eminence in Britain appears, giving assurance that, numerous as the illustrations are, they will be of the highest order. All these attractions, added to the actual value of the works, should secure for it and for its publishers a very extensive patronage. The Canadian Publishers are Messrs. Armour & Ramsay, gentlemen who, by their enterprise, have contributed much towards the formation of a

literary character in Canada. To the cover of the *Garland* we refer for the terms upon which the edition is published.

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT—EDITED BY BOZ.

AGAIN we have the author of the "Pickwick Papers" in his own proper sphere, furnishing to the world a monthly dish of unmixed enjoyment. The first number only of the new work has yet appeared, and, of course, it would be altogether premature to express any opinion upon its merits. It is probable, however, the author having had some time to digest his ideas, that the new work will be of a better order than some of his later productions, which rather injured than increased the reputation he had won from the publication of the Pickwick Papers, *Oliver Twist*, and one or two others of his extraordinary productions. The hero of the piece is an old invalid, whose temper has been soured by contact with some of the meaner spirits with which the world is crowded. He is a real or pretended misanthrope, despising and hating all his race, or endeavouring to persuade himself that he does so, though there are symptoms apparent that the whole of the milk of human kindness in his breast has not been turned to vinegar. He has adopted, as a companion and associate—he will not admit of friendship—an orphan girl about the age of "sweet seventeen," with whom he has entered into a somewhat original compact, namely that neither of the twain shall ever use towards the other any thing approximating to a term of "affectionate cajolery." He gives her a handsome annual allowance, to terminate, however, with his death, so that she may have no object in desiring to see him released from the miseries of his disconsolate lot. Besides these, there are many original characters, not the least striking of whom is a species of "Oily Gammon," named "Pecksniff"—a kind of practical commentary on Talleyrand's celebrated "maxim," that language was given to mankind to enable them to conceal their thoughts. This worthy gentleman is the honoured sire of two exemplary maiden daughters, whose names, "Mercy" and "Charity," are in themselves an indication of the peculiar bent of the old gentleman's genius. He has apparently been a disciple of Mr. Squeers, the Yorkshire schoolmaster, whose fame he is, to all appearance, intended to obscure. In the language of the author—"his genius lay in ensuring parents and guardians, and pocketing premiums."

With these materials an interesting book may with certainty be counted on, and one in which the original "Boz" will shine out anew. We are safe in predicting for it a popularity inferior to