

Book Notices.

Houghton, Muffin & Co., the publishers of the work, say in their February announcement:

"It is quite within bounds to say that the *Life of Edgar Allan Poe*, which Mr. George E. Woodberry has written for the series of *American Men of Letters*, is the first complete, authentic, and adequate account of Poe's career and literary achievements. Mr. Woodberry has had access to many sources of information not open to previous biographers of Poe, and to many important letters from Poe, not included in any life of him hitherto published. He has consequently been able to pierce the mystery which has invested certain portions of Poe's career, so that the story of his life is now clear and connected throughout. Mr. Woodberry's admirable critical faculty has been of great service, and has enabled him to produce a book which is not only an excellent biography of Poe, but a very valuable addition to the series to which it belongs."

THE ALGONQUIN LEGENDS OF NEW ENGLAND, published some time ago by the same firm, has engaged the attention of all who fancy legendary lore.

Mr. Leland is a fascinating writer; in his Gipsy tales inimitable.

MAP GEOGRAPHY for Junior Pupils, by George Moir, Principal St. Mary's Public Schools, 7th Edition.

British History notes for Junior Pupils, 6th Edition, by the same.

Canadian History notes for Junior Pupils, 2nd Edition, by the same.

Examination Papers in Arithmetic, by J. A. McNaughton and M. H. Mann, teachers. H. Fred Sharp, Publisher, St. Mary's.

These little books are not by any means new to the trade, and the number of editions of the two first named speaks more in their favour than any praise we could bestow.

The Map Geography is particularly adapted for the purpose intended with excellent maps prepared by the well-known Edinburgh firm, W. & A. K. Johnson.

Mr. Sharp is a publisher who practises the principle of doing as one would be done by in giving a liberal discount to the trade.

No starvation discount on these school books.

THE Methodist Book and Publishing Co., W. Briggs, Toronto, has in press and will shortly issue "*Among the Laurentians*," a camping story, by Sidney C. Kendall; "*A Manual of Methodism*," being outlines of its History, Doctrines and Discipline, by Rev. Geo. O. Huistis; "*Through the Dark Continent*," a condensed account of Stanley's travels, by W. H. Withrow, D.D., F.R.S.C.

MACMILLAN & Co. will publish an account of the trip of the princes Albert Victor and George in the *Bachante* in 1879-82.

PHIZ.—Two small editions,—one of 250 copies, quarto size, and one of 200, small folio, on India paper

—containing 130 illustrations by the late Hablot Knight Browne ("Phiz") have been issued by Chapman & Hall. Sold only to subscribers. The *London Times* says:—"Both these fine volumes have been prepared with the utmost care. The type and paper and the arrangement of paragraphs are alike excellent; the 130 illustrations have been chosen with judgment, to show all the varieties of 'Phiz's' work; and the letterpress calls only for praise. Mr. D. C. Thomson has done well to reprint copious passages from Dickens and other authors, in order to refresh the reader's memory of the scenes illustrated. A neglect of this precaution often mars one's enjoyment of books like this, for it cannot be said that the pictures always speak for themselves, and even when they do so, the reperusal of a once familiar passage, bringing back forgotten names and incidents but dimly remembered, suddenly animates all the characters in a sketch. In places where reprints would have been superfluous, Mr. Thomson has given pithy explanations of his own; and his judicious criticisms, while guiding the inexperienced reader to an appreciation of what is best in the artist's drawings, will commend themselves to connoisseurs by their occasional severity. 'Phiz' was unequal in his performances. A painstaking artist, with abundant imagination, he laboured hard with his hand, but he was often indolent of mind, and he seldom tried to enrich his imagination by serious studies from life. His pictures were reinpressions of people and things seen with a passing glance, but never closely examined. He drew without models, entirely from memory, and this lent a sameness not only to his figures but to the accessories. When he illustrated Dickens's '*Tale of Two Cities*' he had to reproduce scenes from French life, but he did it poorly. His Frenchmen are Englishmen gesticulating in foreign attire. As a specimen of this want of research we may take the amusing picture (p. 180) '*Getting up the Steam*,' from one of Frank Smedley's novels. The railway porter, the guard, and the soldier are comical figures, but they are not French, and even in the little details of uniform, which might so easily have been ascertained, the portrayal is incorrect. It is to be regretted that Hablot Browne did not accept the tempting invitation which Charles Lever once gave him to go on a driving tour through Switzerland and the Tyrol—Lever 'supplying the team'—for 'Phiz's' talent would have come back freshened from such an excursion. The '*Tale of Two Cities*' was the last work which 'Phiz' illustrated for Dickens, and the novelist's employment of Mr. Marcus Stone as illustrator for his next book, '*Our Mutual Friend*,' seems to have caused deep mortification to the artist whose genius had helped so much to popularize Dickens's earlier books. From that time, as Mr. Thomson says, 'Phiz' declined visibly in the public estimation, and unfortunately he managed soon after this to irritate Anthony Trollope, by misrepresenting one of the scenes in '*Can You Forgive Her?*' Trollope showed his displeasure by requesting another artist to finish the illustrations of his novel."

The daily production of envelopes in the United Kingdom is said to be 700,000,000. In the United States the daily production very nearly quadruples that quantity. They make 2,500,000,000.