

NEW EDITION OF STANDARD WORK.

CHAMBERS'S CYCLOPAEDIA OF ENGLISH LITERATURE. New edition by David Patrick, LL.D. 3 vols. Cloth, £1 11s. 6d. Half morocco, £2 5s. A history, critical and biographical, of authors in the English tongue from the earliest times to the present time, with specimens of their writings.

It is a trifle over 60 years since Dr. Robert Chambers began the preparation of the first edition of this splendid work, his aim being to present a comprehensive survey of English literature by a series of extracts from the more memorable authors set in a biographical and critical history of the literature itself. Since then the increasing supply of new material for selection and the continued activity of accepted authors, and all that is implied in the unabated continuity of the literary life of the nation, have rendered necessary a much more thoroughgoing revision and reconstruction. A completely new edition therefore is many times welcome, carrying out, as it does, the original plan even more perfectly and including the biographies and sketches of the works of the most prominent present-day writers.

Although originally published in parts, the new edition of Chambers's Cyclopaedia has just been issued in three volumes (cloth) at 10s. 6d. per volume. Volumes one and two contain much valuable matter relating to the earlier period of Anglo-Saxon literature, and volume three opens up a newer and perhaps to us a more interesting period, the 19th century. In turning its pages we naturally look with expectation to the section devoted to English literature in Canada, and we experience a slight feeling of disappointment in finding that Canada's literary effort is dealt with in some four pages. Here we find brief synopses of the works of William Kingsford, the historian; Goldwin Smith, Dr. W. H. Drummond, Sir John Bourne, Chas. G. D. Roberts, Sir Gilbert Parker, Bliss Carman, Ralph Connor, and one or two others. Over 100 pages are given to American literature as represented by 118 writers. Among those of more recent date are Richard Harding Davis, Kate Douglas Wiggin and Mary Johnston.

In a work of this kind, which is essentially a history, it would be out of place, even if it were possible, to attempt to deal with contemporary writers as freely and as fully as with those of the past, and the limits of the volume debar it from allotting to the more numerous writers of the present day, whose best work, it may be, is not yet given to the world, the same amount of illustrative quotations as has been conceded to the older writers. But, even so, it has been found possible to furnish by no means incomplete surveys of the works of existing writers, such as Rudyard Kipling, Conan Doyle, Anthony Hope, J. M. Barrie, Chas. Alger, non Swinburne and other men of the moment.

The editor and publishers have been fortunate in being able to secure the services of distinguished men whose names will be found appended to their articles and who have contributed the large body of critical work to which this volume owes its main interest. In this connection we might mention that Lord Tennyson personally revised the article on his father and chose the selections to be presented in illustration of it. Mr. Barrett Browning co-operated with the writer of the article on his father and mother (extending over 18 pp.) and Mr. Theodore Watts Dunton gave much valuable advice in regard to other articles than the three important ones he himself contributed. Mr. John Morley revised the article on John Stuart Mill, and President Schurman of Cornell University and Mr. W. P. Garrison of the New York Nation have given advice in regard to some of the important American articles.

To sum up and represent the scope of this cyclopaedia, we would say that volume one covers the period from before the Norman Conquest till after the Puritan movement and the Restoration, with notes on and specimens of the works of over 370 men of letters. Volume two covers the 18th century, and with 487 biographies and extracts furnishes a complete survey of the literature of Great Britain down to the beginning of the 19th century. In volume three 680 writers of poetry and prose receive due recognition, bringing the chronicles of English literature down to the latest possible moment. This cyclopaedia is indeed a treasure house of literature, a mine of information, which will be greatly sought by students and book lovers and those who hold dear the traditions of the English tongue. Specimen pages and press notices in pamphlet form have been issued by the publishers and are now ready for distribution to the trade.

GROWTH OF TABARD INN LIBRARY.

PROGRESSIVE Canadian booksellers and stationers are realizing the advantages resulting from the installation of a Tabard Inn Library. The library is not only a strong feature for attracting trade, but is highly profitable in itself. It is sold outright at fair prices and every possible aid is given booksellers to make it a decided success. An attractive bookcase is furnished free with every order, and a large revolving case is given with a two-hundred book library.

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