

groups, at the end of the work. The educational value of this pictorial Cyclopædia is manifestly great, and as a bit of enterprise on the part of the publishers the appended matter calls for hearty commendation. To the teacher, the preliminary chapters of the work on the principles of pronunciation, orthography, etc., and Dr. Hadley's brief sketch of the English language, will be found exceedingly valuable. The other departments, appended to previous editions and here reproduced, will also be found rich in material for reference. These are the pronouncing vocabularies of Scripture names, Greek and Latin proper names, Modern Geographical names, and common Christian names. The pages devoted to Quotations, Phrases, Proverbs, and Colloquial expressions, from the Classical and Modern languages, with their English equivalents, will be found no less interesting. Of course, in critically inspecting this great thesaurus of the language, we now and again stumble over defects which are inseparable from all enterprises of the kind. These are not so much slips of the editor's pen, as instances where a prolonged incubation of thought directed upon them would lead to their removal or improvement. But where the whole is so eminently satisfactory, one must not look for the product of omniscience. One serious drawback to the work we must specially refer to, and that is the annoying incompleteness of Mr. Wheeler's compilation of "Noted Names of Fiction." In so thoroughly overhauling the work in the present edition, it is a matter of surprise that this department was not submitted to extension and revision, more particularly as the material for its useful enlargement is now so readily

to hand in the publications of Brewer's "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable," the same author's later work, "The Readers' Hand Book," and the recent "Dictionary of English Literature," by W. Davenport Adams. Of course, to incorporate in Mr. Wheeler's very incomplete vocabulary the new matter which the works above-mentioned furnish would make a serious addition to this department; but, instead of maintaining it in its present defective form, we would rather see it expunged from the Dictionary, and issued in extended shape as a separate publication. This hint the present writer, more than a year ago, gave the publishers, and suggested material for a supplementary volume to the present "Webster's Unabridged," which we hope to see Messrs. Merriam yet take up and work out. An extended collection of Synonyms and Antonyms, beyond what is given in the present Dictionary, and an exhaustive compilation of Poetical Quotations, would, with an enlarged Dictionary of Fictitious Personages, make a worthy complement to the book before us. But one must be a churl to find serious fault with any shortcomings in the present work. The volume does not profess to be a cyclopædia of all knowledge; and what it purports to be it really is; there should not be a school in the Dominion where access cannot readily and constantly be had to it. No teacher, and we might add, no reader of the language, can afford to be without it, for it is a monumental work, and the labour and money which some two score years have swallowed up in its preparation and successive improvements, is, not to speak of the eminently satisfactory results achieved, a noble tribute to our grand old mother-tongue.

---