

wisdom ; others are anecdotes more or less historical. The book is sumptuously illustrated with forty-one fine full-page photos. It is of unique and fascinating interest.

"Florence in the Poetry of the Brownings." Being a Selection of the Poems of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning. Edited by Anna Benneson McMahan. Chicago : A. C. McClurg & Co. Toronto : William Briggs. Pp. 230.

In Florence the Brownings spent fifteen years of their wedded life. Many of their poems refer to this classic city. It was a happy idea to collect them in one volume with photos of the scenes described. The pictures and the poems thus serve to illustrate each other, and what a gallery it is ! There are over sixty full-page illustrations. By their means we can walk the streets of the grand old city and study its architecture, statuary, pictures, and its gallery of immortal Florentines. Our first reading of Casa Guidi Windows was in the parliamentary library, Toronto. We soon unconsciously found ourself walking up and down the library reading with emphasis this stirring poem. It is here given in full and occupies nearly a hundred pages. Filippo Lippi, Andrea del Sarto, The Statue and the Bust, and other poems on Florence are here included.

"Old Love Stories Retold." By Richard Le Gallienne. Author of "The Quest of the Golden Girl," etc., etc. New York : The Baker & Taylor Co. Toronto : William Briggs. Pp. 183. Price, \$1.00.

No present is more appreciated by most persons than a beautiful book. It is of value, not merely for the holidays, but for all the days. This one is specially noteworthy. It tells the old immortal love stories of some of the world's great souls. That of Dante and Beatrice is the theme of his own *Nuova Vita*, and of many of the noblest passages in his *Divine Comedy*. The tale of Sir Philip Sidney and Lady Penelope Devereux is one of chivalrous romance ; that of Keats and Fanny Brawne touches the heart to tenderness and tears, as does also the sad story of Heine and Mathilde. After eight hundred years the memory of the deathless lovers, Abelard and Heloise, is still fresh in the heart of mankind, and upon their tomb in *Père la Chaise* offerings of fresh flowers bloom the year round.

Other stories in this volume are of scarce less interest. The book is admirably illustrated with many full-page half-tones and decorative designs by distinguished artists. It is a remarkably cheap book for the price.

"Completed Proverbs." By Lisle de Vaux Matthewman. Philadelphia : Henry T. Coates & Co. Toronto : William Briggs. Pp. 100. Price, cloth, 80 cents net ; by mail, 88 cents.

The clever books of "Brevities" and "Whimlets," by this publisher, will be remembered with pleasure. This is another with similar humorous text, and the same dainty and delicate illustrations. The spirit of the proverb and comment is seen in the following : "Women are the poetry of the world"—which without them would be prosy. "Eating maketh a full man"—while drinking maketh a man full. "Who knows most says least"—and the same applies to him who talks most. "Whosoever man has done man can do"—better. "If you would be in good repute, let not the sun find you in bed"—nor the moon out. "Let a child have its will, and it will not cry"—but its parents will. "Wisdom is a defence"—lack of it an offence. The shrewd wisdom of these amended proverbs will be seen. The book is a small quarto, daintily printed.

"The Japanese Floral Calendar." By Ernest W. Clement, M.A. Chicago : The Open Court Publishing Company. Toronto : William Briggs. Pp. 57.

A people who are so fond of flowers, of gardens, and of little children as are the Japanese have in them the elements of a very high civilization. They have a floral calendar assigning to each month in the year some special tree or flower, as, beginning with January, the Pine, Plum, Peach, Cherry, *Wistaria*, Iris, *Morning-glory*, Lotus, "Seven Grasses," Maple, *Chrysanthemum*, and *Camellia*.

This handsome book describes these monthly celebrations, with translations of Japanese poems. Some of these are eight hundred years old. The people go out by thousands into the country on these monthly festivities. Strange that these gentle lovers of flowers should be such fierce fighters. The many illustrations of Japanese gardens, picnic scenes and flowers are of exquisite beauty.