

NOTICES OF NEW WORKS.

"Books, we know,
Are a substantial world, when pure and good,
Round these, with tendrils strong as flesh and blood,
Our pastime and our happiness will grow."
WORDSWORTH.

No. II.

HAY'S "WESTERN BARBARY."

BY EDMOND HUGOMONT.

WE have already had occasion to record our high approval of the series of which this work forms a part, and at the same time our grateful sense of the exertions of Messrs. Armour & Ramsay to supply the Canadian public with this issue, at a rate even lower than the small price affixed by the English publisher. Each succeeding number has served more strongly to confirm the sentiments we have expressed, and to convince us of the value of the boon thus conferred on the reading public of the Colonies. The works previously furnished, though highly valuable and interesting, had all been in print before,† but in this number Mr. Murray takes a step higher, and presents us with an original work, of a character and interest sufficient to have ensured a ready sale, even at the old publishing rates of half-a-guinea a volume. The number of purchasers at the present price must, we are convinced, have such a large increase, as will more than remunerate the publisher for his liberal experiment.

The author of this work is the son of Her Majesty's Consul-General at Tangier, and during a lengthened residence in that town has had facilities of acquiring a knowledge of the manners, customs and language of the Moors of Barbary, such as are rarely enjoyed by Europeans. The results of his experience he has given us in the present volume, taking as framework the narrative of a journey which he made to Larache, in the year 1839, for the purpose of procuring for Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, a barb of the

purest breed. In this he was unsuccessful. Of late years the possessor of a horse so handsome and valuable, that its fame reached the ears of the Emperor of Morocco or his agents, has been repaid for his trouble in rearing it, by the immediate confiscation of the animal for the Imperial use; and the inevitable consequence has been the degeneracy of the Barbary breed, once so famous throughout the world. Even yet, however, some fine specimens are occasionally seen, such as those presented for Mr. Hay's inspection by the Sheikh Hachj Cassem, the Hakkem (or governor) of Mena.

"Several fine barb stallions, held by the Hakkem's slaves, were led forward, amongst which was a powerful black colt, who, having managed by rearing and plunging, to break loose from his conductor, attacked, with thrown back ears, open mouth, and tail erect, another of the stud; and, notwithstanding all the efforts of the Arabs, accustomed to such freaks, a desperate fight ensued, — wheeling round as quick as lightning, rearing, and using their fore feet as dexterously as an expert boxer; then galloping away from those who endeavoured to catch them, determined to have out their duel, snorting and squealing most wildly. This was a moment for the admirers of horse-flesh to see every muscle and nerve come into play in their fine action unrestrained:

"Imperiously he leaps, he neighs, he bounds,
And now his woven girls he breaks asunder;
His ears apprieked, his braided hanging mane
Upon his compass'd crest now stands on end;
His nostrils drink the air, and forth again
As from a furnace vapours doth he send;
His eye, which glistens scornfully like fire,
Shows his hot courage and his hot desire."

* MURRAY'S COLONIAL and HOME LIBRARY; No. IX.—Western Barbary: its Wild Tribes and Savage Animals; by John H. Drummond Hay, Esq. John Murray, London; Armour & Ramsay, Montreal. pp. 106. Price 2s. 6d.

† The "Travels of Captains Irby and Mangles in the Holy Land," however, had only been printed for private circulation.

† Shakespeare.