

OUR TABLE.

A CHRONOLOGICAL VIEW OF THE WORLD.

THERE is perhaps no subject in the knowledge of which men of the highest general information, are so deficient as Chronology—scarcely any upon which information is attained with so much labor and research—and none to which the attention of historians has been so little directed. By many of our most authentic and profound writers, dates are almost entirely omitted; the stream of their narrative flows on uninterruptedly, it is true, but too often we are left in ignorance of the time occupied by its course. This must necessarily result in the production, in the mind of the student, of a sort of chaos of all the brave deeds, wise measures, and wonderful changes, of which he may have read, so mingled together as to be utterly useless, or all events constantly involving him in errors and anachronisms. The little work before us is one well calculated to remove this difficulty from the path of the historical student. It appears to have been compiled with great care, and the dates, as far as we have been able to verify them, are correct and well arranged. Mr. Haspel's labors have been voluminous, and the result is such as to be extremely creditable to himself, and useful to the public.

THE PEOPLE'S LIBRARY—EDITED BY J. M. A. ESTEY, AND C. T. POOLER.*

THIS is a book intended for general, or rather for universal reference, on all matters connected with art, science, history, biography and discovery; and judging from the first number, now before us, we are of opinion that it will be a highly valuable work. We are aware that books of this nature have been rapidly multiplied of late, a proof that the public in general is alive to their importance and usefulness. But those hitherto published are generally too high in price to be as widely circulated as they might be, with advantage to the world. This book is intended to remedy the inconvenience, and while the greatest care and attention are promised in its compilation, it will be published in such a manner, and on such terms, as will enable all who desire, to become possessors of it. The best authorities are named as those from which "The People's Library" will be selected, and it will further embrace "all the important improvements in the arts and sciences, notices of events in matters of history, discovery, biography," &c., that have, up to the latest dates, been made. The publication will be by monthly numbers, of thirty-two pages each, and will extend over several years.

* John M'Coy, Great St. James street, Agent. Price 5s. per annum.

THE OAK OPENINGS; OR, THE BEE HUNTER—BY JAMES FENNIMORE COOPER.

THIS, we believe, is the latest work of this very popular and successful author, and we almost hope, for his own sake, that it may be the last. He has certainly written himself out.

Let the reader compare, for instance, his "Pioneer" and the other "Leather Stocking Tales," with the Bee Hunter, the work before us, and he will find a sameness which almost, if not entirely, destroys its claim to originality. The same may be said of his "Water Witch" and "Red Rover," when compared with "Afloat and Ashore," and "The Pilot." There is, notwithstanding, a wonderful charm in all Cooper's writings, a charm which is not even destroyed by their sameness, or by the many fearful drawbacks in the shape of blunders and bad English. Of the blunders we may give the following instance:

"*L'Eau de Mort*, was the place called by the *voyageurs*, in a sort of pleasant travesty on the *eau de vie* of their distant but well remembered manufactures on the banks of the Garonne."

Now, who that has the slightest knowledge of the habits and character of the *voyageur*, is not perfectly aware of his total ignorance of the existence of such a river? His grammatical, or ungrammatical sins, although venial in the eyes of the ordinary novel reader, grate discordantly upon the ear of those who think while they read, and who believe that writers of eminence—among whom Mr. Cooper ranks—should not by carelessness or inattention, suffer the "pure well" of our language to be defiled. For instance, "a tree grown to *more* size," an expression used by Mr. Cooper, is both un-English and ungraceful, disfiguring the sentence of which it forms a part. And there are many such. Mr. Cooper, if he should write again, will, we hope, be more careful: sins like this are only sins of carelessness—but they *are* sins, and should be avoided.

DRINKWATER'S SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR.

WE hail the re-appearance of this interesting work with something like the pleasure with which we welcome an old friend we have not seen for years. The siege itself, as well as its results, is one of the most important and interesting incidents in our history. As to how it sped, and how it ended, we must refer our readers to the work itself. It is for sale by Mr. John M'Coy and by Messrs. R. & C. Chalmers, of Great St. James Street.