

after his return to England, are studies of themselves.

We have said Mr. Stanley's style is that of the newspaper correspondent. The reader will discover that after ten minutes' perusal of his narrative. We do not mention this to the discredit of Mr. Stanley, at all. His book contains a good deal of slipshod writing, but it is all bright and intensely interesting. In a book of travel and adventure by a gentleman whose natural tastes lead him to exclude dry statements of facts, and whose mind is active and whose feelings are picturesque and full of colour, we may expect just such a sketchy, graphic book as this one is. It is a book which many will read because it is so written, and its convincing earnestness is a very charm of itself. Stanley is fond of bold actions. He is equally fond of bold writing. 'Through the Dark Continent' attempts the solution of the problem which baffled the skill of Livingstone, Speke, Burton, Grant, Cameron, and others, and details the incidents of a life in the country extending over a period of two years, eight months, and twenty days.

Mr. James Freeman Clarke wields a fascinating pen. His 'Ten Great Religions' and 'Common Sense in Religion' have an interest of their own, and they enlist the sympathies of the reader at once. It is worth noting here the fact that Mr. Clarke's larger work has penetrated into the remotest corners of the earth. It has been encountered in China, and in many parts of Europe it has gained a strong and secure foothold. It is a book of deep interest and earnest thought. It is not dry and colourless, but a bright book, fascinating, courageous, and brilliant. It occupies a place in literature all its own, and its admirers increase every day. Mr. Clarke is equally successful as a biographer.

He possesses a charming and cultivated style, and a winning way. He is never slovenly nor careless, and his utterances have always a manly tone about them. He has managed to put a good deal of his strength in his latest work,* and his peculiar characteristics appear on every page. We have some nineteen or twenty agreeable sketches of men, who, in their time, wielded a certain influence, oftentimes a very great influence, and sometimes a very pleasant one. The reader, in glancing down the list of names, is apt to select the papers which treat of his own heroes first, and he can read the book in this way, for it is not a continuous narrative. It begins with the War Governor of Massachusetts, John Albion Andrew, and concludes with William Hull, the grandfather of the author. A fine chapter is devoted to an estimate of the life and writings, and it may be added the influence, of Jean Jacques Rousseau, of whom Napoleon once said, 'without him there would have been no French Revolution.' A few pages are taken up with a sketch of Robert J. Breckinridge, and another chapter describes Washington and the secret of his influence. The paper on Shakespeare will attract many readers. It is admirably thought out, and some very clever bits of analysis and criticism are introduced. An incident in the life of Junius Brutus Booth is a very amusing and attractive paper, and Mr. Clarke relates the story with consummate tact and good humour. In 1834 he was summoned by the tragedian to assist at the burial of some *friends* of Booth's. The friends proved to be a *bushel of wild pigeons*! The sketch of George D. Prentice—one of the wittiest men who ever lived, and at the same time a scathing, trenchant writer—is very interestingly written. It is full of anecdote of the intrepid editor of the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, and exhibits all the phases of his character. Charles Sumner, Theodore Parker, the Channings and their contemporaries,

* *Memorial and Biographical Sketches.* By JAMES FREEMAN CLARKE. Boston: Houghton, Osgood & Co. Toronto: A. Piddington.