

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

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COLERIDGE'S ANCIENT MARINER AND HIS FIVE CHIEF ODES. Edited with notes, etc., by J. W. Connor, M.A., Headmaster Berlin High School.

THE poet Swinburne, himself a high authority on the art of lyrical expression, says that "for height and perfection of imaginative quality, Coleridge is the greatest of lyric poets." The dictum must go unchallenged; indeed, it receives confirmation in the fact that some of the best verse of Coleridge has been put on the curriculum of Toronto University for critical study, and we have in Mr. Connor's work a capital presentation of it. In the volume, besides the "Ancient Mariner," that "phantasmagoria of mystery and sublimity," there are the five following odes, viz., the beautiful reminiscence, "Youth and Age;" the unspeakably sad dirge, entitled "Dejection;" friendship's noble tribute, "To Wordsworth;" that crooning bit of song, "To the Departing Year;" and the patriotic apostrophe, "To France." If we could have had that fervent hymn, "Chamouni," though it is a paraphrase from the German; the wild dream-poem, "Kubla Khan;" and the curious piece of supernaturalism, the fragment entitled, "Christabel," we should have all the poet's verse we care to see preserved, if we except the deliciously limpid lyric on "Love." But if we can't have all the jewels in the casket, we must be content with the treasure we have.

The critical work Mr. Connor has given us, though it is not extensive, is good. He has put his strength into the annotations, for the preparation of which he was well-fitted. These bespeak his sound scholarship and his devotion to philological studies. The quaint phraseology of the "Ancient Mariner" receives under his hand all necessary elucidation; while the notes to the odes, both literary and historical, are instructive and helpful. They are marked by judgment

and good taste. The biographical sketch of the author brings out all important facts, and appreciatively estimates Coleridge's genius and character. Mr. Connor has laid the Canadian literary student under no little obligation in the preparation of his book; and we hope that both the editor and the publishers will meet with substantial acknowledgment of this obligation in the favour with which the work is regarded. We heartily commend the book to students and to the profession.

WARREN HASTINGS; An Essay by Lord Macaulay. Edited for High-school use. Introduction, notes etc., by G. Mercer Adam, late editor of *Canadian Monthly* and CANADA EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY.

THIS neatly got up little work has been prepared for school use to meet the requirements of the new matriculation curriculum of Toronto University, according to which English composition will, and should, receive more attention than has been the case in the past. In future, candidates will be allowed a choice of themes based on certain standard prose selections, that for 1886 being the essay mentioned above. We have not had time to examine the result of Mr. Adam's labours as fully or as closely as we should have liked, but as far as we have gone we have been very much pleased and think that he has shown excellent judgment alike in the matter and the manner of the help he has furnished. In addition to concise yet clear explanatory and critical notes on the body of the essay he has given in the introduction brief sketches of Macaulay, Hastings, the History of India, a map and lists for reference and also some very useful hints on English composition with a list of suggested themes, including one outlined and partly extended, as a specimen for students. Unquestionably, any one who studies the essay, according to Mr. Adam's suggestions, and with the help furnished by him, even without dipping into any of the