

4. LORD BROUGHAM'S LETTER TO THE QUEEN.

Lord Brougham, in reproducing his volume, entitled, "The British Constitution, its History, Structure and Functions," has heralded the work by the following dedication to Her Majesty :

TO THE QUEEN—Madame: I presume to lay at your Majesty's feet a work, the result of many years' diligent study, much calm reflection, and a long life's experience. It professes to record facts, institute comparisons, draw conclusions, and expound principles, often too little considered in this country by those who enjoy the inestimable blessings of our political system, and little understood in other countries by those who are endeavouring to naturalize it among themselves, and for whose success the wishes of all must be more hearty than their hopes can be sanguine. The subject of the book, "The British Constitution," has a natural connection with your Majesty's auspicious reign, which is not more adorned by the domestic virtues of the sovereign than by the strictly constitutional exercise of her high office, redounding to the security of the crown, the true glory of the monarch, and the happiness of the people. Entirely joining with all my fellow citizens in feelings of gratitude towards such a ruler, I have individually a deep sense of the kindness with which your majesty has graciously extended the honors formerly bestowed, the reasons assigned for that favor, and the precedents followed in granting it. With these sentiments of humble attachment and respect, I am your Majesty's most faithful subject, and most dutiful servant,
BROUGHAM.
Brougham Hall, Dec. 11, 1860.

5. THE CALIGRAPHY OF IMPORTANT PERSONAGES.

Lord Derby's handwriting is beautiful—equally elegant and legible. Lord Stanley's is as legible as large pica, but certainly not elegant. Lord Palmerston's is free, pleasant, and by no means obscure. The Duke of Newcastle writes an excellent hand—long, well-formed letters, and very distinct. Lord John Russell's penmanship is not unlike the Colonial Minister's, but on a smaller scale. Other instances might be cited, but it is more the purport of the present paper to say that the East India Company nearly all through the present century, have been remarkably fortunate in the caligraphy of their chief servant, the Governor General, who has set an example of penmanship to the whole class of writers which ought not to have been thrown away. Lord Wellesley's handwriting is, perhaps, the best that we have ever seen. Sir George Barlow's was little inferior. Lord Minto wrote a remarkably firm, solid, legible hand. Lord Hastings and Lord Amherst were somewhat stately in their penmanship, but every letter was as clear as type. Lord William Bentinck ran his letters, and sometimes his words a little too much into each other; but he wrote a good flowing hand which was rarely otherwise than legible. Lord Auckland's writing was peculiarly round and distinct, the very reverse of his successor's, Lord Ellenborough's, which was pretty and lady-like, and not distinct; but he was always one of the honorable Company's naughty boys. Lord Dalhousie wrote a beautiful hand—flowing and elegant, but very distinct; and the present Governor General, Lord Canning, need not blush to see his handwriting placed beside that of any of his contemporaries.

6. BOOTY TAKEN BY THE ALLIES IN CHINA.

With regard to the booty taken by the allies in China, inestimable conquests in an artistical and historical point of view, are spoken of. The part acquired by France would alone suffice for the formation of an immense Chinese museum. Among other things mentioned is a clock of wonderful workmanship, with carved figures representing the seasons; all the wardrobe of the Empress of China, etc. There has also fallen to the lot of the French an edition of Confucius, which belonged to the celebrated Emperor Kahg-Di, the Napoleon I. of the Chinese, and having notes in his hand-writing. Among the other objects found in the summer palace, and which are in the part reserved for France, is an elephant of natural size, in gilt and enamelled bronze, and most magnificent.

7. WELLINGTON NEVER LOST A GUN.

It is a singular fact in this man's history that he never lost a gun to the enemy. "Returning with him one day from the hunting-field," says Lord Ellesmere, "I asked him if he could form any calculation of guns he had taken in the course of his career?" "No," he replied, "not with any accuracy; somewhere about 3,000 I should guess. At Oporto, after the passage of the Douro, I took the entire siege train of the enemy; at Vittoria and Waterloo I took every gun the enemy had in the field; and what, however, is more extraordinary, I don't think I ever lost a gun in the field."

"After the battle of Salamanca," he went on to explain, "three of my guns, attached to some Portuguese cavalry, were captured in a trifling affair near Madrid, but they were recovered the next day. In the Pyrenees, Lord Hill found himself obliged to throw eight or nine guns over a precipice, but these were all recovered, and none fell into the hands of the enemy."—*Brialmont's Life of Wellington.*

VII. Short Critical Notices of Books.

— LESLIE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECOLLECTIONS. Boston: Ticknor and Co. These Recollections, by the late C. R. Leslie, R. A., are "edited, with a prefatory essay on Leslie as an artist, and selections from his correspondence," by Tom Taylor, Esq. The English copy for this edition was furnished to Messrs. Ticknor and Co by Mr. Murray, the eminent publisher in London. The work is full of most interesting anecdotes and sketches of most of the modern English artists, authors, and politicians, as well as several American. The paper and type are excellent.

— THE KING'S HIGHWAY. New York: R. Carter and Brothers. This work contains a series of stories admirably illustrative of the Ten Commandments, by the Rev. Richard Newton, D.D. The book is well written and will be found of much practical value.

— THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS. London: James Hogg and Sons. This is a neat edition on good paper of Bunyan's renowned allegory of the Pilgrim's Progress. The illustrations are striking but not numerous.

— THE PILGRIM'S PROGRESS. New York: R. Carter and Brothers. This edition of the great allegory is superior to the one just noticed. The illustrations are admirable. They consist entirely of characteristic portraits of nearly all the prominent characters which figure in this wonderful book.

— THE CHILDREN'S BIBLE STORY BOOK. New York: C. S. Francis and Co. This book contains a series of Bible stories in large type, with illustrations.

— THE BROTHER'S WATCHWORD. New York: R. Carter and Brothers. The motto of this book is "Seeing Him who is Invisible." In this spirit it is written, and with this object the counsels of the brother whose career is here traced are offered to and acted upon by his youthful sister. The book is a reprint of an English work. The illustrations are good.

— FLOWERS, GRASSES, AND SHRUBS. London: James Blackwood. This is a popular book on botany by Mary Price. It is written in an agreeable style and nicely illustrated. The language is not so technical as to weary, but is sufficiently so to answer all the purposes of a professed amateur botanist.

— THE LITTLE LYCHETTS. New York: R. Carter and Brothers. This is a nice reprint of a simple story of ordinary English life. The juvenile sketches are good, and the tale itself will be found highly instructive to the young.

— BOOK OF CHILDREN'S HYMNS AND RHYMES. London: James Hogg and Sons. The poems in this book are collected from various sources by the "daughter of a clergyman." They include nearly all the beautiful little hymns and rhymes by Watts, Hemanus, Howitt, Cowper, Heber, &c., which are so familiar to children, and are among their choicest poetical favorites. The type and paper are good.

— KATE AND EFFIE. New York: R. Carter and Brothers. This is also the reprint of an English book. It is designed to illustrate the sin and evil of prevarication in youth. It cannot fail to have a good influence.

— CHARLES AND MARY. New York: James Miller. This book contains a number of stories designed as a help to parents in the training of children. It is translated from the German by C. S. Salyman. The principal subjects illustrated are Duties to Ourselves, Duties to others, Cruelty to Animals, Food, Dress, &c.

— OUR YEAR. New York: Harper and Brothers. This is a child's book in prose and verse, by Miss Muloch, author of "John Halifax, gentleman." It contains a series of sketches, illustrative of English History in each month of the year. The sketches are agreeably written, and well suited to youth.

— DAYS AT MUIRHEAD. New York: R. Carter and Brothers. This is a pretty story of little Oliver's mid-summer holidays at Muirhead, a Village on the borders of the Highlands of Scotland, with lessons derived from them. There are several illustrative engravings.