

& Co., Boston. It was upon the publication of these Meditations that Lamartine first became celebrated. They contain many of the choicest of his charming poems. Among the Premieres Meditations the student will find the masterpieces, *Le Lac*, *L'Isolement*, and *Souvenir*, while equally beautiful, in the *Nouvelles Meditations*, are, *Le chant d'Amour*, *Ischia*, and *Les Preludes*. The biographical sketch and notes, in which Mr. Curme received valuable assistance from Madame Valentine deLamartine, the poet's niece, will add greatly to the value of the volume.

HENRY THE SECOND, by Mrs. J. R. Green; OLIVER CROMWELL, by Frederic Harrison: London, MacMillan & Co., and New York. Two other volumes of the Twelve English Statesmen, have been received. The events of these two remarkable periods are detailed in quite as graphic and interesting a manner as the others which preceded them. In the opening chapter of Henry II. Mrs. Green shows how, under a foreign king who never spoke the English language, who lived and moved for the most part in a foreign camp, the races of conquerors and conquered in England first learned to feel that they were one. By his power the foundation was laid of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It was through his "Constitutions" and "Assizes" that it came to pass that over all the world the English-speaking races are governed by English and not by Roman law.

The student will find in Mr. Harrison's *Oliver Cromwell* a most impartial history of that most wonderful man. The author does not make him a perfect hero, or spotless saint, but unlovely failings, which in truthfulness he notes, disappear in a larger view of the essential grandeur, sincerity and devotedness of the man.

NATURE READERS, SEASIDE AND WAYSIDE, No. 1 and 2, by Julia McNair Wright: D. C. Heath & Co., Publishers, Boston. These small volumes, of some 80 and 180 pages respectively, are designed as readers for young children. Instead of spelling out some stupid story about the dog or cat, there is here conveyed intensely interesting and accurate information about the forms of life which are likely to be met by the seaside and wayside. It will make the first attempt at reading really interesting to the children, and cannot fail at the same time to develop an attention to the wonders of nature around them, and make them accurate observers. When we read over these books, as we have just done with much profit, too, at our advanced age, our only regret was that we were not started in our educational career on such a course. Teachers, if you want subjects for nature lessons, get No. 2 for yourselves. Its forty simple but accurate and illustrated lessons on the ants, the earthworm, the house fly, the beetle, the barnacle, the flowers of the sea, the sea stars, the dragon fly and his cousins, etc., will be a revelation in the delightfulness of natural history teaching. It is none of your Paul Bert crams. Get No. 1, with its simple nature teaching, where the little ones are introduced to Mr. and Mrs. Crab, visit his house, learn how he gets a new coat, what he does, his friends, other crabs, the crab's enemies and his uses, all in ten lessons. Then a half a dozen more on Mr. and Mrs. Wasp. Then the bee and the spider, and

the shell-fish Mr. Conch, the sea babies, Mr. Drill, and the story of a shell-fish war. It would be a grand thing if every child in the land could begin his reading course with such books. It would do morally for our children much that the Sunday-school and the church cannot do. It would draw them in their leisure moments to the investigation and enjoyment of the infinite store of marvels in the handiwork of God around them. It would annihilate the idle hour, in which, according to the poet,

"Satan finds some mischief still
For idle hands to do."

SHAKESPEARE'S RICHARD III., with an introduction and notes, by C. H. Tawney, M. A., principal and professor of English literature, Presidency College, Calcutta. This last volume of "English Classics for Indian Students" is valuable, especially for its notes, which take up more than one-half of the book, of 255 pages. They are so simple that the youngest student of Shakespeare cannot fail to comprehend them, and at the same time they contain much knowledge which will be serviceable to all admirers of this great poet. In his introduction, which, while short, is exceedingly interesting, the author adopts the views of Kreyssig, the celebrated German critic.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

A TEXT-BOOK OF EUCLID'S ELEMENTS. London: MacMillan & Co., and New York.

SHAKESPEARE'S HENRY V., by K. Deighton, M. A. London: MacMillan & Co., and New York.

COMPOSITION AND RHETORIC BY PRACTICE, by William Williams, B.C. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

STUDENTS IN GENERAL HISTORY, and a teacher's manual to accompany the same, by Mary D. Sheldon. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

MANUAL TRAINING No. I., for teachers in the primary grades of common schools. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co.

EXCHANGES.

Young naturalists who have access to the sea-side, will enjoy the illustrated article in the October *St. Nicholas*—"A Floating Home"—in which are described the number of strange and curious creatures which were found living on a piece of sea-weed. Daniel Webster, in his *New England Home*, is the subject of a fine historical sketch in the October *Wide Awake*. Many things relating to the home life of this great statesman, before unpublished, are told, making it a very valuable paper. In the October *Popular Science Monthly* Prof. Brooks concludes his valuable articles on Jelly-Fishes. Grant Allen always writes something worth reading when he treats of plants and animals, and his article on the Wonderful Process of Reproduction, illustrated by the origin and growth of the common pea, is no exception to the rule. Another valuable article by a member of the French Academy of Science, M. Emile Blanchard, on "Spiders and their Ways," is written in such a charming style, and accompanied by such beautiful illustrations, that every student will read it with pleasure.