

art, "pure and simple," as well as a means of reproducing many gems of Continental and British art.

Though most of our readers know English artists by their works, as well as by their reputation, yet we are in comparative ignorance of those in the United States, who have had until lately but very little opportunity of making themselves known to the art-loving public. How valuable this periodical will prove as an exponent of that talent we can easily appreciate by a glance over the illustrations. The engravings are all wood cuts, but so carefully finished as to indicate the utmost delicacy of expression in light and shade, almost as beautifully as a steel plate, while a great deal of the hardness of finish found in most of the latter, is here almost entirely softened down.

The subjects in the *Aldine* are chiefly American, though not exclusively so, as two or three "elegant extracts" from the Doré Gallery remind us. Of the native artists the principal contributors are Thomas Moran, John Hows, and D. Woodward. The merit seems to be in inverse order. Mr. Moran's subjects are the most ambitious scenery, chiefly in Utah. Though we cannot presume to judge an artist from a mere engraving, yet there seems to be cast over his pictures a sort of indistinctness of effect, due, we should think, more to the artist than to the draughtsman. The other two are respectively a Pennsylvanian and a Virginian artist. Their subjects are well handled and highly effective. The views, both in the east and west, prove, as a contributor says, that "there is little need of American landscape painters going abroad in search of the grand, the sublime, and the beautiful." With each of the engravings there is the usual descriptive letterpress. The other fine arts are not neglected in the *Aldine*, and music, the drama, sculpture, poetry, and literature, come in for their fair share of attention.

We must not omit a reference to the general "get up" of the *Aldine*, a most important matter in an art journal. The paper on which the engravings are so beautifully printed, is slightly tinted and well finished, giving body to the picture, while nothing that can be desired is wanting in the type and arrangement of the publication. Altogether, the publishers of the *Aldine* may congratulate themselves on their great success in carrying out its prospectus in every particular.

It is with much pleasure that we recommend the *Aldine* to our readers. It cannot fail to give pleasure to the eye, instruction to the mind, elevation to the taste, and much and varied information to those who take especial interest in matters relating to art in its various departments.

—HARPER'S PLAYS OF SHAKESPEARE. Edited by William J. Rolfe, A.M., Cambridge, Mass.*—In an edition of Shakespeare's Plays, we hardly expect to be told that a special preparation is necessary for American readers. Mr. Rolfe, however, seems to be of opinion that such is the case, though, with some few deviations, the plan and style seem to be identical with one of the English editions, of which he speaks very highly. In a work of this class, since the subject matter is not itself under consideration, we can only refer to the general aim and style, as evidenced by the notes and general arrangement. We notice a feature which we regard as highly desirable, though usually overlooked, viz., critical comments on the plays, drawn not only from English writers, but from those of a different nationality, who have given attention to the subject. This cannot fail to give a more comprehensive view of the characters and their actions, as seen with different eyes, and from several points of observation. The notes are full; the parallel passages and references, illustrating Shakespeare, both by himself and by other writers, sufficiently copious. The letterpress is admirable; and the illustrations, though in some cases suggesting more than they display, are good. On the whole, we think Mr. Rolfe is deserving of our best thanks, and certainly of those of the American public, for his work. It has evidently been one of considerable labour and care in comparing the old texts as well as recent commentators on the plays of Shakespeare. Each book contains one play, the whole being in the form of a neat library edition.

* Published by Messrs. Harper Brothers, New York and kept for sale by Messrs. Hart & Rawlinson, successors to Messrs. Copp, Clark & Co., Toronto.

—"I GO A FISHING." By W. C. Prime.*—We hope that those who are but indifferently fond of the "gentle art" will not pass this book by on account of its tell-tale title. For while sport is the primary object of the book, there is enough of adventure and pleasant reading to satisfy the general reader. We cannot help thinking that Mr. Prime's work will make many anglers, and perhaps a few who will find, like Washington Irving, that it was the book and not the sport that pleased them.

—SUBTROPICAL RAMBLES. Personal Experiences in the Mauritius. By Nicolas Pike.—There are some places whose name and perhaps position are known to us, but beyond those two facts we are to a great extent guiltless of any knowledge of them or their belongings. A book like Mr. Pike's is therefore of great value, as containing information about a place interesting enough in itself, but whose position does not bring it into such constant contact with the busy world as some less important places. Every point of interest in the history, trade, education, social and political life of the Mauritius seems to have been carefully observed by Mr. Pike, and put on paper, illustrated by his own personal experience of some years' sojourn there. Mr. Pike is not less a geologist and botanist than a careful observer, and both the sciences in which he seems to revel will doubtless be enriched by his notes. In a social point of view, this "gem of the ocean" seems not a whit behind ourselves—with its theatre, turf club, cricket club, and kindred institutions, giving it a thoroughly English stamp. The woodcuts are beautifully executed, and are a great addition to the book.

—TURNING POINTS IN LIFE. By Frederick Arnold.*—We can confidently recommend this book to those who feel the want of something to guide them in the affairs of life, and to show them the proper view to take of its responsibilities and aims. It is one of a class of books which has expounded life and its meaning in a popular form. We need say nothing of the typographical style of the book, as the name of the publishers is a sufficient guarantee for all that can be required in that respect.

The celebrated Roman library called "Biblioteca Casanatense" is about to re-open, having for director a professor of the Turin University. The monks will continue to perform the ordinary service of the establishment. Of all the public libraries in Rome this, after the Vatican, is the most considerable and the most frequented. It contains 180,000 volumes, including 2,000 editions of the fifteenth century and 1,800 manuscripts.

XII. Educational Intelligence.

—THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN MONTREAL.—While in Montreal recently, His Excellency Lord Dufferin, accompanied by Colonel Fletcher, visited the High School. The preparatory school, under the direction of Professor Robins, was first inspected, and the system of teaching pursued was observed. Rev. Dr. Jenkins, Dr. Dawson, Mr. Lunn, Professor MacVicar, Rev. Canon Bancroft, and other gentlemen accompanied the Governor in his visit to the different class-rooms, where the scholars were examined by their teachers in Latin, mental arithmetic, and other subjects. The passages, &c., had been neatly decorated for the occasion. The party visited the High School proper, which is under the management of Professor Howe. In one of the class-rooms on this floor His Excellency remained to hear an exercise in Euclid; and having observed the different arrangements of the school as regards accommodation, &c., the party ascended to the rooms of the Governors of the school, where Rev. Dr. Jenkins briefly expressed the gratification which the students felt at His Excellency's visit; after which Mr. Macpherson, one of the students, read the following address in the Latin language:—

Viro Excellentis Comitiq; Nobili Dufferin, Victoriae Reginae, in Regna Canadensi Vicario, &c., Salutem Dicimus.

PAGE TUA EXCELLENTISSIME—

Pergratum nobis fecisti, quod Scholam Nostram Regiam adventu tuo hodie honorasti. Lætitia autem qua fruimur non illa simplex est quam secum ferre solet cura optimatam benigna in eos ui humilioris loci sunt et ordinis, sed etiam lætamur te præsentem videntes qui, in Scholis et