

Mr. Y. Wemyss Reid is out with a *Life of Moncton Mills, Lord Houghton*, which renders full justice to its subject as a serious and effective writer of both prose and poetry, it not as a busy and apparently dissatisfied politician.

*The International Journal of Ethics*, is a new half-crown quarterly, published in London, as the official organ of the Ethical Societies of Great Britain and America.

Reviewing his new book, *On Right and Wrong*, the *Nineteenth Century* remarks of Mr. William Samuel Lilly: "Nothing can be much more effective than his replies to Mr. Herbert Spencer in the chapter on Materialistic Ethics, and in the appendix in which he gives his rejoinder to Professor Huxley's reply." Pity such an exceptionally gifted Catholic writer should waste so much of his talents in propping up social caste and effete conservatism as he does in his *Century of Revolution*, and to a less obtrusive degree in the work under discussion.

The *Boston Pilot* publishes the following eminently just *résumé* of the life and works of the American historian who died 17th January: "The death of the historian, George Bancroft, at the venerable age of ninety years, removes one of the pioneers of American literature, and a man who had filled important political and diplomatic posts in which he helped to make as well as to write history. While Secretary of the Navy under President Polk, he established the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, which will be a more enduring monument to his memory than the historical work to which he gave his life. As a writer he is more distinguished for research and compilation of facts than for any especial charm of style, in the latter quality falling immeasurably below his contemporaries, Prescott and Irving. He has many prejudices, too, which prevent him from attaining to the philosophical impartiality without which the historian's work is worse than valueless."

Among Italian Reviews, the quarterly *Giornale Storico della Letteratura Italiana*, of Turin, and the bi-monthly *Rassegna Nazionale*, of Florence, contain historical, biographical, and literary matter of lasting value. Those interested in religious questions, however, should turn to *La Civiltà Cattolica* which they will find brimful of deep and pertinent discussion of questions relating to our holy faith.

When Talleyrand died forty-two years ago his *Memoirs* we reprepared but he forbade their publication till thirty years should elapse, and when this period had expired his literary executors found a further postponement necessary. However, within a few days ago the long withheld papers are to be published. When we recollect that they treat of a statesman whose public services began under Louis XVI., and were continued in diverse circumstances and situations under no less than eight different masters, and in the face of frequent and radical changes of government, we can form some idea of the amount of public interest that attaches to the forthcoming book. Chateaubriand once said: "When Monsieur Talleyrand is not conspiring he is making corrupt bargains," and the epigram seems to have been grounded on truth. But history testifies that while some of his plots ended in the ruin of his superiors, he never betrayed France. The career of a churchman who left the altar to become a statesman notorious for his selfishness and deceitfulness may not be very edifying reading, but if truly portrayed it will not be without its salutary lesson.

The last of the eleven volumes of the Stedman-Hutchinson *Library of American Literature* has been published. "Mr. Stedman and Miss Hutchinson," says *The Century*, "have done American literature, American history, and American patriotism, a great and lasting service." The collection forms a conscientiously compiled exhibition of American prose and a splendid anthology of American poetry.

February 5th, 1891.