

nature, "with inconvenient indefiniteness," our sympathy begins to falter in the blackness and darkness around us. The complaint has been made that George Eliot lacks enthusiasm, as if enthusiasm were possible with such a view of human life. Strive as she may to deck the barren rocks of her creed with creeping plants and flowers, the bloom and the ver-

ture but scantily cover the sharp angles of the hard and callous mass beneath. This is not a gospel to regenerate the world; it is the realistic outgrowth in art of utilitarian ethics and sensational philosophy—the yearning and groping of a transition period struggling in darkness—the stretching forth of longing arms to welcome the dawning of the coming day.

## LITERARY NOTES.

"The Intellectual Life," is the title of Mr. P. G. Hamerton's new book. This author's previous volume, "Thoughts about Art," was received with great favour, and, we doubt not, the present work, which takes the form of a series of ideal letters addressed to literary aspirants and others, will be equally acceptable.

A reprint is announced of a rather remarkable book on political philosophy, viz., "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," by Mr. Fitzjames Stephen, Q.C., which has been recently issued by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co.

The same publishers announce Mr. Robert Browning's new poem, which bears the unpoetical title of "Red Cotton Night-Cap Country; or, Turf and Towers."

The press, of late, has been prolific of works of theological enquiry and speculation. Of these publications a few may be enumerated, as indicating the drift of contemporary thought:—Prominent in the list is the recent work of Dr. David Strauss, "The Old Belief and the New," which has called forth the denunciations of Mr. Gladstone, though in the midst of political excitement. "Literature and Dogma; an Essay towards a better apprehension of the Bible," by Mr. Matthew Arnold, is at present exciting the hostility of orthodox critics. Mr. W. R. Greg's "Enigmas of Life," is attracting many readers. "Thoughts for the Times," by the Rev. H. R. Haveis, is suggestive of the critical enquiry of the age. "The Theory of Prayer, with special reference to Modern Thought," by the Rev. W. H. Karslake, is timely in its discussion of a subject which Prof. Tyndall led off in. "Faith and Free Thought," the Christian Evidence Society Lectures; "The Scientific Bases of Faith," by Mr. J. J. Murphy; "Blending Lights, Natural Science and the Bible," by the Rev. W. Fraser, are other recent works in this department.

A new work by Mr. Darwin is announced under the title of "The Evil Effect of Inter-breeding in the Vegetable Kingdom."

Messrs. Routledge & Sons, who have become the proprietors of all the works of the late Lord Lytton, are about to issue an entirely new edition of them, in uniform monthly volumes.

A new work entitled, "White Rose and Red," is announced, by the author of "Saint Abe and his Seven Wives."

Canadian publications continue to claim attention. The Messrs. Campbell issue an interesting and profusely illustrated volume of a thoroughly national character. It bears the title of "Ocean to Ocean,"—the narrative of Mr. Sandford Fleming's expedi-

tion across the Continent, in the Pacific Railway Survey Mission. The work is edited by the Rev. Geo. M. Grant, of Halifax, the Secretary to the Expedition; and we trust to be able to notice it more fully in our next issue.

Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. supplement the service they have just rendered to native novel readers, in the publication of Lord Lytton's recent story, "Kenelm Chillingly," by issuing Mr. Wilkie Collins's latest novel, "The New Magdalen."

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. publish their handsome "Punshon Memorial Volume"—the Lectures and Sermons of the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, D.D., issued by arrangement with the author. The volume, which is meeting with an extensive sale, is *par excellence*, the most artistic effort in native publishing which has appeared in Canada. Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co. are the printers and binders of the volume. "Bits of Talk about Home Matters," by H. H.—a suggestive work on home education which should find a place in every Canadian household; and a new work from the pen of the Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York, entitled "Questions of the Day," are among the current issues of this firm. The Rev. Dr. Scadding's long expectant and important volume of local history, "Toronto of Old," is to be immediately issued by this house, which has also just issued Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin's Lecture, in reply to the Rev. Dr. Tiffany, on "British *versus* American Civilization."

Dr. A. M. Ross, Toronto, has issued a supplemental volume to his useful and attractive little work on Canadian Birds, lately published by Messrs. Rowse & Hutchison. The present production is a handbook of the "Butterflies and Moths of Canada," described from specimens represented in the authors collection. The work is tastefully illustrated, and commends itself to all lovers of native entomology.

Messrs. Dawson Bros. of Montreal, have completed their series of School Histories of Canada, by the Deputy Minister of Education for Quebec, H. H. Miles, M. A., LL.D. It consists of three works—"A Child's History for Elementary Schools," "A School History for the Model Schools," and "An Advanced History for Superior Schools, and intended also to serve as a general reader in French Schools." The series has been prepared with great care, and is calculated to stimulate a taste for the study of our native history.

Messrs. Lancefield Brothers, Hamilton, have issued a *mélange* of prose and poetry from the pen of a native poet, Mr. J. R. Ramsay. The contents are varied in character, and principally concern themselves with Canadian subjects.