

Amid great popular rejoicings, the young King of Spain has entered upon the duties of his high office. Upon his ability as a ruler will, perhaps, rest the fate of the Spanish monarchy.

Cuba has now taken its place among the sovereign states of the New World. At the appointed time, at noon on the 20th of May, the Cuban flag was raised instead of that of the United States, and a little later the ships in which the United States soldiers were embarked sailed out of the harbors of Havana and Santiago. Great Britain was first to recognize the new republic by the appointment of a diplomatic representative. The United States has appointed as its minister to Cuba a former Canadian, H. G. Squiers, who was with the United States embassy in China at the time of the siege of the legations.

Christian catacombs have been discovered beneath the ruins of the ancient city of Palmyra.

Masurite is the name of a new high explosive recently put upon the market. It is remarkably safe, as neither heat nor concussion will explode it under ordinary conditions. Its explosion is flameless; and in this absence of flame lies its great value for coal mine work, as it will not ignite coal gas or dust in the mines.

The Ontario government will aid the establishment of a department of forestry at Queen's University, Kingston.

With the Governor-General, now on his way to England to attend the coronation, is the Canadian military contingent, consisting of over 650 officers and men. The site for the Canadian coronation arch in London has been fixed at a point near the Horse Guards. It is to be covered with Manitoba wheat sheaves. In design it is magnificent, and thoroughly suggestive of Canada's vast area of cultivable land. It will bear the legend, "Canada, the future granary of the empire."

Both in Hayti and in Santo Domingo, successful revolutions have taken place within the last month. The respective presidents of the republics have fled; the government forces have been routed or subdued, with very little bloodshed; and provisional governments have been formed.

RECENT BOOKS.

MACMILLAN'S HISTORY READERS. For Senior Students. Pages 314. Price 2s. Macmillan & Co., London, 1902. This reader contains sketches of important epochs in English history from the early accounts of Britain and its people down to the South African struggle. It is illustrated; and will be of interest to the general reader as well as to the student.

Macmillan's Summary of English History on the concentric plan for Senior Students, price 4d., is an admirable condensation of main facts, clearly and interestingly stated.

STANDARD FIRST READER. Edited by Isaac K. Funk, LL.D., and Montrose J. Moses, B. S. Funk & Wagnalls Co., New York.

In the making of this reader, the aim has been to give clear enunciation, to train in detecting and producing the sounds that make up the language, to inspire love for nature, for truth, and to start the beginnings of a public spirit.

Boswell's *Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*. Edited by H. B. Cotterill, M.A. Pages 363. Price 2s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., London, 1902.

Readers of Boswell's *Life of Johnson* will be entertained by this edition of the *Journal*, which presents to us in an attractive form and at a low price the author's diary of a tour of the Hebrides with Dr. Johnson. In the introduction and notes will be found a great deal of matter useful to teachers and students.

Jules Verne's *Vingt Mille Lieues sous les Mers*. Edited with notes and vocabulary by C. Fontaine, L.D. New York City. Cloth. Pages 201. Price 40 cents. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston.

This abridged edition of perhaps the most famous of Jules Verne's stories maintains the thread of the entire narrative, and all its best episodes, and brings a unique work within the ready compass of class-room texts.

Messrs. J. & A. McMillan, St. John, have issued a supplement containing Dictation and other Exercises on Manning's Speller. The work, which is a valuable aid to teachers, contains exercises in paronyms (words pronounced alike but spelled differently), words frequently mispronounced, derivatives of certain words, etc.

GREEK PROSE COMPOSITION. By S. O. Andrew, M.A. Cloth. Pages 275. Price 3s. 6d. Macmillan & Co., London, 1902.

For the Greek student, equipped with a knowledge of ordinary accidence and syntax, this will be found an admirable guide, leading him to a discriminating study of Attic prose and the niceties of construction and idiom.

TRUE TALES OF BIRDS AND BEASTS. Edited by David Starr Jordan. Illustrated. Cloth. Pages 132. Price 40 cents. D. C. Heath & Co., Boston, 1902.

These stories by well-known writers, edited by David Starr Jordan, of Leland Stanford, Jr., University, California, are good for children of all ages to read. They are chosen from the growing wealth of such literature and are told with literary skill.

Ferdinand Schräder's *Friedrich der Grosse*, and Karl Zastrow's *Wilhelm der Siegreiche*. Cloth. Price 2s. each. Macmillan & Co., London, 1902.

These two books in Seipmann's German Series are edited by English scholars, with introduction and notes for the student. Their interest to the reader is assured by a consideration of the title of each book. The real greatness of Prussia begins with Frederick the Great, and the story of that hero's life appeals to every boy-reader; while