

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

DREAMS OF THE DEAD. By Edward Stanton. Boston: Lee and Shepard. Price 50 cents.

This is an unwholesome book. The author, in sleep, leaves his material body and goes about in his astral body and meets all kinds of persons who have left their natural bodies mouldering in the grave, and go about in their astral bodies. How much of this we are expected seriously to believe we are not quite sure. In any case we can promise to no sane person either edification or entertainment from these pages.

ONE TOUCH OF NATURE. By Margaret Lee. New York: John A. Taylor and Company. Price 30 cents.

This is a new volume of a nice series of stories which we have already commended, the Mayflower Library. It is not at all a bad story this "Touch of Nature." One gets a little weary of the great quantities of very American conversation which fill page after page; but there is a good and wholesome sentiment running through the story, and all ends well at last. Both hero and heroine are sorely tried, as they ought to be, and they come out of the trial splendidly, as they ought to do; and everything ends quite satisfactorily. This is, perhaps, as much as we ought to tell our readers.

GEODESY. The Riverside Science Series. By J. Howard Gore, Professor of Mathematics in Columbia University. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company. Price \$1.25.

This neat small octavo volume of 210 pages and a few illustrative cuts is a historic sketch, as its author says, of opinions, speculative and scientific, concerning the shape and dimensions of the globe we inhabit. Two chapters deal with unscientific hypotheses from Anaximander to the French Fernel in the sixteenth century. The remaining twelve treat of scientific efforts to solve the problem in many parts of Europe, in India, and in the United States, by geometers of note, from the Dutch Snell in the beginning of the seventeenth century to the Americans of to-day, Mendenhall and Harkness. The sketch is perfectly intelligible to the ordinary reader, and is interesting to the extent the subject allows.

DOUBTING CASTLE: A Religious Novelette. By John Smith. New York: Alden. 1891.

We quite believe that this little book may be of real service to some of those whose faith has been disturbed by historical and scientific difficulties connected with the Old Testament. The heroine is a good and pious girl who has been brought up with mechanical ideas of Inspiration, and when these are shaken she is unable longer to retain her hold on the Gospel itself. She is, however, taught that the truth and power of Christ are not dependent upon any special theory of Inspiration, and so she becomes re-established upon the sure foundation. Some good people doubt the expediency of meeting such difficulties, inasmuch as we are sometimes more apt to engender doubts than to quiet them. We quite understand this feeling; but it is rather late in the day to act upon it. We must fortify our young people and arm them for the fight which cannot be avoided. We ought to say that there is a pretty love story running through the book.

ROYAL TEMPLAR PLATFORM OF READINGS AND RECITATIONS. Hamilton: Royal Templar Publishing House. 1892. Price 30 cents.

This is not at all a bad collection of poems, with some prose pieces, suitable for recitation. "It contains a number of patriotic, sentimental and humorous, as well as temperance, selections." We are quoting, and are not responsible for the phraseology. The "temperance" selections are, no doubt, better than the old bacchanalian songs, and, if they are somewhat drastic, we should expect that from the Royal Templars. A considerable proportion of the poems are of the funny type; but they are countenanced by such neighbours as Mrs. Alexander's "Burial of Moses," Macaulay's "Armada," and Lord Tennyson's "Charge of the Heavy Brigade." We learn from the "Bartender's Manual" that there are no fewer than one hundred and eighty-four different methods of serving liquor, either compounded or single; but we doubt whether Good Templars should stimulate human curiosity by making this known.

THE STORY OF OUR CONTINENT: A Reader in the Geography and Geology of North America for the use of Schools. By N. S. Shaler, Professor of Geology in Harvard College. Boston: Ginn and Company.

This book contains 290 octavo pages and six full-page illustrations. Its seven long chapters discuss, in simple, pleasant language, the geography of North America, its physical growth, present geographical conditions, aboriginal population, and products. Some fanciful notions mingle with scientific theories in the chapter dealing with the effect of the form of North America on the history of the colonists from Europe and their descendants. The concluding one, on the commercial condition of the continent, contains much valuable information in an attrac-

tive form. Altogether, the Reader, while too chary of details regarding the Dominion to be suitable for use in Canadian schools, is worthy of commendation for its scientific accuracy, unexceptionable tone, and literary style. It is, therefore, worthy of a place in any family library, and will no doubt be cheerfully perused by all who take an interest in the subject which it treats.

THE FOLK-LORE OF THE ISLE OF MAN; OR, ITS MYTHS, LEGENDS, SUPERSTITIONS, CUSTOMS AND PROVERBS. By A. W. Moore, M.A., author of Many Names, etc. Douglas, Isle of Man: Brown and Son; London: D. Nutt.

In 192 closely-printed small octavo pages, Mr. Moore has compressed such an amount of information illustrating the title of his book as one could hardly have hoped to bring together in the little "Isle of Man." He is almost a pioneer in the work undertaken and worthily executed by him, although he acknowledges the appearance of some of his materials in the well-known memoirs of Waldron, Harrison, Jenkinson and Campbell. Mr. Brush also published, in the "Miscellanies of the Man Society," an account of mythical Mananan MacLir, the supposed discoverer of the island. Mr. Moore's book published at one shilling is the cheapest treatise on folk-lore in the market, and is withal worthy of a place beside Lady Guest's "Mahinogion," Campbell's "Tales of the West Highlands," and Douglas Hyde's Irish collection, called "Beside the Fire." Mr. David Nutt, the London publisher, makes a specialty of folk-lore books from all quarters.

HOMILIES OF SCIENCE. By Dr. Paul Carus. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. Price \$1.50.

It is questionable if the age has produced a philosophic thinker in the line of free thought more thoroughly paradoxical than Dr. Paul Carus. In this elegant octavo volume of some 320 pages are compressed fifty-nine well-written, thoughtful, and, in many ways, learned essays on subjects in religion, ethics, anthropology, and sociology, in which the writer, on the one hand, opposes all that is atheistic and anti-Christian, while, on the other, he rejects the Christian's God and allows no divine revelation other than Nature. A Monist, Dr. Carus is necessarily pantheistic, but in its outworking his pantheism is neither of Spinoza nor of Hegel; it is peculiarly his own. Indeed he denies, in his homily on "The Conceptions of God," that he is a pantheist at all, calling his system by the name of Entheism. He thus separates between Deity and its emanations, as Averroes called them, or, as modern writers would prefer, its evolutions. Dr. Carus' object is to reconcile religion and science by absorbing the former in the latter. Yet his own genuine religiosity appears on every page of his book, and he treats the Bible morals and devotion passages with much respect. His sect will necessarily be a small one, as Christianity will not surrender its enormous spiritual prestige at his call, and the atheists, pantheists and nihilists, whom he abjures, will continue unsatisfied with his half measures.

THE LANDFALL OF LEIF ERIKSON. By Eben Norton Horsford. Boston: Damrell and Upham.

This magnificent quarto of 150 pages and 40 valuable illustration plates is dedicated by Professor Horsford to the memory of Carl Christian Rafu, the author of the "Antiquitates Americanae." It is the last word on the subject of the Norse discovery of America, and, on account of the extensive reading and the painstaking and minute investigation it reveals, is worthy of the most serious consideration by all students of early American history. In the year 1000 A.D., Leif Erikson landed in a region called Vinland, on the Atlantic coast of North America. That Vinland Professor Horsford has located in Massachusetts, and, by many proofs derived from the Sagas, has definitely identified ancient remains on the Charles River near Watertown with Leif's settlement and the village of Norumbega. Exhaustive analyses of the accounts of Bjarni's, Thorwald's and Thorfinn's expeditions, with appendices and notes replete with learning in the literature of the subject, add a special interest to this monumental work. The collection of ancient maps and charts alone is most valuable, and evidences the fact that nothing has been spared either in painstaking research or in expense to render the book worthy of its author and its theme. With whatever preconception in his mind the student may take up this latest contribution to the literature of the Norse problem in America, he cannot fail to render homage to its author's disinterested zeal, extensive learning, and abundant labours.

THE STORY OF THE HILLS; A Book about Mountains for general readers. By the Rev. H. N. Hutchinson, B.A., F.G.S., author of "The Autobiography of the Earth." New York and London: Macmillan and Company. Price \$1.50.

The 360 pages of this well-printed book represent ten gossipy chapters, four of which constitute Part I, "The Mountains as They Are," and six, Part II, "How the Mountains were Made." Sixteen engravings, chiefly taken from photographs, illustrate these chapters. The second part is popular geology, somewhat in the style of Professor Shaler with a little poetry added. It is entertaining read-

ing for those who enjoy popular science, but the four chapters of Part I. are likely to receive more general attention. They are on "Mountains and Men," "The Uses of Mountains," "Sunshine and Storm on the Mountains," and "Mountain Plants and Animals." The first is an ethnological sketch, flattering to the Highlander of pre-tourist days all the world over; the second is scientific in the lines of meteorology and physical geography; the third is scenic and anecdotal; and the fourth is a pleasing description of mountain floras and faunas. The larger part of the book is devoted to Switzerland and the mountainous parts of the British Islands, but many other mountain regions are referred to. The lover of mountain scenery, and every cultivated reader with a taste for the beauties and the marvels of nature, should find in Mr. Hutchinson's book the means for spending some pleasant and profitable hours.

CHARACTER SKETCHES. By George A. Lofton, A.M., D.D. Toronto: Wm. Briggs.

This is a very curious book, but we can quite believe that the teachings which it contains may have been useful to the classes for whom they were prepared. In order to give our readers a notion of the contents, we quote from the descriptive title page. Character Sketches; or the Blackboard Mirror—a series of illustrated discussions, depicting those peculiarities of character which contribute to the ridicule and failure, or to the dignity and success, of mankind. Also a number of moral, practical, and religious subjects, presented in an entirely new and striking manner, illustrated with over fifty engravings from the original Blackboard Drawings. This description of the contents is quite correct.

Dr. Lofton's plan was this. He gave a series of lectures on Sunday afternoon to miscellaneous assemblies of people who seemed to have been much interested in them. Adopting a subject of instruction, he represented it by a picture drawn upon a blackboard. This picture he proceeded to explain and illustrate, and finally to apply to his audience. For example, the first picture represents the "mote-hunter," who, with a considerable protuberance in his own eye, is represented as poking diligently in the eye of another man, in the hope of finding something wrong there. The talk on the subject which accompanies the drawing is sensible, direct and pungent. Another picture, entitled "Church Asses," represents a congregation seated and addressed by a gentleman on a platform. Scattered through the audience are a number of people with asses' heads and ears, representing types of silly and vulgar people who are the nuisances of such assemblies. Dr. Lofton "goes for" these classes with a will. The sketches, as representing blackboard drawings, are necessarily rough, but they are good of their kind, and the reading is excellent. A book like this can hardly fail to be useful, and it will reach classes that other agencies might miss.

ILLUSTRATED QUEBEC. By G. Mercer Adam. Montreal: John McConniff. 1892. Price 75 cents.

We are inclined to think that this is the most beautiful and the most interesting of all the "Gem Souvenirs of the Principal Cities of the Dominion" as yet published. Some one has remarked that Quebec is the only place on this side of the Atlantic which is worth seeing; and, although such a remark can be admitted only with considerable qualifications, it contains an obvious truth. Whether we consider the position of the city, its streets, its buildings, or its history, we must place it far ahead, in interest, of any other on this continent. Even Boston itself can scarcely compete with it.

The volume before us leaves scarcely anything to be desired that could be realized within its compass. Beginning with some interesting testimonies from writers of eminence, Mr. Mercer Adam proceeds to tell, in his own graceful and picturesque manner, the romantic story of Quebec, from its discovery by Jacques Cartier, or rather perhaps its foundation by Champlain, to its conquest by Wolfe. After this the author takes the localities, and, describing them, makes them the occasion of remarks upon men of the past who were associated with them, thus providing a book which will serve at once as a guide to the objects worth seeing, and, with its many illustrations, a souvenir which will serve to call up the places visited and the numerous objects of beauty and interest. The city, its sights and memories; the citadel, gates and fortifications; Laval University, the Basilica (standing on the site of the ancient Church of Notre Dame de la Recouvrance, erected in 1633 by Champlain), the Ursuline Convent, and the Hotel Dieu; the Parliament Buildings, public gardens and monuments—all pass, successively, in review. A concluding chapter is devoted to Montmorenci and Saguenay.

The illustrations are numerous and good, and they seem to us to be remarkably well chosen. Numerous views of the city are given from different points. The historical sites are adequately represented. No public monument of importance is omitted. Pretty views of old and quaint buildings, and of narrow, crooked streets, are furnished. Some copies of pictures taken on the spot during the conflict between the French and English are of great interest. When we add that the natural features of the locality, its hills and vales and waterfalls and woods, are plentifully illustrated, we have said enough to show the value and utility of the manual before us.