

CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

EXERCISES IN LATIN PROSE: A COMPANION TO HARKNESS' LATIN GRAMMAR, FOR THE USE OF INTERMEDIATE AND UNIVERSITY CLASSES, by John Seath, B.A., and John Henderson, M.A. Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co., 1881.

THIS, so far as we can recollect, is the first work on Latin Grammar or Latin Prose by Canadian authors, and, although a compilation, and avowedly of low range, is nevertheless a work of much merit. The authors, engaged as they are in teaching, have easily gauged the requirements of the average pupil going up for the High School Intermediate or the Matriculation Examination at Toronto University, and they have exerted themselves to put him in possession of the *matériel* that will enable him to face the examiner with a light heart.

The work is divided into three parts: Part I. consisting of short sentences to be rendered into Latin; Part II., of Ellisian Exercises; and Part III. of Examination Papers in Latin Grammar.

Part I. is, for the most part, made up of materials derived from Belcher's "Short Exercises in Latin Prose Composition," rearranged with a view to the syntax as found in Harkness' Latin Grammar. The authors have added exercises upon the parts of Latin Syntax not treated of in "The Short Exercises," but found in Harkness. This part of the work is, on the whole, very well done, and there cannot be the least doubt that the pupil who works his way through it will have a first-rate knowledge of the forms of Latin Syntax, and a *copia verborum* of not less than a thousand words and idioms—no slight assistance toward independent composition. It must be said, however, that the authors, in their desire to introduce as many idioms as possible, have taken such liberties with Mr. Belcher's sentences as, perhaps, that

author would not approve of. For instance, Mr. Belcher has: "He said that he had seen horses and men in the wood;" his editors: "Caius having been declared an exile, said that he had seen horses and men in the wood." "The Exercises:" "Have you heard that a new book has been sent to you?" and "It is very difficult to teach some people music." "The Companion:" "Have you heard that a new book has been sent to you by a friend who laughs at fortune?" and "It is very difficult to teach some people to be wise,"—with many others of like variation. Not a few, too, of the sentences in "The Companion" seem akin in meaning to the "nonsense-lines" of Latin verse. Surely the disembodied Latin might put on a less grotesque shape than these: "My name is Caius; my horse belongs to me; and I have three children;" "O wretched woman! we have always thought much of your daughter;" "Give me that man's book that says that the spider's web is not very fatal to flies;" "O, holy Jupiter! did he wish to go home to Rome with me yesterday?" "These grapes are very sweet, they are far sweeter than those which were bought for an ass." Copious as this part of the work undoubtedly is, it nevertheless seems deficient in that it lacks a few Latin examples; for "boys," says Dr. Roby, "in writing their exercises, do not obey a precept but follow a precedent." Still more deficient is it, we think, in that it lacks rules for *continued discourse*. The few rules given in "Harkness" are altogether too meagre to enable the pupil to collect the *dissecta membra* of elementary exercises into the correctness and beauty of a Latin sentence. A few paragraphs selected from "Potts' Hints towards Latin Prose Composition," would have come in admirably before the General Exercises in Part I. The chapter on *Prepositions*, too, in Hark-