

by the good Samaritan, but at Carmel and the brook Cherith he makes amends by entering *ex animo* into the stories of Elijah and Elisha—the localities mentioned in Scripture being carefully traced. The Jordan appears to have disgusted him by the rapidity of its stream and the dirtiness of its water ; but it must be remembered that he only saw it near the Dead Sea, and never penetrated through Samaria and Galilee to the Lake of Gennesareth. The Dead Sea was an agreeable surprise to him from the entire absence of any signs of desolation about it, save drift-wood brought down by the Jordan. “The Dead Sea,” he says, “is the least dead of any sheet of water I know. When we first arrived the waters were a lovely blue, which changed to green in the shifting light, but they were always animated and sparkling. It has a sloping sandy beach, strewn with pebbles, up which the waves come with a pleasant murmur. The plain is hot ; here we find a cool breeze. The lovely plain of water stretches away to the south between blue and purple ranges of mountains, which thrust occasionally bold promontories into it and a charm to the prospective. The sea is not inimical either to animal or vegetable life on its borders.” Mr. Warner then goes on to relate that they heard song-birds and saw gulls and rabbits, and plenty of vegetation in thick blossoms. There are no fish in the sea, certainly, but that is because the water is so dense with salt. His description of a bath, or rather a float there, is very good.

Mr. Warner's account of Constantinople and its surroundings is animated ; but we forebear to attempt the injustice of condensing it. He has plenty of denunciations of the Moslems, yet he does not believe the East is ripe for their expulsion. Oriental monarchies live long in a state of decay, as the Greek Empire did on the Bosphorus ; or so may that of the Ottoman Turks. At the same time there is an abiding belief among them that their departure cannot be far distant ; and they have established a noble cemetery on the Asiatic shore, which they fondly imagine will still be theirs. The descriptions of Greece are brief, although there is much to be commended in Mr. Warner's account of Athens. We close the volume, with our best thanks for what, on the whole, is a live and instructive book.



### MUSICAL PARTIES.

W once heard a professional musician shock some amateur friends by saying that he hated musical parties, and would infinitely rather be asked to a dance, on which he was immediately put down by one as a very frivolous individual, and by another as a man who merely used music as a trade, without having any real interest for it in him.

Both were wrong ; he really loved his art, and this was just the reason he objected to being present where it was so debased as in an ordinary musical party.

These social abuses are usually perpetrated by one of two classes, either by really musical people who are under the sad delusion that they are giving a treat to their musical friends and educating the taste of the unmusical, or by