

thoughts of English writers in a tongue quite distinct in idiom, that the chief benefit of Latin Prose Composition is derived, and no University course in Latin can be considered complete, unless it culminates in this. Had these exercises been intended merely for schools, this want would not have been noticed, but being confessedly compiled for the use of "Intermediate and *University* Classes," it is quite clear that some such part as we have indicated should have been added. In other respects the book bids fair to be very useful. There are good notes on idioms at pp. 58, 67, &c., and on the modes of translating "for" at p. 68.

"THE PAST IN THE PRESENT. WHAT IS CIVILIZATION?"—By Arthur Mitchell, M.D., LL.D. (Harper & Brothers, New York.)

(For sale at Dawson Brothers.)

We have read with much interest this very instructive work. The volume, which is admirably illustrated throughout, and for the title-page of which Sir J. Noël Paton has executed one of his beautiful emblems, contains ten of the Rhind Lectures on Archaeology, delivered in 1876 and 1878. The first part which is concerned with the first title, contains a series of accounts of spindles, craggans, black houses, &c., with certain conclusions drawn from the study of them. Part II. takes up the second title and is concerned with such interesting questions, as, whether Civilization can be lost, and what specially it consists in. As to the latter, Dr. Mitchell concludes that "civilization is the outcome of the war which man in society wages against the law of natural selection, and that the measure of success in the fight is the measure of civilization attained." It is distinguished from culture, which is strictly a personal possession, while civilization only affects aggregates. The studies of the writer have been mostly conducted in outlying parts of Scotland, and much rare and curious information in regard to the habits and utensils of the rude inhabitants of these parts is given. Without very much that is actually new, the author has carried his investigations into great detail. The purpose aimed at by the work is thus stated (p. 42.)

"Many people—almost all reading people—have some knowledge of the startling and precise conclusions which have been enumerated regarding the degraded condition of the so-called primeval man, and the immensity of his age on the earth; on the other hand, few have a correct comprehension of the