

## CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE.

CHASE AND STUART'S CLASSICAL SERIES:—  
A FIRST LATIN BOOK, with Exercises on the Inflections and the Principal Rules of Syntax, also special and general Vocabularies and Notes, by George Stuart, A.M., Professor of the Latin Language in the Central High School, Philadelphia. A LATIN READER, with Explanatory Notes and a Vocabulary, by George Stuart, A.M. Philadelphia: Eldredge & Brother.

THE publishers of Chase and Stuart's Classical Series claim peculiar merit for their work in the following particulars: the purity of the texts, the clearness and conciseness of the notes, and their adaptation to the wants of students, the beauty of the type and paper, the handsome binding, the convenience of the shape and size, the low price at which the volumes are sold, and the further fact that the preparation of the whole series is the work of American scholars. There was a time when the last statement would have been sufficient to exclude the works from Canadian schools, but happily that time has gone by, and the original work of the American scholar now passes current everywhere. The publishers in these volumes have made good their claims, and we have no doubt the works will win favourable notice and be much used on "the other side." With us, who naturally incline to the fruits of British scholarship, the *Principia Latina* obviates the necessity or the desire for a change in our elementary manual of Latin. The Reader is a good sequel to the First Latin Book, and is well adapted to the student's first attempts at translating. The selections are generally excellent, but why unearth for modern use the "Colloquies of Erasmus," which, whatever may be their brightness and wit, are, as he himself said, full of foolish things, including bad Latin, and reckless solecisms. American youth should be taught the tongue of Livy and Cicero, and not that of St. Jerome.

A LATIN GRAMMAR FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, by Albert Harkness, Ph.D., LL.D.: Revised Standard Edition of 1881. New York: D. Appleton & Co., 1882.

WHEN noticing in our February issue of 1881 Messrs. Seath and Henderson's *Companion to Harkness's Latin Grammar*, we remarked that these authors would have done well first to revise the Grammar, and then write their Companion to it. What these scholars, however, did not undertake to do, Dr. Harkness was then doing, and has since completed for himself, and none too soon. Classical masters familiar with the best Latin Grammars published in England, and all who have kept up their Latin critically, must have felt that the Authorized Latin Grammar has been for some years past falling behind the times, and that something more than this book was required by the Honor-man in classics. Happily Dr. Harkness, whose Grammar has been the authorized Text Book in our High Schools, has been spared to revise his own work, and by his ripe scholarship to leave it in such a shape that it may require but little modification for several years. To say that he has written a good work would at this time of day be a mere platitude. He has improved upon himself, even where improvement seemed difficult, if not impossible. Want of space, we regret, will prevent our going fully into the merits of the revised work, but it may be briefly said that the designs of the author, as stated in his preface, are fully realized. These are:

"1. To present a clear, simple, and convenient outline of Latin Grammar for the beginner. Topics which require the fullest illustration are first presented in their completeness in general outline before the separate points are explained in detail. A single page often foreshadows the leading features