

REVIEW.

OUTLINES OF HISTORY. With Original Tables, Chronological, Genealogical, and Literary. By ROBERT H. LABBERTON. Oblong 4to. Cloth, \$2.

HISTORICAL ATLAS. By ROBERT H. LABBERTON. Containing a Chronological Series of 100 Coloured Maps, illustrating successive periods from the dawn of History to the present day. Oblong 4to. Cloth, \$3.50. (E. Claxton & Co., Philadelphia.)

Mr. Labberton's "Outlines of History" is in its 12th edition, his "Historical Atlas" is in its 6th. After this it may seem strange to say that all that is wanted to make these two books really valuable, is accurate knowledge of History. We must however let facts speak for themselves. But first let it be acknowledged that the plan of the books is useful. The volume of "outlines" begins with a complete table of contents filling 17 pages, and even from this a student might learn something. Next come Chronological tables of dates with names attached, divided into periods with the names of authorities, ranging from B. C. 2500 to A.D. 1830. Then come "Twenty-five Remarkable Dates" beginning A.D. 476 and ending A.D. 1827. These include the Battles of Crecy and Poitiers, Leipzig as well as Waterloo, and Navarino, and exclude all notice of such matters as Charlemagne, the Reformation, the career of Frederick the Great, &c., &c. Next we have an alphabetical list of all (it should be "some of") the names mentioned in the tables, with short notices appended. This part is useful and fairly accurate, and extends from p. 35 to p. 174. Then comes an Appendix (p. 175-279,) full of matter of very various value, more than a third of which, however, is filled with history from 1854 onwards. Lastly comes a series of useful Genealogical Tables. The "Historical Atlas" contains altogether 104 maps and is by far the most complete book of the sort we have seen printed in America.

Unhappily however Mr. Labberton's knowledge of details is by no means equal to his width of conception. The maps are often grossly inaccurate, and the dates of the chronological tables so vague as to be practically useless. The volume of outlines, which is obviously meant as a work from which history may be "crammed," purports to "contain the results of the latest scholarship," and its Chronological tables "of only 420 dates" are meant to "exhibit the representative men of all ages at the particular period of their lives in which their influence, for good or evil, was at its height." It is clear that the value of the work depends upon its execution, and we must give a few specimens. Under Greek History we find the following details:—

III. THE DECLINE.

430. THUCYDIDES... (471-400)	Peloponnesian War, 2nd year.
420. XENOPHON, ... (444-355)	Alcibiades.
410. ARISTOPHANES (444-380)	Socrates.
400. PLATO..... (428-347)	The Anabasis.