

the scene. Leadership and prominence are unthought of. Only after a public and most personal appeal addressed to him did he undertake the ministry. It was not the dangers to which the calling at that time exposed him that daunted Knox. He had a realizing sense of the solemn obligations imposed on those who undertook the duties of the sacred office. He took his life in his hand. There followed, in quick succession, the siege of the Castle of St. Andrew's, exile to France, experience as a galley-slave, his return to England, followed by a second exile, soon after the accession of Mary to the English throne; his labours at Frankfort, and the troubles he experienced there; his ministry at Geneva, and his ultimate return to Scotland, where the great work of his life was accomplished in the comparatively brief space of about fourteen years.

Mary Queen of Scots having come to the throne, urged by early training, possibly by inclination, certainly by the settled purpose and influence of the Guise faction, the bigoted adherents and tools of the Papacy, became the representative of despotism spiritual and civil, while Knox represented the new era of freedom. These antagonistic forces came into stern conflict which issued in the permanent possession of liberty which has gone on extending to our own time. Most readers of Dr. Taylor's book will peruse with interest the chapter devoted to the vexed historical question of Knox's relation to his sovereign, on which it is now plain that there was much sentiment on the one side, and much truth on the other. The first interview between the Reformer and Mary dispelled all illusion. They read each other accurately. The Queen saw that her subject was not to be made pliant by courtly smiles, while he recognized in the young monarch a strength of purpose and astuteness beyond her years. They were both alike inflexible. He could only be silenced by force, and the popular power possessed by Knox made its exercise, even in that age, a dangerous expedient. He never wavered, but with calm, manly dignity, vindicated the right of free speech and exercised it conscientiously till his dying day.

Much has been written about Knox's rudeness to the young and beautiful Queen. Her many misfortunes and tragical end have led many people to believe that the accusation was true, but the facts of history are against this groundless fiction. Unyielding in principle and fixed in purpose, he certainly was, but boorishness cannot be laid to his charge.

But the battle ended and the stormy life came to a peaceful close in his sixty-seventh year in the full and comforting belief of that Gospel which he had preached and defended with such uncompromising boldness. His work remains. The Gospel in its purity became the heritage of the Scottish people. The school system of the country was founded by him, and the subsequent events, with the Killing Time, failed to undo the noble work whose foundations were laid by John Knox. Dr. Krummacher, at the Glasgow meeting of the Evangelical Alliance, said in his valedictory speech: When I came to Scotland I looked for a monument to John Knox. I found none. He needs none. Scotland is his monument—energy personified.

It remains only to add that this admirable volume is one of great value. It is no mere dry detail of historical facts ranged after the almanac pattern; no bitter polemic invective; but a most interesting narrative of a noble, heroic Christian life; the brief chronicle of one of the most important epochs of history. Every one into whose hands the book may fall will be delighted with it, and young readers particularly will glean from its pages a clear view of the chief personage of whom it treats and the work he was enabled to accomplish.

THE MANUFACTURE OF LITERATURE.

MR. R. A. OAKES contributes to the *Independent* a very readable, and in some respects, an entertaining paper under the caption of "The Editor's Regrets." A correspondent had sent a communication to our excellent contemporary, which, not finding acceptance, was returned with a printed formula, expressing regret that it had to be declined. The general rule, however, is that rejected manuscripts are not returned. The contributor whose lucubration was thus courteously declined, or receipt of the printed form, felt convinced that it could not be sincere because he had not received the editor's declination carefully written out by himself, or with his autograph at least. It is often amusing to think of the popular misconceptions enter-

tained on these and kindred matters. One of the popular ideas is that the conductors of journals and magazines have the utmost difficulty in finding material to insert in their columns. Mr. Oakes says:

If the Harpers or the Century Company were to print a daily, instead of a monthly, magazine they could not use all the articles that are submitted for their consideration; and, in the pressure of these formidable masses of manuscripts, who can doubt but that much is rejected that is quite as meritorious as that which is accepted? It is said that at one time the Harpers held manuscripts for which they had advanced more than \$60,000, which, in the pressure of fresh matter, they could not find place for, and that to utilize these in part, their *Young People* was established.

Another very general impression is that a subject which may appear of great importance to a writer must of necessity be of equal interest to the readers of a newspaper or magazine. The writer carefully thinks out his subject, sketches it in the rough, and then proceeds to re-write eloquently in his most legible hand, and without misgiving despatches it to the editor. It does not appear in print, and he is at first amazed, then indignant, and finds relief for his surcharged feelings in an explosive letter of remonstrance. It does not follow, however, that this is the average state of mind of all who desire to ventilate their grievances or attack public abuses. With the majority the element of personality does not colour their views or affect their conduct; being level-headed, they take matters sensibly, and come to the charitable conclusion that their productions are accepted or rejected according to certain well-defined principles that must be followed.

The paper referred to contains a number of interesting things bearing on the precariousness of literary work. The writing profession is full of inequalities. Take the following examples:

Paulding, for "The Dutchman's Fireside" and "Westward Ho!" received each \$1,500. To-day, Bret Harte receives \$1,000 for a single magazine sketch, and E. P. Roe \$5,000 from the *Current* for the privilege of first printing one of his serials. George Ripley, after his unsuccessful attempt "to reform the world by cultivating onions," went to New York to earn his bread by his pen, and for his first two months' work on the *Tribune* received \$20. Bayard Taylor commenced his editorial work in New York on a salary of \$5 per week, and Mr. Trowbridge received for a magazine page of printed matter just one-twelfth less than the Harpers pay their ordinary contributors. Mr. Trollope, in his monograph on "Thackeray," tells us that the editors rejected more of this great author's work than they accepted; that much of that they did accept they did not approve, and that, while this incomparable novelist was performing much of the best work of his life, he was not sure of his market, not certain of his readers, his publishers, or his prices.

The endeavour to elevate the standard of popular reading is not quite so encouraging as might generally be desired.

It has recently been most fully proved that the American people are not yet educated to the appreciation of first-class literary work. A man should never read anything that is below his own intellectual level; but he certainly will not read that which is so much above him as to be incomprehensible. *Harper's Monthly* and the *Century* are supposed to represent the ultima of artistic and literary excellence in America; combined, they may circulate 35,000 copies; and we have a population of fifty-five millions. The *Atlantic* is supposed to exhale only the odours of the inner sanctuary. No one but Mr. Houghton knows the number of its subscribers, and he does not boast of it; but while the second-hand bookmen allow in exchange five cents for old numbers of *Harper* and the *Century*, they will give half a cent per pound for the *Atlantic*. Judge Tourgée, in the *Continent*, made a most tempting and persistent bid for a worthy clientele, spending, it is said, \$200,000 and three years of unwearying labour, and when he relinquished his charming weekly, he had 6,000 subscribers to turn over to the *Christian at Work*. The *Manhattan* is another illustration of the folly of trying to supply an imaginary want. But every week Mr. Bonnor and the Messrs. Smith and Street distribute more than half a million *Ledgers* and *Weeklies*. Mrs. Leslie's presses groan night and day, and *Fire-side Companions*, *Saturday Nights*, *Arm Chairs*, et id genus omne, literally flood the land.

Books and Magazines.

WE have received from the Philadelphia Board of Publication (Toronto: James Bain & Son), a series of thirteen Temperance Tracts. They are interesting, instructive and persuasive. Their wide circulation would do much good.

IN A NUTSHELL. By Dio Lewis, M.D. (New York: Clarke Brothers.)—A little book, neatly got up, devoted to practical hygiene. It is plain and clear in style, sound and judicious in its advice, which if followed would promote health and happiness. Though primarily addressed to students, it would be most useful to every class of readers.

SHOEMAKER'S DIALOGUES. Edited by Mrs. J. W. Shoemaker. (Philadelphia: National School of Elocu-

tion and Oratory.)—This is a very good selection of short dialogues, suitable for recitation in schools, social gatherings and the family circle. There is a great variety to choose from, and the compiler has been careful to insert such pieces only as are free from the suspicion of irreverence and bad taste.

THE LAIRD'S SECRET. By Jane H. Jamieson. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson and Ferrier.)—This is a new edition of a capitally-written work in which present day life and its ways are admirably depicted. It is no crude and hasty production; but the product of keen observation, careful thought and patient labour. The result is all the more gratifying. It has gained a wide and deserved popularity. The book is handsome in appearance, to which several good engravings contribute.

JIM BENTLY'S RESOLVE. A Temperance Story. By Lydia L. Rouse. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—The object in writing this good, plain, simple story, the author informs her readers, was twofold; first, to recommend two things highly essential to happiness in this life, and indispensable as regards the life to come: Temperance and Religion; and second, to refute the terrible delusion of most bad men—that they will in some way, even against their will, by some strange transforming process, be saved at last. The book evidences the sincerity and earnestness of the author.

AT ANY COST. By Edward Garrett. (Edinburgh: Oliphant, Anderson & Ferrier.)—The author of this superior work has built up an excellent reputation. A number of years ago serials from the same pen appeared in the *Sunday Magazine* which attracted much notice for the fine feeling, intimate knowledge of human nature and keen appreciation of spiritual truth which they displayed. None of these valuable qualities are wanting in this most interesting story so well told. It is a book fitted to benefit every one who has the good fortune to read it. It is illustrated with engravings.

THE COMPANION TO THE REVISED OLD TESTAMENT. By Talbot W. Chambers. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls, Toronto: William Briggs.)—Dr. Chambers, one of the company of revisers, is widely recognized as a profound, careful and accurate Biblical scholar. Long previous study and varied accomplishments specially qualify him for the task he has undertaken, the results of which are embodied in the present admirable and useful volume. It contains ten chapters in which the following topics are discussed: The Need of a Revision; The Method of the Revision; The Text of the Old Testament; Changes in the Pentateuch; Changes in the Historical Books; Changes in the Poetical Books; Changes in the Prophetical Books; The American Appendix; The Importance of the Old Testament; and the Names of the Revisers, British and American.

ON retiring from his official position in Cornell University, President White pays a glowing tribute to Professor Goldwin Smith for his benefactions and services to that institution, as the following brief extract will show: The courage he showed in his own country in standing firmly by this Republic in the hour of its most fearful peril, and the fairness he has shown since in treating American questions have led our students to listen to him as they could have listened to no other living Englishman, save possibly to John Bright. His absolute truthfulness regarding his own country has led them to trust him when he has criticised ours, and his justice to our country has led us to seek to show justice toward his. I know of no one who in these days has done so much to promote the kindly feelings so rudely shaken during our Civil War between scholarly men in the two countries as has Goldwin Smith. But the main point here is that this illustrates the value of our system of non-resident professors and lecturers. Every lecture of his has aided the work of resident professors. He has given new impulses to them, and the students have caught in his lecture room a spirit which has led them to consider the history of the Mother Country a higher object of study than they had ever dreamed. After hearing his treatment of it, prejudices have been dispelled and students have all the more desire to use all the advantages offered by resident professors in pushing their further studies in that field. The teaching of Goldwin Smith through all these years furnishes an admirable example as to what instruction by non-resident professors may be made in stimulating the work of resident professors, in supplementing it, and in arousing the interest of students in it.