

Reviews.

A HISTORY OF ENGLISH DRAMATIC LITERATURE TO THE DEATH OF QUEEN ANNE. By Adolphus William Ward, M.A., 2 Vols. London: Macmillan & Co. (From C. Hill, Dorchester street).

No work, during recent times, has issued from the press, which is more deeply interesting to the student of English Literature than these volumes by Professor Ward. In the space of about fourteen hundred pages he has endeavored to trace the origin, and to sketch the most important part of the history of a literary growth, which he has long studied with no common love. He claims for his book no merit beyond that of an endeavor in the direction of completeness within definite limits: but it is to be hoped that his survey of our Dramatic Literature which terminates with the death of Queen Anne, the last of our Stuart sovereigns, will, if opportunity favors him, be continued to the present time.

Under any circumstances, we are grateful to him for the immense amount of elaborate research that has necessarily been expended on the volumes lately published. They form an admirable supplement to Payne Collier's *Annals of the English Stage*; and the student who possesses both these works will be enabled to peruse our greatest dramatic poets by the light of accurate knowledge and intelligent criticism. In the small space at our command we can only indicate briefly the main points of interest in Professor Ward's volumes. The chapters on the origin of the English Drama, and the beginnings of the English