

two omissions and these will hardly be missed inasmuch as poems on the same topics appear. A glance at the scope of this work and the wide field in which so many of our greater poets have travelled is a study by itself, and calls to mind much that is worthy of thought. Mr. Longfellow's sources of supply appear to be inexhaustible, and as a result we have some of the richest treasures in the realms of poesy. He has levied on the works of Landor, Thomas Moore, Lord Byron, Milton, Shakespeare, Lord Lytton, Pope, Bayard Taylor, Tasso, Bryant, Campbell, Willis, Whittier, Benjamin, Barry Cornwall, Mathew Arnold, Dr. Holmes, Sir William Jones and others of more or less note, besides drawing largely from his own writings. It was a happy idea from the first, these Poems of Places, and it has been well carried out. The books are neat and pretty. They are of convenient size, and the material of which the letter-press is composed is always high in character.

Mr. John Morley, the editor of *The Fortnightly Review*, has undertaken the editorship of a series of short books, so admirable in their character that we have no hesitation in cordially recommending them to everybody. The title of the series is 'English Men of Letters,' and the several gentlemen who have been engaged to furnish the letter-press are Goldwin Smith, Leslie Stephen, J. A. Froude, Wm. Black, Prof. Huxley, Principal Shairp, Mark Pattison, R. H. Hutton, the Dean of St. Paul's, and others of almost equal prominence. These books are destined to occupy a field all their own. They are copious, independent and always excellent. The volume before us—the first of the series—is Mr. Leslie Stephen's *Life of Samuel Johnson*,*

and it is in the fullest sense, a delightful book. The very cream of Boswell's biography is given, as well as a number of things we do not find in this chief of biographers. Mr. Stephen is one of our greatest living critics and scholars, and his estimates of Johnson, Goldsmith, Boswell and the other literary celebrities of the last century, invest his pages with peculiar interest and liveliness. The book is full of anecdote and story and good things generally. It is suitable for every class of reader and even the man who has Boswell by heart will find a wealth of new material in Stephen which will surprise and delight him at every turn. Fifteen books are announced for immediate publication and as these discuss many of the great names in English Literature, the reader will do well to take them as they come out. Scott and Gibbon will follow Johnson, and presently Mr. Goldwin Smith's Cowper and Wordsworth will appear.

Lovers of the Ceramic art will find in 'The China Hunters Club'* a little volume much to their taste. A large amount of curious information is given in an attractive way. The youngest member, who relates the experiences of the club, possesses a good deal of natural ability, some skill as a storyteller, and an abundance of knowledge about old China and that kind of pottery which, it seems, delighted our forefathers many years ago. The mania has become very fashionable, and that some of our best poets have not escaped the fever, Mr. Longfellow's 'Keramos' will show. Mr. W. C. Prime, whose large volume, 'Pottery and Porcelain,' is a treasure in its way, assists the youngest member by writing the introduction to her book, and Mr. Prime vouches for the truth of the statements therein recorded. The pictures are carefully executed, and the

* *English Men of Letters*, edited by JOHN MORLEY: *Samuel Johnson*, by LESLIE STEPHEN. New York, Harper & Bros.; Toronto, Copp Clark & Co.

* *The China Hunters' Club*, by the YOUNGEST MEMBER, New York, Harper & Brothers; Toronto, Copp, Clark & Co.