

Library Table.

BLACK BEAUTY. By A. Sewell. Toronto: William Briggs. London: Jarrold & Sons. 1894.

"Black Beauty" is without doubt one of the simplest and purest of books. Most touching and humane is this autobiography of a horse. Vividly, graphically, forcefully, yet tenderly and gently the leading events in a noble horse's life are woven into a story of singular attractiveness and power. One is reminded of the winsome charms of Goldsmith as the story flows along. How subtly, but surely the sympathies are enlisted; how eagerly the incidents are followed; admiration, indignation and pity each have their play, and the last page, though the story ends well, is not turned without regret. The praises bestowed on this book are all well deserved. The present edition, by William Briggs, is worthy of the book. The attractive form, clear type and abundant illustrations make it a handsome volume. No better Christmas present could be given to a Canadian boy or girl than the simple touching story "Black Beauty."

ACROSS ASIA ON A BICYCLE. By T. G. Allen, Jr., and W. L. Sachtleben. New York: The Century Co. 1894. \$1.50.

This is a bicycle age and we need have small wonder at the efforts of United States citizens to beat all creation on the wheel as well as in other departments of human achievement. The record of the journey of Messrs Allen and Sachtleben, which appeared serially in the *Century*, is now published in book form, prettily printed and illustrated on superior paper. This volume narrates vivaciously and graphically the notable events which befell the enterprising cyclers on their long and hazardous journey. It is unique in its way and cannot fail to be generally interesting. There is no lack of movement, and the writers had exceptional opportunities for observing not only natural scenery and points of interest by the way, but the manners, habits and customs of the people as well. The general trend of their route led them beyond the Bosphorus, up Mount Ararat, through Persia to Smarkand, thence to Kuldja, over the Gobi desert and through the western gate of the great wall, and the narrative concludes with an interview with Li-Hung-Chan, then Prime Minister of China.

RIVERBY. By John Burroughs. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. \$1.25.

This is the latest and, we are told in the preface, probably the last of Mr. Burroughs' out-of-door books. Every reader and enjoyer of the delightful sketches of nature with which we have from time to time been favoured by one who is, perhaps, on this continent *facile princeps* in the field of his choice, will receive the announcement with regret. It is so refreshing and renewing to feel the touch of a master hand leading us forth into the meadows, woods and wilds; by river and lake side, or up the rugged mountain slope; and to be taught, by one of her choice interpreters, the sweet secrets of nature. The beauty and fragrance of the wild flower, the merry song of bird, the mystery of animal life are here set forth most clearly and engagingly. To keenness of observation, profound sympathy with nature in all her varied moods, and long and patient study of her ways, Mr. Burroughs unites rare simplicity and beauty of style and choice descriptive power. The present volume contains eighteen well varied essays and we doubt not that it will be as welcome to our readers as it has been to ourselves. There is, however, one discordant note which will cause many a regret. We refer to the disparagement of the work of the English naturalist, the late Richard Jeffries, in the essay entitled "Lovers of Nature." It may surprise Mr. Burroughs to know that to many, the work of that acute observer and gentle, modest, charming English writer is esteemed as highly as his own. It is an evidence of bad taste and judgment, and is, to

say the least, an ungracious and uncalled for detraction of the life and memory of a distinguished co-worker in the same field.

IN THE DOZY HOURS. By Agnes Repplier. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Company. 1894. \$1.25.

It was but the other day we enjoyably read Miss Repplier's clever paper, "The Passing of the Essay," in the *Atlantic*, and now we hold in hand the neat volume which contains it and some nineteen other essays under the common title "In the Dozy Hours"—a name, be it remembered, taken from Thackeray, where he says, "Montaigne and Howell's letters are my bedside books. . . . I read them in the dozy hours." Miss Repplier is one of the most pleasing of United States essayists. Her short, crisp and sprightly ventures in this department of literary effort have won for her the esteem of most readers of refinement and taste. Her pages are vivacious and entertaining, a light, graceful style, frequent reference to the opinions of writers, old and new, cheery yet sagacious comment on their views, and apt, yet often humorous, statement of her own, beguile the readers who can never fairly complain that the way is either long or weary. We are always glad of anything from Miss Repplier, and it pleases us, and we venture to hope may not displease her, to apply her own words to her own work "The essay may die, but just now it possesses a lively and encouraging vitality. Whether we regard it as a means of culture or as a field for the 'best business talent' we are fain to remark, in the words of Sancho Panza: 'This youth, considering his weak state, hath left in him an amazing power of speech.'"

HISTORY OF MODERN TIMES: From the Fall of Constantinople to the French Revolution. By Victor Duruy. New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1894. \$2.00.

The importance deservedly attached to the comparative study of history is evidenced in the above volume in which Professor Gosvenor, of Amherst College, has given us a revised translation with occasional notes of M. Duruy's book of that name. It is well to travel and observe the habits and customs of other people. It is well also to read history through the eyes of foreign historians and to compare the opinions and conclusions which they have formed with those of our own countrymen who have gone over the same ground. M. Duruy, who died recently, was an industrious and painstaking worker in the historical field. His work on the Middle Ages and on Historical Literature, as well as that now before us, establish his claim as an able writer and thorough investigator. The claim made in the preface "not to include . . . all even of the prominent facts which have been produced from 1453 to 1789, but only to give a rapid sketch of European life in general, and of those momentous events which permit us to trace its progressive march" is well established. The main divisions of the work treat respectively of "Revolution in the Political Order, or definitive ruin of the Political Institution, of the Middle Ages, and a new system of Government;" "Consequences of the Political Revolution, First European Wars (1494-1559);" "Revolution in interests, ideas, and creeds;" "The Catholic Restoration and the Religious Wars. Preponderance of Spain;" "The Ascendency of France under Louis XIII. and Louis XIV. (1610-1715);" "The Eighteenth Century. Greatness of England, Russia and Prussia; Preliminaries of the French Revolution." Clear, concise, yet withal graphic and pleasing, in style and treatment M. Duruy has from the standpoint of a fair minded and well informed French scholar well traversed his ground. He has sought not only to detail events and state facts with precision but to indicate the varied influences which contributed to their growth and the principles which were from time to time evolved. In this lucid exposition of one of the most important periods of modern history, the vast development of the British Empire is by no means neglected nor is the progress of events on this continent passed by. Art, Letters, Science receive due recognition. Speaking of the growing influence of letters in the eighteenth century we are told that

"Literature was not, as during the preceding century, confined mainly to the artificial: it had invaded all and claimed to regulate all. The most virile forces of French intellect seem directed toward the pursuit of the public welfare. . . . Three men were at the head of the movement—Voltaire, Montesquieu, and Rousseau. . . . The influence of these three men was . . . encountered in the three main epochs of the Revolution: that of Voltaire in the universal glow of 1789, that of Montesquieu in the efforts of the constitutionalists of the National Assembly, that of Rousseau in the thought, if not in the acts, of the ferocious dreamers of the convention." Besides a full table of the contents of the volume, there is an index, and a chronological list is given of the Popes, Emperors, and Princes who reigned in the Principal States between 1453 and 1789.

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Literary and Personal.

Publication is announced of a volume of poems entitled "Watchers of Twilight, and other poems" by Mr. Arthur J. Stringer.

Macmillan & Co. have in press a volume of hitherto uncollected papers by the late Walter Pater, to be entitled "Greek Studies."

The second of the series of illustrated articles on "Pleasures of the Telescope" by Garrett P. Serviss, will open *The Popular Science Monthly* for January.

Among the relics shown at the Gibbon Exhibition in London is a list of the historian's books written by himself on the backs of playing cards—probably the earliest card catalogue now in existence.

Mr. Henry Somerset, the son of Lady Henry Somerset, it is said, will devote his spare time while wintering at Boston to completing his book, in which he will describe his recent explorations in the Hudson Bay Territories.

It has been announced from London that Ambassador Bayard has joined a committee formed to purchase Thomas Carlyle's house in Chelsea. Among the other members are: Lords Ripon and Rosebery, Professor Huxley, and Archdeacon Farrar.

Mr. Frederick Greenwood, whose "Lover's Lexicon" was one of the most popular books of a year ago, is this year the author of a new work, "Imagination in Dreams." The material is treated much on the lines laid down by the Society for Psychical Research, and the subjects of telepathy and of apparitions is taken up quite fully.

Sir George Grove, the greatest Schubert authority and editor of the "Dictionary of Music," is credited with saying that Dr. Dvorák's article on Schubert, which recently appeared in *The Century Magazine*, is the best thing ever written on that composer. These musical papers in *The Century* are to be continued at intervals during the coming year.

The diary kept by Queen Louisa, of Prussia, the late Emperor William's mother, in 1810, the last year of her life, has just come into the Duke of Cumberland's possession, through the death of a member of his family. The Duke has entrusted it to Mr. Poultney Bigelow, to form material for his History of the German War of Liberation, the first volume of which is to appear next spring.

"Dr Holmes kept up with the literature of the day until the very last," said Mr. Darnell, in the Old Corner Bookstore, in Boston, the other day. "It was but a little while before he died that he sent down for 'Peter Ibbetson,' and the week before that for 'Trilby,' on September 19, as soon as the book came out." Fond as he was of old literature, the Autocrat liked to read whatever interested the world that he lived in.

Dr. Louis Lewes, author of the volume on "The Woman of Shakespeare," a translation of which has just been published in London by Hodder Brothers, and in New York by G. P. Putnam's Sons, died at Munich on the 11th of November. Dr. Lewes had previously written a work on "The Women of Goethe," which secured a wide appreciation in Germany. At the time of his death he was engaged on a work devoted to "The Women of Byron."