

measure, responsible for the changes which are to be made in the cast of the Gondoliers. She was for a long time the secretary and assistant of D'Oyly Carte, and when his wife died, a year ago, the manager married his secretary. Her name is Helen Lenoir, and she had full charge of Carte's business during the successful runs of "The Mikado" and "Patience" in this country. Stetson, Gilmore and several others of the shrewder of the managers of New York always insisted that Miss Lenoir was the head, brains and front of the Carte management.

The performance on the 13th inst. of "Arminius," by the Toronto Philharmonic Society, demands a careful and discriminating note of criticism, since the work itself is interesting, and Mr. Torrington's exertions in connection with it no doubt very arduous. The Pavilion was well filled, and many of our most musical people were assembled to hear and approve of Max Bruch's famous cantata. The orchestra was in good form and numbered many ladies, while the chorus exhibited no signs of weeding either through the influenza or any other cause. As the work proceeded the applause was long and loud and frequently recurring, yet when the last note died away, there seemed to be an impression that the monotony of the treatment had rendered the cantata less interesting than popular expectations supposed. Max Bruch, in his delineation of emotions, dramatic situations by orchestration and chorus-writing, anticipates too much his climaxes; in fact, it is all climax. Unlike his great master, Richard Wagner, who appreciated to the full the tender gradations of sentiment and emotion, the composer of "Arminius" uses the full orchestra altogether too heavily and too often, thus weakening the force of the *tutti*, and especially the passages for *tympani* and bass. Again, the recitatives are weak and old-fashioned, so that the effect of the whole is somewhat of a *mélange*, relieved only by careful and inspiring part-writing, and—it goes without saying—perfect mastery of the forces at his command. For this monotony, the libretto is partly to blame, since picture after picture of woe and storm and mysticism are presented in its noble lines, the whole much resembling the now celebrated unrhymed libretti of Wagner, but shorn of the human interest which attends nearly all the Wagnerian subjects.

As regards the performance, it was, like all the Philharmonic's efforts, characterized by great crispness and energy, and must have consumed a great deal of time both on the part of conductor and of chorus in preparation. Mr. Torrington's enterprise is too well known already to need more than a word here, pointing out the value it is to the musical public to be enabled thus to hear the new European works creditably rendered. Mme. Bulkley-Hills is a careful and sympathetic singer, and rendered her part faithfully and well.

INDIAN LIFE.*

NO country upon the Asiatic continent has enjoyed a higher celebrity or aroused a keener interest from the earliest centuries than India, therefore Prof. J. Campbell Oman's book upon "Indian Life, Religious and Social" is classed among the acceptable and noteworthy books of the day.

The land that to western imaginations has always been redolent of fragrant and delicious odours, and adorned by whatever is grand and gorgeous, this land, with due license for such magnificent and illusory conceptions, forms unquestionably one of the most remarkable regions on the face of the earth, with its grandeur of scenery, its antiquity of civilization, law, arts and social life, and its two hundred and fifty millions of subjects.

Prof. Oman has evidently embarked upon the subject with a full sense of its importance, and possessing the advantage of living for many years in the Province of North India, from Assam to the Punjab, he is able to give a clear, true and most interesting account of the inner life of its people, particularly of the lower orders who are not so closely environed by the laws of "Caste."

In Part I, Professor Oman displays to us oriental human nature under most striking and singular aspects, touches upon two historic reforms together with a short sketch of Buddha, and describes several monuments of architectural genius, not omitting to devote an entire chapter to Eastern Drama and the theatre at Lahore. Part II. records chiefly incidents of domestic life among the lower classes, their superstitions, mode of life and habits of thought.

The poet Southey has enlightened English readers in his "Curse of Kehama" upon one remarkable order—the yogis or ascetics. Professor Oman deals comprehensively with the subject, which will be to the majority of people the most deeply entertaining portion of the work, representing as it does a strange phase of saintship. Practically, in their self-mortification and strict penance they resemble the Christian hermits of European countries, but theoretically they differ, as the yogi puts forth extraordinary claims to knowledge and power, while the anchorites retire in humility and penitence. The yoga-vidya sets forth that by "posturing, contemplation and suspension of breath" a man can separate his soul from its gross condition and be able to gain a full knowledge of past and future. The nearest approach to the meaning of the word in English is "communion," a duality in unity, an harmonious oneness with the universal Spirit. It is not uncommon in travelling to meet, Professor Oman writes, "a yogi with an arm attenuated and rigid, upraised above his matted locks, his

hand so long closed that the growing nails have penetrated the lifeless flesh." The practical result of "yogan upon Hindoo life and thought does not savour of elevation; many of its finest intellects have been diverted from useful channels and drowned in a deep lethargy, while upon the nations the evil of a low standard of a lazy, dirty repulsive yogi as an ideal of man's excellence," cannot but be debasing and injurious.

Of the influence of Mahomedanism upon Hindoo religion Professor Oman does not treat, but dwells largely upon two modern theistic developments or reforms, bearing unmistakably the stigma of Christian influence and of English political and social principle. The leader of the "Arya Samaj" was Daynand Swami, a learned Pundit, and one of the greatest Vedic scholars of the age. Their belief is simple—faith in one God and the Vedas, with a distinct law against the worship of idols; their meetings are popular, being visited alike by Hindoos, Mahomedans and Christians. Daynand gave to the Aryans a rationalistic interpretation of the four Vedas, but as the great Pundit's mantle has not fallen upon any individual shoulders, there is a probability that this new sect which might be considered a step in favour of Christianity, or a link between it and paganism, will soon be divided into sections. According to Professor Oman, the most sacred spot on the face of the earth is where the temple of Budaha Gaya stands, still an imposing structure even in its modern condition. One quarter of the human beings upon the globe fully believe that here in this sacred place, seated under the mystic Bo tree, five hundred years before Christ, the immortal founder of Buddhism, Gautama, known through Sir Edwin Arnold as the "Prince Siddhaith" obtained "enlightenment."

This interesting little volume closes with a slight sketch of domestic relations, and we meet with the familiar portrait of the "Mother-in-law" in India ink colouring. It does not seem unlikely that the unjust opprobrium of European society upon this unfortunate class of women may have descended upon us with much oriental traditional lore.

56 St. George Street.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

A MIDSUMMER DRIVE THROUGH THE PYRENEES. By Elwin Asa Dix, M.A. Illustrated. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson and Company.

The holiday tour so pleasantly described in this handsome volume is surely not so novel now as it appears to have been when the author made his summer journey from Biarritz, through the French Pyrenees, to Suchow. The region traversed is accessible and attractive, and the route is by no means difficult; and it is almost incredible that it has been so completely ignored by travellers, as Mr. Dix's introductory remarks would lead us to believe. History and romance have given to the Pyrenees a peculiar interest. Every mountain peak, every pass and valley has its legend—its story of heroism, or daring, or love, or vengeance; and nature has so lavishly dowered this ancient home of chivalry and romance that it seems to want no attraction.

Mr. Dix makes considerable but very judicious use of the legends and bits of history to which we have alluded; he sketches with a facile pen the scenes he visited, and the phases of life with which he came in contact; and the reader will follow his wanderings with unabated interest from beginning to end. We have only to add that the book is from "The Knickerbocker Press," and is in mechanical execution every thing that can be desired.

THE GARDENER'S STORY, OR PLEASURES AND TRIALS OF AN AMATEUR GARDENER. By George H. Ellwanger. New York: D. Appleton and Company.

The garden has been a delight in all ages; lovers have wooed in it; poets have sung of it; philosophers have meditated in it; the references to it in literature are innumerable. Milton loved his garden; it was a necessity with him; no house in which he ever lived was without it. This beautiful little book, with its clear typography, its dainty head and tail pieces, and its tasteful binding, should be welcomed by every genuine lover of flowers; for every lover of flowers should know something of flowers and of floriculture. It has been the author's aim to present a simple outline of hardy flower-gardening, rather than a formal treatise or text-book of plants; to stimulate a love for amateur gardening, that may be carried out by all who are willing to bestow upon it that heed of attention it so bountifully repays! As nearly all the plants and flowers referred to may be successfully grown in "the lower lake regions," the suggestions and directions in the work will be as helpful to the Canadian as to the American gardener. The chapters are "arranged so as to present the varying aspect of the garden from early Spring to late Autumn." There is a chapter on the rock-garden, and another on hardy ferns. Wild flowers in their native haunts are described; bird and insect life is touched upon; and the mission of the bee and moth and butterfly in the economy of the garden is indicated; and throughout the book, poets who have sung of flowers and the seasons, are frequently made to contribute of their treasures. The usefulness of the volume, which contains some three hundred and fifty pages, is greatly enhanced by a full index.

FORT ANCIENT. By Warren K. Moorehead.

This valuable addition to the literature relating to prehistoric remains in America is a minute description of "The Great Prehistoric Earthwork of Warren County, Ohio, compiled from a careful survey, with an account of the mounds and graves, a topographical map, thirty-five full-page phototypes and surveying notes in full." The distance around this mysterious enclosure—for the mystery is still unsolved—is 18,712.22 feet, the height of the embankment above the plateau is 22 feet, and the total length of the artificial earthwork is about 10½ miles. Mr. Moorehead, with a corps of competent assistants, did the work of excavating, measuring and surveying very thoroughly, so thoroughly that he trusts no additional researches will be required to complete it. The results of his labour are very fully and clearly presented in this volume; but the conclusions that may be justly drawn from the structure at the foot and the remains found within and around it are few and disappointing. These conclusions are, briefly, that Fort Ancient is a defensive earthwork, constructed not earlier than nine hundred years ago, by a race possessing qualities seldom found among savages; that it was used, at times, as a refuge by some large tribe of Indians; and at intervals there was a large village situated within its walls. This is about all that can with certainty be said: "The long and lofty embankments keep their secrets well, and there is no one strong enough to make them divulge."

STORIES OF NEW FRANCE. By Agnes Maule Machar and Thomas G. Marquis. Boston: D. Lothrop. Cloth. Pp. 313. \$1.50.

The first chapter in this volume tells how New France was formed, but the "stories" really begin with the voyages of Cartier and end with the capitulation of Quebec in 1759. The century and a half from 1608 to 1759 has been aptly called the heroic age of Canada. It is a period full of romantic incidents, daring adventures, and brilliant achievements. These brave deeds, which are scarcely paralleled in the history of any other country in the world, are related at length in the attractive pages of Parkman, and are familiar to many readers. But Parkman's work comprises more than a dozen volumes, which all have not leisure to read, and to many they are not accessible. The authors of this work have performed an admirable service in telling us these "stories" as they are here told, and compressing them, without sacrificing any material details, within the compass of one convenient volume. Such a work is especially opportune at this time, when vexed questions of language and race and creed agitate politicians and threaten to excite discord and arouse feelings of anger and resentment between the two great races occupying the Dominion and entrusted with its destinies. Canada has a glorious past, of which any nation might well be proud; and it is one aim of these stories "to promote among English-speaking Canadians a wider and more familiar knowledge of the heroic past, inherited through their French fellow-countrymen—that past which Parkman has so eloquently told and Fréchette so nobly sung."

The stories are divided into two series; the first dealing with the founding of the colony, and the second with the efforts to extend it. Miss Machar, who contributes the first series and the chapter on La Salle in the second, is so well known to Canadian readers that it is enough to say she displays the excellent qualities that distinguish all her literary work. Mr. Marquis is a less experienced writer, and may be said to have just commenced his literary career; but some of the most stirring and affecting themes in this volume—such as "A Canadian Thermopylæ," Madeline Verchères' defence of "Castle Dangerous," and "The Acadian Exiles"—have been entrusted to him, and he has done his work with excellent judgment and ability.

In addition to the text, there is a chronology and list of Canadian Governments, from Samuel de Champlain to De Vaudreuil-Cavagnal, and a preface by Principal Grant, of Queen's University.

THE ORIGIN AND GROWTH OF THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION: An Historical Treatise in which is drawn out, by the Light of the most recent Researches, the gradual development of the English Constitutional System, and the growth out of that System of the Federal Republic of the United States. By Hannis Taylor. In two parts. Part I.: The Making of the Constitution. Houghton, Mifflin and Co. 1889.

The work before us illustrates in a very striking manner the enormous advances made in what may properly be called the scientific study of history and more particularly of political or constitutional history. When we compare this work with that of Hume, who began his history with the accession of the Stuarts, and who gravely asserted that the English Constitution before that time could not be considered "as a regular plan of liberty," we see how the point of view has been changed. Even Hallam, who almost revolutionized the study, contributed little to the subject previous to the accession of the House of Tudor.

The fault of this treatment must not be attributed simply to the historians. As Mr. Taylor remarks, "The truth is, until recently, the real history of early and mediæval England has remained a sealed book. Only within the last fifty years have the charters, chronicles, and memorials in which was entombed the early history of the English people, been made accessible; and only within the last twenty years have they been subjected to the final analysis which has at last extracted from them their full and true significance."

*Indian Life. By Prof. Campbell Oman. Philadelphia: Gebbie & Son.