

THE CONTEMPORARY REVIEW, for November contains the following articles: *On Freedom*, by Max Muller, Gladstone, The Ancient Regime and The Revolution in France; What is the Actual Condition of Ireland? The Doluge; Its Traditions in Ancient Nations; Suspended Annihilation, by R. A. Proctor; John Stuart Mill's Philosophy Tested, by Prof. Stanley Jevons. The title of the article on Freedom might prove misleading, it is not political freedom that is treated of, it is really an article on *education*—elementary, secondary and academical—and may be read with interest and profit by all interested in the work. The two studies on Gladstone are acute and really interesting—presenting the character of the great orator from two opposite points of view. The article on the Actual Condition of Ireland is very interesting in the present state of affairs in that country; the writer proves that—except during the last two years of unnatural depression—the condition of the Irish people has vastly improved during the thirty years from 1846 to 1876. The other articles are also able and very interesting. Altogether the number is of the best that we have ever read of one of the foremost periodicals of the time.

BLACKWOOD for November contains a continuation of the entertaining story, *Reata*, and the conclusion of the very interesting article on Syria; An American Princess; Whig Reviewers as Painted by Themselves; A Poor Devil; Among the Afghans, and Political Reflections on the Recess.

THE NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW for December is an excellent number. It contains seven articles, all of high literary merit. Romanism and The Irish Race in the United States, Part I., by J. A. Froude; Young Men in Politics, by G. S. Boutwell; The Religion of To-day; Is Political Economy a Science? by Prof. Bonamy Price; English and American Physique, by Geo. M. Beard; The Performance of Political Forces, Part I., by Cuthbert Mills; Recent Literature, by J. G. Hassard. Published by D. Appleton & Co., 551 Broadway, New York.

THE GENTLEMAN'S MAGAZINE for November contains *Under Which Lord*, a continuation of a popular story by Lynn Linton; Her Majesty's Next Ministers; Recent French Poets, Part II., Best-Day Memories; American Storm Warnings, C. H. Thompson; A Pilgrimage to Glastonbury, by Edward Walford; The Carol of the Swallow; and Table Talk. Published by Catto & Windus, Piccadilly, London, Eng.

Every teacher ought to take some of the above periodicals. We do not see how a teacher can develop a taste for literature in his pupils unless he is himself possessed of literary tastes; nor how he can better acquire such tastes than by habitual perusal of articles written by the foremost *litterati* of the day. These periodicals, or most of them, should also be found in the "Reading Room" of every High School Literary Society.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for December contains the first part of "Thirty Seven Hundred and Fifty-Eight," a tale in which the state of the world eighteen hundred and seventy-nine years hence is described; a good poem, entitled "A Wall Between," "Kansas Farmers and Illinois Dairy-men," a series of notes on the poverty of Western farmers; "Some of Us—A Southwestern Sketch," very amusing; "The National Board of Health;" "Three Interviews with Old John Brown," "The Conductor and Rosamond," a capital story; "The Greatest Novelist's Work for Freedom," which is an account of the life of Ivan Turganoff, the famous Russian author; "Reminiscences of George Grote;" "English Grammar," an article by Richard Grant White, a relation of ex-President Grant, and well known as a writer on the English language; "The Man who was to have Assassinated Napoleon," "The Education of the Hand in Public Schools" which is a plea for instructing boys in the use of the saw, the axe, the file, and the plane at the expense of the State, in order that they may learn the grammar of the manual arts and "the meaning of their hands;" and the usual amount of matter under the headings "Contributors' Club" and "Recent Literature." The publishers announce that a new serial story, "The Undiscovered Country," by W. D. Howells, the editor of the magazine, will begin in the January number.

The Christmas number of *St. Nicholas* is probably the grandest child's magazine ever issued. It contains stories, fairy tales, adventures, descriptions of wonderful things, biography, games, charades, rebuses, etc., illustrated by over ninety pictures. The boy or girl who receives it for a Christmas-box will not care to explore the stockings to the toes. Alfred Tennyson has written two pieces specially for the January number. Any parent who can afford \$3.00 per annum for it, ought to subscribe for *St. Nicholas*.

SCIENCE'S MONTHLY.—Among the many admirable articles in the December number, we would specially call the attention of teachers to "Two Visits to Victor Hugo," in which the great Frenchman is seen in the light of his home; "The John Hopkins University;" "Coffee Culture in Brazil;" "Success with Small Fruits," by E. P. Roe, the novel writer, who explains how to be successful in growing strawberries. The conclusion of the sketch of Bayard Taylor's career is given, "Nature and the Poets" and "Oddities of Paris" are capital articles, and the editorial on "Teachers and Task-masters" is timely, and gives the profession sound advice.

THE POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.—Science is the grandest agency of amelioration and improvement that is at work in civilization. It is constantly enlarging our knowledge of Nature by new discoveries; it is perfecting all the arts by the application of new facts, principles, and processes, and in its progressive course it has reached and is profoundly affecting all the higher questions of human interest—the problems of statesmen, jurists, financiers, divines, artists, historians, moralists, educators, philanthropists, and social reformers.

The *Popular Science Monthly* is the only periodical devoted to the science of all these great subjects, and it treats them in a manner suited to the wants of intelligent non-scientific people. It represents the most valuable thought of the most advanced scientific men of the age in all countries. Its articles and abstracts of articles, original, selected, and illustrated, will be found to reflect comprehensively and faithfully the general progress of scientific ideas in all departments of popular interest.

Gleanings.

FROM A TEACHER'S DIARY.

He who speaks too much tires himself and his scholars. Not what we say, but what the children learn, shows the worth of the school work.

If we could always feel ourselves the wants and the ability of the child, many a random shot would not be made. An independent opinion, a free and full rendering of what was taught by the teacher, is worth more than a tubful of mechanically memorized things; but certain things must be absolutely and firmly entrusted to the memory, to serve as material to reason upon—we cannot cipher with *noughts only*.

The greatest gain in instruction is obtained, if the children become *desirous* of learning.

Not the sum of things learned, but the mental facility manifested by the scholars in thought, speech and writing, is the true criterion of the school's standing.

The question, "Why?" is the spade wherewith we dig the earth and uncover its hidden treasures.

The scholar's final aim is not what he can *do*, but what he shall *grow to be*.

Morality has for its foundation, firm habit, religious warmth of the heart, and clear thought.—V. Scheer.

—Within a few years quite a number of infant schools have been established in Switzerland, and they are increasing rapidly there; while at Paris, also, such institutions are being organized with a view of powerfully aiding in the regeneration of the system of primary education. The Canton of Neuchâtel has already been mentioned in these columns as one of the most advanced in Switzerland in respect to instruction and educational improvement, and these schools for very young children are quite numerous there. The following remarks from the report of an inspector of the Canton are interesting as showing the appreciative criticism of the public officer, and as pointing out an error to be guarded against elsewhere. He says: "The teachers do not come down to the level of the child; they speak a language too elevated, which he cannot understand; he is not taught to observe, nor to think, nor to express himself. Our teachers are not lacking in zeal, but their activity is not always intelligent. Yet they are well prepared, and even learned; but *beginners* go quickly and headlong into things. We are persuaded that, with instruction more methodical, less tied down and superficial, one would succeed better and more easily." The remarks of the Swiss inspector may be read with profit in our own country, for no doubt the same error prevails here, and it is one that needs revision. An idea frequently prevails that young children may safely be entrusted to young and inexperienced teachers, and it is the cause of much mischief. Teachers of experience and judgment are particularly needed here, because the impression, made at that early age are of so much consequence to the future career of the scholar, and the evil effects of erroneous or ill-judged instruction are not easily eradicated.—*New England Journal of Education*.

BUSINESS EDUCATION.—We wish to call attention to the advertisement of the "British American Business College." This institution takes a high rank in the Chain of 'Bryant & Stratton Business Colleges' on this Continent, and is decidedly the leading Commercial School in the Dominion. We would strongly recommend Teachers, who do not intend following their present profession, to fit themselves for an active business life, and any young man or woman who wishes to acquire a sound business education, will do well to attend this school. We can give you no better guarantee that your best interests will be served than is afforded by a perusal of the names of the staff of teachers and lecturers set forth in its annual announcement. Business is now improving, and the demand for young men of thorough training will be greatly in excess of former years.