

BOOK NOTICES.

THE POETRY OF OTHER LANDS. Compiled by N. Clemmons Hunt. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates.

This volume will prove of infinite value to English readers who are desirous of studying the poetry of other countries, ancient and modern, and who are not able to read such writings in the original. Mr. Hunt has made a most judicious and copious selection of the best translations. Many of these are already familiar to lovers of poetry, but the great majority are unknown by name, even, to the average reader. In his preface the compiler disclaims any pretensions to present an encyclopedic volume, but has endeavoured to reproduce such as are worthy of being better known than they ever would become "lying hid in obscure corners and amid much rubbish." It is impossible to resist the temptation to quote one short poem, which may be commended to the thoughtful consideration of patriotic Canadians in general, and to their political leaders in particular. It is a translation by Sir William Jones from the Greek of Alcaeus.

What constitutes a state?
Not high raised battlement, or laboured mound,
Thick wall or moated gate;
Not cities fair, with spires or turrets crown'd!
No;—men, high-minded men—
With powers as far above dull brutes endued
In forest, brake, or den,
As beasts excel cold rocks and brambles rude—
Men who their duties know,
But know their rights, and, knowing, dare maintain;
Prevent the long-aimed blow,
And crush the tyrant while they rend the chain.

THE FAIR ENCHANTRESS. By Miss M. C. Keller. Philadelphia: T. B. Peterson & Brothers.

The story of Mora Evans is told with a graphic power not common with modern lady writers. The heroine devotes her life to the discovery of her parents' assassin. Thrown on the world with a younger sister, Mora is picked up, educated, and, of course, eventually married, by Erle Kingsley, a millionaire doctor, after she has seen the man who made her an orphan die of yellow fever. From first to last there is a succession of incident, and the plot compels attention to the end, despite padding of a more or less pretentious character. Miss Keller, however, is not free from the common mistake of making most of her characters think in the same groove and use the same language. Thus, she puts the following words into the mouth of a girl of less than fourteen summers: "Claudine, I shall always believe that men can accomplish whatever they choose, and that they may compass it sooner or later, if they use just discernment and do not permit themselves to be led astray by Utopian fancies or paradoxical motives. . . . Mortals do make flaws, but still one can sculpture his soul into exquisite, perfect proportions."

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE. London and New York: Macmillan & Co.

Outside of Cassell's there was no illustrated monthly magazine of note published in England previous to the appearance of this venture, which has now run to its sixth number, and appears simultaneously in London and New York. The proprietors are to be congratulated on their enterprise, and judging from the superior manner in which the first issues are turned out, the *English* will probably be patronized by a large constituency on both sides of the Atlantic. Whilst the literary contents show careful editing, the illustrations are such as to make it no unworthy rival of its American contemporaries. It is, withal, exceedingly cheap, and so places within the reach of the million a class of magazine which has hitherto found subscribers only amongst the comparatively well-to-do. The list of writers and artists already engaged to contribute include the foremost names of the day. We heartily wish our contemporary the success we predict it cannot fail to obtain.

THE QUESTION OF SHIPS. By Lieut. J. D. J. Kelley, U.S.N. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.

In this unpretentious book, Lieut. Kelley propounds a plan for the restoration of the American merchant marine and navy. He thinks that the administration of maritime affairs should be placed in the hands of a central bureau under the navy department. He would admit all ships over 3,000 tons to American register; he would free from duty all materials used in the construction or repair of ships of this class; he advises the adoption of a new tonnage measurement based on actual carrying capacity; the exemption from taxation of all ships engaged in foreign trade eight months out of the twelve; a revision of the laws relating to seamen, pilots, and owners. He would build seven new cruising ships a year, for ten years, at a cost of \$40,200,000; and in support of his theories he advances, besides his own arguments, the opinions of the best informed writers on the subject.

SESAME AND LILIES. By John Ruskin, LL.D. New York: John Wiley and Sons.

The *raison d'être* for the present issue of "Sesame and Lilies" by Messrs. Wiley is the same as induced the author of the three lectures collated under that title to preface them in 1871 as follows: "Life being short, we ought not to waste it in reading valueless books; and valuable books should, in a civilized country, be within the reach of every one,

printed in excellent form, for a just price." Never has a cheap press done more for the promulgation of the gospel of sweetness and light than in placing such works as those within the reach of the masses. The great writer of "Modern Painters" is all too little known on this continent. A prohibitory price of publication can no longer be pleaded for such ignorance.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA.

"THE BLACK FLAG," which for six nights attracted good audiences at the Toronto Grand Opera House, is properly advertised as "sensational;" but though in his libretto Mr. Pettit makes no pretensions to high-class writing or originality of conception in the plot, his drama possesses a merit not common to the average pot-boiler's production—from first to last there is nothing to shock public decency, nor does he descend to that most repulsive nastiness, the *double entendre*. Mr. Edwin Thorne's company is balanced above the average of caste *en tour*. As "Harry Glyndon," the misjudged, unselfish, rough-diamond son of a rich father, sent to Portland prison for his fashionable brother's crime, Mr. Thorne has full scope for his histrionic power, and from first to last was in sympathy with his audience. "Naomi," niece to "Harry's" father, and in love with the so-called, "vagabond," contrives his liberation and vindication, assisted by "Ned," a boy devoted to "Harry." Miss Bessie Stevens in the former, and Master Woodruff in the latter, character, acquit themselves very creditably, the last-named particularly. The comedian of the piece is Mr. Russell Bassett, who is excruciatingly funny as "Sim Lazarus," a sharper Jew. Mr. P. J. Martin was a rather inanimate villain—"Jack Glyndon," the rouse son for whose misdeeds "Harry" suffers. Of course the powers of darkness are vanquished in the last act, and the hero is restored to freedom and to his fiancée to "live happy ever after."

HAVERLY'S "Silver King" company are playing to crowded houses in Toronto this week.

On the 1st of May the operetta "Hans Gretel" will be given in the Toronto Grand Opera House, the proceeds to be devoted to the relief of the poor of the city.

It is said that Mr. Irving will revisit this country in the fall, and that Miss Ellen Terry will bring her daughter—who has made some mark as a young actress—out at the same time.

The Toronto Choral Society's next subscription concert will be given in the Pavilion on April 8th, when Haydn's "Seasons" will be produced. Mrs. Wells B. Tanner, as soprano, and Mr. Bowdoin, as tenor, have been engaged.

In the rush for Patti tickets at the Grand Opera House, San Francisco, on Friday, the crowd burst in the doors, smashed all the plants and pictures and the window of the box office. A boy was hurled through the door and badly hurt. Men's coats and women's dresses were torn from their backs. Several women were seriously injured, and many fainted.

LITERARY GOSSIP.

THE prizes recently offered by *St. Nicholas*, for the best original illustrations by young artists under seventeen years of age, brought more than nine hundred pictures under the notice of the judges.

WHETHER "the admission of ladies to University College would be advisable" was debated in Convocation Hall of Toronto University College on Friday last, and the weight of argument was decidedly on the side of those who took the negative view. There was no vote taken, however. Mr. J. Ross, in disputing the desirability of admitting lady students to the college, gave a very able address, and the debate was wound up by an exhaustive speech by Professor Goldwin Smith. The evening's programme also included two choruses by the University Glee Club: "The College Song of Songs," creating much amusement; an essay by Mr. W. D. Mackenzie; a reading by Mr. W. A. Frost, which was encored, and a solo by Mr. M. J. Mercer, also encored.

AN author who respects his pen does not assert the right to put in a journal or a book what he would not say before young girls or modest women. He knows that they form the best part of his public, the most honest and sincere; and if his artistic wings are clipped a little by the necessity of draping his statues, he is easily consoled by the thought that there is nothing doubtful or suspicious in his success, and by the assurance that the public do not seek filth, but talent, in his works. Nor is it a trifle to have readers and friends among all classes and in all ages. Independent of the satisfaction a writer finds in communion of ideas with the coming as with the passing generation, what a prodigious stimulus this gives to his genius! Let us admit that the French novelist is within his rights as an artist in systematically stirring up human mud, under the pretence that on a final analysis everything is reduced to combinations of oxygen, hydrogen, azote and carbon. It is not less true nor less deplorable that by a necessary result of this system all one class of a nation—the most precious, the most interesting, the most sensitive to impressions, the fondlest of reading—is cut off from novels or compelled to read them secretly, and thus led to seek the worst parts of them. The young girl (to say nothing of the young man) arrives at marriage with an imagination either void of true ideas of the real world, or, on the contrary, filled with too realistic ideas.—*M. Daryl.*