

personage of historical importance. The excitement which the work has called forth in Europe can be well understood by those who have already possessed themselves of any of the reprints of the English translation.

The first volume (A. to Impromptu) of Dr. George Grove's admirable 'Dictionary of Music and Musicians,' has just been issued from Messrs. Macmillan's press, and should find its way into the hands of all those who take a genuine interest in the musical art. The articles are written by eminent writers, English and foreign, and embrace everything that belongs to music, or is allied or even distantly related to it. Biographies of eminent composers, histories of musical instruments, illustrations of musical terms, careers of great singers, &c., &c., are some of the subjects treated of in this exhaustive Cyclopædia of Music, which we should be glad to see within reach—if even for reference—of the many accomplished amateurs in Music in Canada. The volume is published at a guinea.

The old-time complaint of those whose education in youth has been neglected, that there were no special courses of study suited to after-life education, must now cease to be heard, for the projects which of recent years have been put on foot by publishers more or less designed to supply in popular form, the literary wants of the masses, are now numerous, inviting, and capitally adapted to the purposes which have called them into existence. Such schemes as the 'Ancient' and the 'Foreign Classics for English Readers,' Morley's 'English Men of Letters,' 'The Epoch Series of Histories,' Strahan's 'Books for the People,' Harpers' 'Half-Hour Library,' Osgood's 'Little Classics,' &c., &c., are not only a great boon to the people, in respect of their modest cost and handy form, but give the opportunity to thousands to widen their acquaintance with literature, and extend the range of their reading, which has not hitherto been possible. Following these publisher's projects we have referred to, comes a new enterprise of Messrs. Marcus Ward & Co., of London and Belfast, in the shape of a 'New Plutarch,' to contain the 'Lives of those,' as it is phrased, 'who have made the History of the world.' The enterprise is to be under the direction of Mr. Walter Besant.

of novelist fame, and the Rev. W. J. Brodribb, M. A., with whom are to be associated a number of well-known and capable writers. Every volume, according to the announcement, will contain the life of one man or woman, around whose name will be gathered not only the deeds which have made that one life memorable, but also those events which make a remarkable period in the world's history. The volumes will present Pictures of the Time, as well as the events and traditions of a single life; and though not written as mere educational text-books, will be largely intended for use in that process of self-education which is carried on at all periods of life, in age as well as in youth. We append the subjects of a few of the early volumes: 'Coligny, and the failure of the French Reformation;' 'Judas Maccabeus, and the Revival of Jewish Nationality;' 'Victor Emmanuel, and the attainment of Italian Unity;' 'Joan of Arc, and the expulsion of the English from France;' 'The Caliph Haroun al Raschid, and Saracen Civilization;' 'Hannibal, and Carthaginian Civilization;' 'Abraham Lincoln, and the Abolition of Slavery;' 'Richelieu, and his Court;' 'Charlemagne and his Time,' &c., &c.

Mr. Froude's sketch of 'Julius Cæsar' is now issued.

An American edition of the Duc de Broglie's Diplomatic Revelations, under the title of 'The King's Secret,' dealing with an episode in the life of Louis XV. is about to appear. The work has created quite a sensation in Paris.

Mr. John Hill Burton, the Scottish Historian, has in press a 'History of the reign of Queen Anne.'

Despite the failure, as acting dramas, of Mr. Tennyson's 'Harold,' and 'Queen Mary,' it is said that he has a new play ready for Mr. Henry Irving, entitled 'Eleanor and Rosamond.'

A new novel by Mr. Thomas Hardy, author of 'A Pair of Blue Eyes,' &c., entitled, 'The Distracted Young Preacher,' is about to be issued serially, in *Cornhill* and in *Harper's Weekly*.

It is rumoured that Mr. Froude has been long accumulating material, with the assistance of Mr. Carlyle, for a biography of the philosopher of Chelsea. Mr. Carlyle's life has been an uneventful one, though he is an octogenarian, but Mr. Froude will doubtless portray the