

OUR TABLE.

ANNALS OF THE QUEENS OF SPAIN; BY ANATI
GEORGE.

This very eloquently written, and most interesting work, is the production of a Spanish lady, who, however, writes in the English language with a fluency and correctness so admirable that even in a native it might challenge criticism. The time at which these Annals commence is the stirring period of the irruptions of the Visigoths, when those savage warriors, hard pressed by the Romans in Gaul, determined to carry their arms beyond the Pyrenees, with a view to establish themselves on the sunny fields of Spain. The records of these far-off times are necessarily dim and shadowy and difficult to trace, but the ample sources placed at the disposal of the author, and her familiarity with the language in which they are preserved, made the task, to her, much lighter than it would have been to an English historian. That she has well availed herself of all the sources of information at her command, the book gives abundant evidence; and although the period is not the most interesting in Spanish history, being previous to the consolidation of the various kingdoms and principalities and states into which Spain was divided, into one, she has succeeded in giving to the world a book which will be read with profit as well as pleasure.

It is intended by the author to continue the work to the reign of the present Queen, and we anticipate much pleasure from the succeeding volumes. The history of Spain, and of its Kings and Queens, is full of romance—stirring as it is strange, and in such hands as those of the author of this volume, it must be attractive indeed. The style is bold, graceful, and sometimes elegant; and she takes a rapid glance at the great events which render memorable the periods during which her heroines lived and reigned.

The early history of Spain—at least previous to and during the long Moorish wars—has not been extensively read or studied, and probably it would be difficult to call attention to it without some more attractive feature than the mere details, even if their accuracy could not be doubted, would supply. But in this form, the interest attached to the leading personages will commend it to perusal; and the author will have the satisfaction of feeling that while adding to the general fund of literature, she has also succeeded in withdrawing from the history of her once great, though now fallen country, some of the clouds with which the days of its youth have been long enveloped.

As she approaches those prouder epochs in the Spanish annals, when Spain assumed her place among the great nations of Europe, she will find freer scope and a less impenetrable veil; and we doubt not the interest of the work will rise with the fortunes of the nation. And even in the melancholy which must ever attend upon the decline and fall of those who have once been great, and occupied a high position among the highest, there are materials which will suffice to give her book a charm even unto the end.

SOUTHEY'S LIFE AND CORRESPONDENCE.

The Harpers of New York are publishing in numbers, under this title, a very agreeable and piquant work. It has already reached the third number, which is filled with letters, lively and amusing in the highest degree, written at the close of the last, and the beginning of the present, century. The poet must have been a pleasant correspondent, and his published letters will enable the reader to share in some degree the satisfaction experienced fifty years ago by his immediate friends. It is a book that will meet with a ready and extensive sale.

PORTRAIT OF LORD ELGIN.

We have to thank Mr. Hamel for a copy of a lithographed portrait of Lord Elgin. The likeness is very good, although it seems to us that the general expression is more youthful in appearance than that of his lordship's countenance. The work is beautifully executed by Mr. Davignon, of New York—indeed we have seldom seen a finer specimen of lithography.

We have before had occasion to speak of Mr. Hamel's talents as an artist and portrait painter—they are such, that his country may well be proud of their possessor. We hope that he will find full employment, and such encouragement as will induce him to cultivate the noble art in which he has already made such proficiency.

While on the subject of portraits and portrait painting, we may be allowed to call attention to the productions of Mr. Sawyer, a young gentleman who has already given most promising indications of celebrity. Some of the portraits now in his rooms are beautiful, and the likenesses perfect. The lover of art will derive pleasure from a visit to his *atelier*, where we doubt not they will be cheerfully welcomed by the young artist. His rooms are in the Odd Fellows' Hall, Great St. James Street.