

ARABELLA STUART—A ROMANCE FROM ENGLISH HISTORY—BY G. P. R. JAMES.

We have only room in the present number, to mention the publication of this romance, which we have barely had time to glance over. It seems to be written in the author's happiest vein, and treats of a period which was fruitful of incident and adventure. Several of the characters introduced are identical with those in the interesting story of "Fortune's Favourite," in this number of the GARLAND. The admirers of the novels of James may be supplied with it, at a very moderate price, at the Library of Mr. R. W. S. Mackay, 115, Notre Dame Street.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL IN PROSE—BY CHARLES DICKENS.

This little work reminds us of the earlier productions of its gifted author. It is a gem in its way, and well worthy of perusal by all who admire genuine feeling and pleasant humour. It is an original kind of ghost story, in which the grasping and griping class known by the name of usurers, is very severely used up. We commend it to general perusal, as well calculated to afford pleasure to everybody who reads it.

THE MIRROR LIBRARY.

In connexion with their excellent weekly the editors of the NEW MIRROR have commenced the publication of a series of works, to which they have prefixed the title at the head of this paragraph. Already, the writings, in prose and poetry, of the two gentlemen themselves—General Morris and N. J. Willis—have appeared, as have also the poems and songs of Barry Cornwall, and several favourite American authors. The selections, so far, seem to have been made more in accordance with the personal feelings of the editors than with reference to actual value; but they are nevertheless, extremely pleasant reading. The cheap rate at which they are published will secure them a large circulation in the United States, and, in this country, where the authors selected are not without admirers, we may expect that the Library will find its way into very general notice.

FIRST BOOK FOR CANADIAN CHILDREN.

We had intended noticing this excellent little work, which appears to us admirably adapted for the object with which it has been compiled; but any remarks of ours are rendered unnecessary, by a number of recommendations from those whose profession enables them to be much better judges of its value than we can pretend to be. We therefore select the following from the many with which Mrs. Fleming has been favoured:

MONTREAL, Feb. 26, 1844.

I have introduced your "First Book for Canadian Children" as well as your "Views of Canadian Scenery," into my school. I think the matter of both admirably calculated to interest children, whilst the arrangement of the lessons facilitates their progress, and lightens the labour of teaching. The First Book is decidedly the best of its class I have seen.

If my recommendation can be of any service to you, you are at liberty to publish it, and I wish you every success in the effort which you are making to provide for the Schools of Canada a series of books suited to their wants.

E. M. EASTON.

We, the undersigned, after having examined Mrs. Fleming's First Book for Children, and having had experience of the usefulness of its form, it having been used for some months for the instruction of the younger children in the School-house of St. George's Church, recommend it as an excellent school book.

WM. T. LEACH, M.A.
Minister of St. George's Church.
JAMES GARDNER,
Teacher.

B. Workman's compliments to Mrs. Fleming; returns the "First Book" with thanks.

He has long wished for a set of good school books, prepared for, and printed in, the country, and at times has been induced to make the attempt of compiling them; but after several efforts was obliged to abandon it for want of sufficient leisure. It is therefore with pleasure he has lately learned that Mrs. Fleming has undertaken to render so valuable a service to the country, and wishes her every success.

Mr. W. has examined the "First Book," and likes the plan and the matter. Has marked several places to which Mrs. F.'s attention may perhaps be given in subsequent editions. Perhaps more ample tables of spelling in words of one and two syllables would be an improvement.

December 5, 1843.

The engraving in this number of the GARLAND illustrates beautifully a scene described in the spirited tale of "The Halls of the North." This tale, the production of a gentleman experienced in the art of moving the passions of the human heart, promises to be a most exciting one. The author, being thoroughly familiar with the scenes in which he has found the materials for his story, describes so vividly as to render any other representation scarcely necessary, but this engraving will not on that account be the less welcome, seeing that, as a simple picture of pastoral peace and serenity, it is well deserving a place in the pages of our Canadian Magazine. While all around us is invested with the drapery of winter, this summer-scene will, by contrast, be rendered doubly pleasing to the eye of taste.