

of Grecian table napkins (if they ever used them) and the quality of Pericles' favourite pickles!

Looked at as a subject for biography Leighton should present attractive features to the writer. His precocity was so remarkable that, when still a boy, the sculptor, Hiram Powers, predicted that he could succeed as an artist almost to any extent that he chose. Physically, he is endowed with a fine constitution, a well set-up figure, and a head that has earned him the nickname of "Apollo." He is a remarkably gifted linguist; a polished speaker; and, I am told, a good lecturer to the students of the Academy schools. His tastes are luxurious. His house is palatial—bronzes, marble tapestries and fountains give an almost Eastern sumptuousness to the scene within the walls of his residence in Holland Park Road. He is something of a musician, too, and his face is a familiar one at the better class of London concerts—and it is a notable face.

E. WYLY GRIER.

### Dictionary of National Biography.\*

THERE are perhaps fewer names of the first rank, or even of the second rank, in this volume than in most of its predecessors, but this does not really detract from the interest of its contents, which are as full, as varied, and as accurate as we have always found them. Indeed there is no one in the first rank at all, unless we would place there Pelagius, the heresiarch; or Penda, the old wolf of Mercia; and both of them were not a little troublesome in their time.

The volume begins with the Pastons, and the most interesting point in this connection is the quiet assumption of the genuineness of the Paston letters, a matter which was fiercely contested not long ago. Now, we suppose the matter is definitely settled and needs no further discussion. Soon after leaving the Pastons we come upon a very interesting and appreciative article on Mr. Walter Pater, by Mr. Edmund Gosse. We find that his complete name was Walter Horatio Pater, and we are glad to learn that the coldness which had sprung between him and Professor Jarrett was removed before their death. The latter, it is said, greatly appreciated Mr. Pater's volume on Platonism which we can well believe.

The Rev. Mr. Olden writes very pleasantly on the great St. Patrick, pronounces him to be, by birth, a Scotchman, without noticing some recent themes which point in another direction, and gives a very sufficient account of his doings. The writer's remarks on St. Patrick's conciliar doings seem to imply a rather limited acquaintance with the work of the Church synods.

The name of the martyred Bishop Patteson is duly honoured by the new Dean of Ripon, Dr. Fremantle, and it is indeed a name to be kept in remembrance—of one who did much for Christianity by his life and by his death. Near him stands a very different man, with only one letter altered in his surname, Mr. Mark Pattison, the late rector of Lincoln College, Oxford. There are few memoirs in the volume of a deeper or almost of a more painful interest than the story of this eminent scholar, whose inner history was marked by such revolutions and yet such steady development. Few will leave a line unread.

Poor Sir John Dean Paul is commemorated briefly, a number of Paulets (or Poulets, or Powlets) come in for mention, all of them apparently of the same Somersetshire stock. No reference is made to the tragedy which is at present only the subject of a newspaper paragraph, but which will, some day, belong to history. Then we have Paxtons and Paynes, and Payne Smith and Peabody. Sir Joseph Paxton achieved the distinction of designing the erection of the building for the Hyde Park Exhibition of 1851, and its subsequent removal, as the Crystal Palace, to Sydenham. Mr. Joseph Payne made important contributions to the subject of elementary education. Dr. Payne Smith, late Dean of Canterbury, was an excellent Syrian scholar; and everybody knows what Mr. Peabody was and did.

Then we have Peacocks and Pecoeks—some of them

quite important; and Pearsons—Mr. C. H. Pearson, the historian, who was rather roughly handled (for his good) by Dr. E. A. Freeman (after his manner)—and the great Pearson to whose learned work in defence of the Epistles of St. Ignatius, and his still greater work on the Creed, full justice is done by the Rev. Mr. Saunders. "Peden the Prophet" comes in for a very interesting sketch by Mr. T. F. Henderson, who, however, gives no opinion as to the character of the prophecies which were part of the Christian religion, at one time, in some districts in Scotland.

Perhaps the most important article, in some respects at least, in the whole volume is that devoted to the great Sir Robert Peel. Although written by one of his own name, the memoir is eminently just from beginning to end, and has some words which might well be meditated by politicians or statesmen of every age: "In an age of European revolutions, Peel may alone be said to have had the foresight and the strength to form a Conservative party, resting not on force or on corruption, but on administrative capacity and the more stable portion of the public will. As for his more specific achievements they are a mitigation of the vigour of the penal laws, a sound financial system, a free unrivalled commerce, the security of our persons from civil disorder, and the cheapness of our daily bread. Other political leaders may be credited with a more original eloquence, a greater obedience to the ties of party, or a stricter adherence in age to the political principles which animated their youth. But no other statesman has proved more conclusively that the promotion of the welfare of his countrymen was the absorbing passion of his life."

Among other papers of interest we may note one on Peele, the dramatist; then one on Pelham, and on Penns, one on Pelagius, one on Penda, some excellent articles on the Percies, and a first rate, smart, useful article on Samuel Pepys.

### Prophets of Israel.\*

WE have read this book with much profit and great pleasure. It is well got up and well printed. Doctor Cornill's fascination and charm of style loses nothing in this excellent translation. The frontispiece reproduces Michael Angelo's "Moses."

The purpose of this little book is to popularize the results of recent Old Testament study. It explains the nature and import of Israelitic prophecy and exhibits the position it occupies in the history of the religion of Israel. The historical conditions and the contemporary environment of the various prophets are portrayed, their significance, their peculiar original achievements briefly characterized, and finally the attempt made to assign and establish for each prophet in the developmental process of the religion of Israel his logical and organic position—in what respect his influence was promotive, and in what respect reactionary; so that the book may be viewed as a brief sketch, giving only the salient and important outlines of the religious history of Israel from Moses down to the time of the Maccabees.

This programme is faithfully carried out with great, though suppressed, learning and greater brilliancy. Though we cannot always accept our author's critical position we never fail to find illumination and inspiration. Doctor Cornill is Professor of Old Testament history in the University of Königsberg and a disciple of De Wette, who has learned much from the labours of Wellhausen, Kuenen, Duhm, Stade and Smend. He opens his work thus: "I must preface my remarks with the statement, which is to-day not superfluous, that I regard the traditions of Israel concerning its ancient history on the whole as historical." We question whether at this time of day it can be substantiated that "the oldest accounts we have of Moses are five hundred years later than his time," but notwithstanding this rather astounding assumption Dr. Cornill regards "Moses as the founder of the Israelitic religion—Jehovah, alone the God of Israel, who suffers no one and nothing beside Him, who will belong entirely and exclusively to this people, but will also have this people belong entirely and exclusively to Him, so that it shall be a pure and pious people, whose whole life, even in apparently most public and worldly matters, is a service of

\* "Dictionary of National Biography." Edited by Sidney Lee. Vol. XLIV. Paston-Percy. Price \$3.75. New York: Macmillan. Toronto: Copp, Clark Co. 1895.

\* "The Prophets of Israel." By Carl Heinrich Cornill, translated by Sutton F. Corkran. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Company. 1895.