

ALDEN'S CYCLOPEDIA OF UNIVERSAL LITERATURE. Nos. 13-17. New York: John B. Alden.

We have a further instalment of this condensed literary cyclopædia. As a work of reference it is useful, for we can find out the main facts in an author's career, and have a list of his works for the trouble of turning up the proper place in an alphabetical list. The selections are often interesting, and give some idea of the writer's vein. In some cases they are copious; those from Ruskin extend over seven pages, those from Luther over fourteen, those from Macaulay over thirty-one. We might suggest that some sort of critical estimate of the writers mentioned would be an improvement. The opening article of volume thirteen is on the Kalevala, the ancient Finnish epic, which is treated with unusual fulness. In this volume the most important names are Kant, Keats, Landor and Longfellow. Volume fourteen includes Lowell, Luther, Macaulay and John Stuart Mill. Volume fifteen contains Milton and Morris. Volume sixteen ends with Rabelais, and volume seventeen describes Ruskin and Sir Walter Scott.

SONGS OF THE SEA. Illustrated by Reynolds Beal. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company; Toronto: Hart and Company. 1891.

These songs are fragments from the poems of Moore, Clough, Tennyson and Rogers; the parable of the draught of fishes, verses from the Psalms and New Testament, and that favourite hymn, "Eternal Father! Strong to Save," go to make up a choice, cheerful, and inspiring collection. Each quotation is finely illustrated with appropriate sketches, embellished with nautical gear such as of compass, anchors, life belts, ropes, oars and fishing nets, schooners, brigs, and fishing smacks, etc., mostly executed in sea blue, a peculiar shade, and well known to those familiar with the heaving main. Occasionally we alight on a sketch executed entirely in a harmony of brown and gold, which reminds us of the tint and odour of seaweed. At this season of the year a more appropriate gift for those who have friends who "go down to the sea in ships" could not very well be found. The strong board covers of a soft grey-green tint are illumined with a seascape where the silver moon sheds her peaceful light over the quiet deep, with its remnants of floating wreckage—calm after storm—allegorical perhaps of the lives of those to whom this artistic volume is destined to bring comfort.

FAVOURITE RHYMES FROM MOTHER GOOSE. By Maud Humphrey. New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company; Toronto: Hart and Son. 1891.

A charming book and one destined soon to become a favourite with the little ones is this volume of the old familiar rhymes of our early childhood with its beautiful illustrations. Turning the pages over we find a chubby boyish king in hib and regal crown surrounded by the four-and-twenty blackbirds who "began to sing." In this entrancing book all the affairs of the nation are conducted by its bright small boy and girl citizens; the sky is cleaned of cobwebs by a quaint little old woman attired in gown and poke-bonnet of cloudland hues, and "hot cross buns" are purveyed by a bright youth in frock, pinafore and curls. Too long would it take us to attempt to describe the chaste beauty of this juvenile gallery of delights, and as we regretfully turn the last pages the little Miss of "Primrose Hill," robed in her frock of primrose coloured stuff, decorously drops us a farewell courtesy, and we close the book, mentally deciding that nothing could give the little ones greater pleasure than the gift of this highly artistic volume. The style of illustration revives in these old rhymes the life of the realm of childhood. We sincerely compliment the artist compiler on her most excellent work, and feel sure it will give a pure and noble conception of the beautiful to the mind of any little child happy enough to become its possessor.

IMPRESSIONS AND OPINIONS. By George Moore. Price, \$1.25. New York: Scribners; Toronto: Williamson. 1891.

Mr. George Moore is a gentleman of fine critical insight and of considerable literary power, and these essays of his quite merit the distinction of republication and even of being revised and re-written, as some of them have been. They have appeared in the *Fortnightly*, the *Universal Review*, and the *Magazine of Art*, and are now collected in this handsome and inexpensive volume. Most of these essays are devoted to foreign writers and artists; and, on the whole, are pitched in rather too high a key. We are quite willing to admit that our English Philistinism has been too disdainful of much excellent French work; but we must not, for that reason, rush into the opposite extreme and condone every monstrosity in French literature, merely because we are told that this is the way the French genius works, and we must accept it. The French genius often works in a very objectionable and offensive manner, and we have no mind to put up with it. We do not mean that Mr. Moore is indiscriminating in his eulogies. He tells us that *l'assommoir* is not realistic, which we are very glad to hear. He also speaks in terms of unmitigated disgust of *La Torre*, which is well. But in his essay on Balzac, the first and longest in the book, we must express our honest belief that he gives too high a place to a novelist whose power and genius no competent critic will think of questioning. Mr. Moore also takes a

delight in telling us of "a great poet" of whom probably not one reader of this review ever heard. His name is Verlaine; one article and the half of another are given to him. We think that few persons will regret the time spent over this book, and we may specially commend several papers on the drama and the theatre.

LETTERS OF JOHN KEATS. Edited by Sidney Colvin. Price \$1.50. London and New York: Macmillan and Company; Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1891.

This is a charming volume. Mr. Sidney Colvin has shown his competency for the work he does here by his excellent volume on Keats in "English Men of Letters." Keats not only occupies a very high position as a poet of the first class, but he constitutes a link between Wordsworth and Tennyson without which the history of modern poetry would be incomplete. Keats was born in 1795, and died at Rome in 1821, only twenty-five years of age. It used to be said that he was killed by a savage article in the *Quarterly Review*; but this has been disproved by his excellent and sympathetic biographer, Mr. Monkton Milnes, afterwards Lord Houghton. It was in this biography that some portions of these letters were published; and when it is said that "they lent an especial charm to a charming book," this is true, since "he is one of those poets whose genius makes itself felt in prose-writing almost as decisively as in verse." The letters extend from 1816 to 1820, the last being within about three months before his death. There was a special necessity for this publication. Even if Lord Houghton had published all of them which were of interest, he had not the power of giving them from a trustworthy test. Many of them were written to his brother and sister-in-law in America, and when this lady married again to Mr. Jeffrey, of Louisville, this gentleman, in copying them, made such large omissions as greatly to diminish the interest and value of the letters. Mr. Colvin has had more trustworthy material to work upon, although he considers that, even now, they may not be absolutely complete. Among Keats' correspondents, we may mention, was Haydon the painter for whose genius Keats had a higher admiration than posterity has confirmed. Although there are, of course, passages in these letters of no great interest, there are other passages which place the writer in the first rank of letter-writers.

THE CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH OF CHARLES DICKENS. London: Hutchinson and Company; Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.75.

This is a very interesting book written by Mr. Langton, F.R.H.S., who is an enthusiastic admirer of Dickens. It gives a variety of details not to be found in the formal biographies. A curious instance is quoted, showing the wide-spread interest in all that pertains to that favourite author. About fifty years ago his father lived at Alphington, near Exeter, and he has been dead nearly forty years, yet only a few years since a letter from America was sent to him to his old address. Of course it was returned through the Dead Letter Office; but it is believed that it was a request from a Yankee collector for his autograph. A large proportion of the particulars contained in this work have been derived from aged persons who have given their personal recollections of Dickens when a boy. One of his sorest memories was that when he was about twelve years old and his father (subsequently typified as Micawber) was imprisoned for debt, he was sent to a blacking manufactory where he had to paste labels on bottles and do other light work of a menial character. For this he was paid eight shillings per week. But it must be borne in mind on behalf of his parents that, in London, fifty-seven years ago, eight shillings a week was very high wages for boys' unskilled labour; and we have no doubt that his employer believed that he was behaving handsomely in paying the lad double or treble the ordinary rate of boys' wages. Dickens was not the only man of genius who has had a hard time in his boyhood. His father was incarcerated in the King's Bench, afterwards known as the Queen's Bench. There are capital descriptions of the ancient inn at Cobham, "The Leather Bottle," described in Pickwick, as well as of many other places made famous by their association with the life and writings of Dickens. The volume has many engravings and a thoroughly good index. We heartily recommend it to our readers as a perfect biographical treasure relative to Dickens; figuratively there you can see him grow. It would make a good Christmas present for an intelligent youth.

THE LORD'S SUPPER AND THE PASSOVER RITUAL: From the German of Professor Bickell. By W. F. Skene, D.C.L. Price, 5s. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark; Toronto: McAinsh. 1891.

This is a book of considerable interest and value. It will of course chiefly concern those who belong to churches in which some form of the ancient liturgy is in use; but it will not be without interest to any who concern themselves with the earliest literature of the Christian Church. It has long been a matter of dispute where we may expect to find the origin or origins of the great liturgies which have been used in different parts of the Christian Church. Palmer divided them into four families, ascribing the greatest antiquity to that which was in use in the church of Jerusalem, and which bore the name of St. James. It

is now generally agreed that Palmer attributed too great an antiquity to the various Liturgies which he regarded as typical. Drey and Probst have contended successfully for the antiquity of the so-called Clementine Liturgy, which is preserved in the eighth book of the Apostolic Constitutions—a treatise which probably belongs to the end of the third century, although it bears the name of a Bishop of Rome of the first. There never has been much doubt of the antiquity and purity of this Clementine Liturgy; but it was regarded by most as being rather a specimen of the arrangement of the Liturgy than the copy of a Service which was actually in use. The two writers just mentioned may be said to have proved that it is an actually Liturgical Service, and the oldest in existence, and Dr. Bickell, the author of the original of the volume before us, has completed the proof by showing its resemblances to the Service in use among the Jews. The book is divided into three parts, the first dealing with the Primitive Christian Liturgy, and showing the superior antiquity of the Clementine; the second describing the Jewish Ritual which gave rise to the Christian Liturgy, and the third instituting a Comparison between the Apostolic Liturgy and the Corresponding Jewish Ritual. Dr. Bickell arrives with great certainty at the conclusion that the Clementine Liturgy is apostolic in its origin, and that it is derived from the Jewish Ritual. The only conclusion of interest which he deduces, apart from the origin of the Liturgy, concerns the place of the invocation of the Holy Ghost in the Canon. According to the writer it is no part of the consecration. The name of Dr. Skene is quite sufficient to show that translation and editing are well done, and that his own contributions to the volume are of value.

CANADA'S PATRIOT STATESMAN: The Life and Career of the Right Honourable Sir John Macdonald, G.C.B., etc. Based on the work of Edmund Collins. Revised, with additions to date. By G. Mercer Adam. Toronto: Rose Publishing Company, C. R. Parish and Company; London: McDermid and Logan. 1891.

The life of Sir John Macdonald by Mr. Collins has, for some years, been recognized as the standard work on the subject; but the death of our great Premier had rendered it desirable that the book should be completed by the narrative being brought down to the time of the decease of its subject. Mr. Collins was no longer in Canada, and the work was entrusted to Mr. Mercer Adam. That gentleman's previous literary work had eminently fitted him for the undertaking, and the book as it now stands proves satisfactorily that the completing of Mr. Collins' excellent biography could not have fallen into better hands. In truth it should not now be forgotten, as it may be, from the disappearance of Mr. Collins' Preface, that Mr. Adam had some share in the original work. "Let us here," said Mr. Collins, "express our gratitude to Mr. G. Mercer Adam for information, guidance and numerous hints, while at our work. Mr. Adam, with the modesty which is only equalled by his courtesy and merit, desired that no mention should be made of him, save casually in our chapter upon Canadian literature; but we have not allowed this to interfere with a sense of duty."

Mr. Adam's work is not a mere reproduction of Mr. Collins' with the addition of chapters on the subsequent history of its subject. The first chapter has been entirely rewritten and so have the last three, whilst no fewer than ten chapters have been added. Portions of Mr. Collins' appendices have been incorporated in the text; but the great speech on the Pacific Scandal has been printed entire at the end. The biography is now as complete as need ever be desired, and although it was not quite easy to write with a steady pen so soon after Sir John's death, Mr. Adam seems to us to have united justice and generosity in a very judicious and satisfactory manner.

On this subject it is perhaps best to let the author speak for himself. "If," he says, "the present writer cannot rise to the pitch of enthusiasm to which Mr. Edmund Collins had attained when he wrote the bulk of the following pages, he is none the less conscious of the gifts and endowments of the subject of Mr. Collins' lively panegyric, or in any way unwilling to do justice to his theme. What he has alone stipulated for, in taking up and carrying down to date that writer's work, is freedom to present facts without doing violence either to history or to the dictum of a calm and impartial judgment, and always with consideration and courtesy towards the other great party in the State."

The whole of the Introduction from which these words are taken forms a discriminating, if also generous, estimate of the man the story of whose life is here told, of the man whom all Canadians will now recognize as great. Mr. Adam closes this excellent part of his work with the expression of the hope that our great loss may bring us gain. "May we not see, as its fruit, our politics purified, our public life elevated and ennobled, our patriotism broadened and increased, the people set free from the enslavement and noxious influence of faction, and the country made more closely and enduringly one?" May God grant it!

THE *Western World*, illustrated, Dec., 1891, contains a very valuable paper on the North-West Territories, their history, resources and possibilities, as well as an interesting and readable article on "Farm Pupils," which should appeal to the numerous young Englishmen of Ontario who have left Liverpool in the hopes of "learning farming" in Canada.