

Book Notices.

The Reconstruction of Europe: A Sketch of the Diplomatic and Military History of Continental Europe from the Rise to the Fall of the Second French Empire. By HAROLD MURDOCK, with an Introduction by JOHN FISKE, jun. 8vo, pp. xxxii-421, with maps. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. Price \$2.

Every reader has felt the need of some such book as this—one which brings the facts of comparatively recent history under view, in one compendious volume, and with lucid and accurate statement of its main facts. It is more easy to find a popular account of the campaign of Hannibal in Northern Italy—every school history contains it—than to procure a brief and authentic record of the campaign of Napoleon III. in the same region. This valuable work covers the transition stage in the history of Europe between the special correspondent's newspaper reports, and philosophical works like Napier's "Peninsular War," or Kinglake's exhaustive and exhausting "Invasion of the Crimea."

If any dreary pessimist see in the great convulsions which have shaken Europe in the last forty years only chaotic tumults, we commend him to the study of this volume. As Professor Fiske in his admirable introduction points out, great political, scientific, economic and industrial progress has been made. Though there remain difficult problems to be solved, yet from the elements of the curve of progress, we may forecast its tremendous sweep in the future. In India, in Japan, in Australia, in Africa, in South America, auguries of brightest promise appear; and in Europe such a "reconstruction as one could hardly have dared to hope for in the days of Haynau and Radetzky." Despotism has received its death blow.

The march of the people is heard. A united Italy and united Germany are prophecies of the integration of the nations, of the federation of the world. Even Austria, the stronghold of absolutism, is becoming enlightened and free, and the down-trodden Czechs and Magyars, the Bulgarians, Servians, and Herzegovinians, have felt the stirrings of a national life. God fulfils Himself in many ways, and the grandest object lesson of modern times, of divine judgment against wrong and rapine is seen in the utter and ignominious collapse of that gilded house of cards, the Second Empire, following so hard upon the bursting bubble of the first Napoleon's guilty ambition.

The unspeakable Turk still lags superfluous on the stage. But Greece is living Greece once more; the northern extension of the moribund Turkish empire has been wonderfully curtailed, and the "Sick Man" with bag and baggage will shortly, it is to be hoped, be sent packing over the Bosphorus.

Mr. Murdock first sketches the position of Europe in 1850, and then gives an account of the *coup d'etat* by which Napoleon became dictator, and of the revival of the Eastern question, and of the Crimean war which ensued. Then follows a graphic sketch of the rise of Sardinia, and of the wise statesmanship of Cavour, which led to the integration of Italy. The stirring story of Napoleon's campaigns, of Garibaldi's knight-errantry, and of the final unification of the peninsula from *Ætna's* fires to Alpine snows, are blended with contemporary history—the advent of the Iron Chancellor, Bismarck, the rise of Prussia, the humbling of Austria at Königgratz, and the far-reaching results of the Seven Week's War.

A few vivid chapters are given to the last days of the Second Empire. In swift succession follow the epoch-