

already had the pleasure of noticing in the pages of *THE MONTHLY*. The latter contains, besides the text, the "Life of Walter Scott," abridged from his autobiography; "Life of Scott," abridged mainly from Hutton and Lockhart; some extracts from Lockhart's "Life of Scott," and "The Highlanders and Borderers of Scotland," with a "Life of James V.," abridged from the "Tales of a Grandfather."

The foot-notes consist principally of short, clear, geographical and historical explanations, with a great many definitions of words used in the text, hence they are well adapted for the use of children between the ages of nine and fifteen, for whom the "Classics" are specially intended. We conclude by quoting some true remarks from the preface:

"It seems to us a sad abuse of time to require children to learn such facts as the date of election, term of service, and the state in which each of the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the United States was born, and the details of every unimportant battle or skirmish in the Colonial, French, and Indian wars. Let them but spend the same amount of time in reading such works as Irving's 'Life of Washington,' Scott's 'Tales of a Grandfather,' and Macaulay's 'History of England,' and they will obtain not only more valuable information, but, what is *vastly more important*, they will be acquiring a taste for good reading and a love for history which will be of inestimable value to them in after life. Besides, they will learn to use better English from constant use of such models than by studying technical grammar and poring over innumerable examples of true and false syntax.

"All real progress must be unconscious, and the instant the pupil turns his thoughts to what he is doing and how he is doing it, he not only ceases to learn, but has put the greatest bar to his future progress, by emphasizing his self-consciousness and egotism.

"The bread-and-butter theory of education, appealing directly to the needs of the great majority of the people, has always exerted a strong influence against the higher training, and of late it has become alarmingly popular in our very strongholds of a liberal education.

"It may prove a dangerous experiment in education to allow the modern to take the place of the ancient languages, which have been for so many centuries the basis of the best training the world has yet known. A

single generation may suffice to show our lost ground, but centuries may not afford time to regain it.

"A knowledge of French and German may enable the trader to extend his commercial relations and rapidly to gain wealth, or the tourist to spend a much more pleasant trip abroad; but this education only enables him to pass readily from one bustling country to another, where he will still find his fellow-traveller snatching his hasty meal, reading his damp newspaper, and content to become the connecting link between the railroad and the telegraph-wire. When studying Latin and Greek, we are forced out of the present, and are obliged to extend our horizon, and, like the near-sighted at sea, attain a more healthy vision. It has a wonderfully calming influence on young America to spend a few years studying those old heathen languages, which after two thousand years furnish the whole civilized world their models of expression in language, art, and law."

EDUCATIONAL CLASSICS. Extracts from Rousseau's *Emile*. With an Introduction and Notes by Jules Steeg, Paris: *Député de la Gironde*. Translated by Miss Eleanor Worthington, late of the Cook County Normal School, Illinois.

THE first volume of "Educational Classics" is a valuable one, in spite of the eccentricities and absurdities which may be found, without any special search, in its pages. Yet among the dross there is gold. Rousseau's claim to immortality rests far more securely on the work of his great followers, Basedow, Pestalozzi and Froebel, than on the *Emile*, and besides, there is always the somewhat unanswerable objection to his fine theories that he sent his own children to a Foundling Hospital. We have no doubt that this good modern English translation of the *Emile* will have the wide circulation it deserves.

OUR LITTLE ONES. Russell Publishing Co., Boston. Thomas Nelson & Sons, London.

A VERY attractive illustrated children's magazine, containing stories, short articles and poems. "My Valentine," and "The Teaspoon Babies," are very dainty bits of verse. Of the fourteen contributors to this number (February) we are pleased to see that no less than twelve are ladies.