

THE NEGRO IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

By Edward Ingle, A. B.,
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press.

This treatise appears in the university studies in Historical and Political Science, and deals with the efforts made by the U. S. Government towards the education and moral advancement of the negro race particularly in the District of Columbia and especially condemns the experiment tried in negro suffrage in 1874 as untimely and expensive. The writer comes to the conclusion that in all their struggles the negroes have been strengthened by pride of race, which is strictly maintained to-day, and that they may be prevented from enjoying "the full fruits of the strivings of forty years or more by the fact that their Moses" essays to apply "past methods of leadership to present conditions." The work is very thoughtful and conscientious in every way. Especially noteworthy is the admission freely conceded, that "of no other race can it be so truly said that the hand of every other people is raised against it, and its own hand is raised against itself." There are abundant statistics and governmental reports used in the treatment of this subject, which make the work valuable from a historical as well as an ethnical standpoint, and it is pleasant to feel that the author has no prejudice against a race which has not, candidly speaking, been treated all ways with civility.

THE LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF JAMES P. BECKWOURTH.

Edited by Chas. G. Leland. London: T. Fisher Unwin. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Williamson Book Co.

Mr. T. D. Bonner was the transcriber of this bulky volume of 440 pages which contains the story of Beckwourth's wild and adventurous life as told by him to Mr. Bonner. This book is included in the adventure series which is being issued by the same publishers. Beckwourth was one of that hardy race of men—call them by what name you will—mountaineers, scouts, trappers or frontier-men who figured so largely in the early days of exploration and adventure on the mountains and prairies of Western America. During the period over which the narrative extends the prairie was the feeding ground of countless herds of buffalo, and the home and battle field of various Indian tribes—who waged continual war with one another, or with the American settler. For years Beckwourth lived with the Crow Indians as one of their tribe. His story gives the reader a vivid and graphic description of Indian life and habits, and the varied and checkered fortunes of the Western frontiersman in early days. Beckwourth's record from his own showing was not a savoury one and he seems to have been as noted for strained stories, as he was for undoubted courage. Bloodthirsty tales of Indian thieving and savagery abound in these pages, as also of the brutality of white desperadoes; it may be, however, in the main a tolerable accurate picture of the time and conditions of life with which it deals.

UNDER PRESSURE.

By The Marchesa Theodoli. New York: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Williamson Book Company.

This is an interesting tale of Roman life. It is a series of studies of Italian character woven into a story by no means devoid of charm. Like Marion Crawford the author of "Under Pressure" shows us the old-time prejudices of the Roman aristocracy lingering on side by side with the more democratic sentiments of the younger generation. Don Uberto Casale, a representative of the latter, is well sketched, while the Princess Astalli, an excellent woman at heart but a slave to form, is the very embodiment of Roman prejudice. It is in the two sisters Bianca and Lavinia, however, that the interest of the story is centered. One becomes the happy wife of Don Casale, the other is claimed by the Church of Rome. "You won a prize in the lottery of life—I might have lost and I had not

the courage to stake my happiness on blind chance," says Bianca to her sister. There is no medium, and Bianca remains tranquilly in the convent. The contrast between the happy wife and the placid nun is a strange one, but each of them was "well satisfied to have sought, and to have won each the part she had chosen." It is the choice between happiness and painlessness, usually the latter is sought only after the former has been lost; in this case, however, there is nothing to regret, and we feel that the nun will all ways remain a true woman.

THE POEMS OF WILLIAM WATSON.

Price \$1.25: New York and London: Macmillan and Company. Toronto: Williamson Book Company. 1893.

It is with much satisfaction that we receive this volume just as we hear that the author is recovering from his very serious illness. We have a good many poets of more or less power at present; but we can ill afford to lose Mr. Watson and we are glad to think that there is now little prospect of our losing him. He has perhaps more of the spirit of Tennyson than any living poet. He may yet do far greater work than he has yet accomplished.

The present volume of "Poems" has within its compass the contents of two previously published, the former a year or two ago under the title "Wordsworth's Grave and Other Poems," the latter as "Lachrymae Musarum," the first poem, which gave its name to the volume, being an elegy on the late Poet Laureate.

There are numbers of charming poems in this volume and in both parts of it. Here is one on Shelley and Harriet Westbrook:

"A star looked down from heaven and loved a flower
Grown in earth's garden—loved it for an hour:

Let eyes that trace his orbit in the spheres
Refuse not, to a ruined rosebud tears."

Here is another in which the sentiment indeed is not quite new, and Mr. Watson himself repeats it, yet the expression of it is charming:

A MAIDEN'S EPITAPH.

"She dwelt among us till the flowers, 'tis said,
Grew jealous of her: with precipitate feet,
As loth to wrong them unawares, she fled.
Earth is less fragrant now, and heaven more sweet."

"Wordsworth's Grave" is a noble poem, not unworthy of its theme, but the quotation of a few lines would do it injustice. Although the beginning of "Lachrymae Musarum" has been quoted often we venture to give a few lines of it, and we feel sure that our readers will want to see the rest of it:

"Low, like another's, lies the laurelled head:
The life that seemed a perfect song is o'er;
Carry the last great bard to his last bed.
Land that he loved, that loved him! never more

Meadow of thine, smooth lawn, or wild sea-shore,
Gardens of odorous bloom and tremulous fruit,
Of woodlands old, like Druid couches spread,
The Master's feet shall tread.
Death's little rift hath rent the faultless lute:
The singer of undying song is dead."

STORIES FROM THE GREEK COMEDIAN.

By the Rev. Alfred J. Church, M. A. New York and London: Macmillan & Co. Toronto: The Williamson Book Co.

The author of these "Stories" has confined himself strictly to Greek comedy relating to politics and the more modern comedy relating to manners. The great representative of the first is of course Aristophanes; the second has been handed down to us in the form of translations or adaptations by Plautus and Terence. Mr.

Church commences his illustrations of the Old Comedy with a scene from The Acharnians, and continues the series in chronological order up to the Plutus. "I have dealt very freely," he tells us in the preface, "with my originals, not indeed adding anything, but leaving out much, translating sometimes, and sometimes paraphrasing." This is certainly, in a work of this kind, the best method. The most casual reader will follow the harangues of Mr. "Honesty" with interest and watch Socrates swinging in his basket if not with laughter at least with wonder. "Some miserable joke of Aristophanes, carefully elaborated with the aid of a Liddel and Scott" is altogether another thing from the following flowing dialogue taken from the Nubes:

Strep.—There you are with your Zeus—how silly!

Phel.—And you believe these lunatics? Strep.—Your talking about Zeus; there is no Zeus.

Phel.—Who told you this nonsense? Strep.—Socrates.

Phel.—And you believe these lunatics?

Ours is not "the Homeric laughter of an Athenian conclave, every man of them with something of Aristophanes in him," to quote a brilliant phrase of Mr. Steadman's, but the dullest of us will catch in this volume something of the biting satire of the Old Greek Comedy. The "Stories from the New Comedy" include an admirable selection from the "Adelphi" of Terence. In short we can heartily recommend this volume not only to classical scholars but to general readers as well.

PARLIAMENT GOVERNMENT IN CANADA—A CONSTITUTIONAL AND HISTORICAL STUDY.

By J. G. Bourinot, C. M. G., LL. D., D. C. L. Washington: Government Printing Office.

In the pamphlet before us Dr. Bourinot, our learned and leading writer and authority on Institutions, has within the compass of 98 pages compressed a surprising amount of valuable information on the evolution and characteristics of Parliamentary Government in Canada. The subject is treated from a constitutional and historical standpoint. The origin and development of responsible government in Canada is traced to its source, and a point that has escaped some eminent English publicists is here emphasized, namely that "In Canada that great body of unwritten conventions, usages, and understandings which have in the course of time grown up in the practical working of the English Constitution form as important a part of the political system of Canada as the fundamental law itself which governs the federation." The constitutional principles and methods of responsible government in Canada are then clearly and concisely indicated. We are here shown "how largely the precedents and conventions of the political constitution of England mould and direct the parliamentary government of Canada—as Dr. Bourinot says:—"The written or fundamental law lays down only a few distinct rules with reference to the executive and legislative authority in the Dominion and the provinces, and leaves sufficient opportunity for the play and operation of those flexible principles which have made the parliamentary government of England and her dependencies so admirably suited to the development of the best energies and abilities of a people." But perhaps the portion of the treatise which will attract the widest notice is the latter part where our parliamentary government is contrasted with the Congressional government of the United States. It is here Dr. Bourinot is seen at his best—he is dealing with a vital and engrossing subject, and to its consideration he brings that thoroughness of knowledge, that breadth of view and judicial fairness of treatment, without which no writer however learned or acute, can ever hope to attain high rank as a constitutionalist. How concise—yet how comprehensive is this comparison! "Parliamentary government, in a few words, is a sys-