

*The Appendix.*—Space will not permit of our doing much more than enumerate the various features of the Appendix. It is in brief an *El Dorado* for the student as well as the general reader. There are Explanatory and Pronouncing Vocabularies of Names of Noted Fictitious Persons (but not of our Leonidas, but yet the real person, places, etc.); Modern Geographical Names (but not our Manitoba and Keewatin); Common English Surnames; Pronouncing Vocabularies of Scripture Proper Names; Greek and Latin Proper Names; and Modern Geographical Names; also a new Pronouncing Biographical Dictionary and Explanatory Tables of Quotations, Abbreviations, Contractions, to which is added a Classified Selection of Pic-

torial Illustrations. The Pronouncing Biographical Dictionary deserves special mention, and will be a welcome addition to any reader's literary outfit.

We need hardly say, in conclusion, that we regard this edition as a great advance upon its predecessors. It is a magnificent volume and a credit to all that have aided in bringing it to its present state of completion. If we have criticized some features of it sharply, it is only that what is imperfect may be completed, what is obsolete expunged, and what it lacks in any way supplied. We should be glad to know that a copy of the new edition had found its way into the possession of every teacher and into every school in the land.

G. H. R.

### LITERARY STYLE.—III.\*

BY W. MATHEWS, LL.D., CHICAGO.

AGAIN, besides completeness in preparation, there must be also careful revision. The history of literature shews that with few exceptions the greatest writers have been the most severe and painstaking in revising and polishing their compositions. The capacity for minute refinement in detail and infinite loving labour has been justly pronounced an instinct of all truly artistic genius. Burke's manuscript was covered with interlineations and alterations; and not till he had examined half-a-dozen proofs of his "Reflections" did he allow it to go to press. When a lady asked Johnson, after he had elaborately revised his early papers in the "Rambler," whether he could now improve any of them,

he replied: "Yes, madam, I could make even the best of them better still." Addison would stop the press to insert a preposition or conjunction. Sterne was incessantly employed for six months in perfecting one diminutive volume. Gray would spend a week upon a page. Robert Hall gave as a reason for writing so little, that he could so rarely realize even proximately his own ideal of a perfect style. Buffon made eleven draughts of his "Epoques de la Nature" before hesitating to the press; and he assured a friend that after passing fifty years at his desk, he was still learning to write. Bossuet's manuscript was so bleared with interlineations as to be almost illegible. Cervantes took twelve years to write the second part of "Don Quixote." It is true that Scott, who was untiring in gathering the materials

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