

We regret, however, to find the book disfigured by considerable egotism and an undue laudation of the subject of the memoirs.

In the Department of Biography, also, may be noted as having just appeared, the second volume, from 1842 to 1852, of Mr. John Forster's "Life of Charles Dickens," and a cheaper edition of Sir Arthur Helps' "Life and Labours of the late Mr. Brassy." The following announcement of forthcoming memoirs may interest readers:—"The Life of Baron Humboldt," compiled in commemoration of the centenary of his birth, and translated from the German; "The Life and Times of Sixtus the Fifth," by Baron Hübner, from unpublished diplomatic correspondence in the State Archives of the Vatican, Simancas, Venice, Florence, &c.; "The personal Life of George Grote," the Historian of Greece; "A Memoir of Nathaniel Hawthorne;" "The Life and Adventures of Alexander Dumas;" "Life and Correspondence of Field-Marshal Sir John Burgoyne, Bt.," comprising extracts from his journal during the Peninsular and Crimean Wars, &c., and the "Memoirs of the life of Sir James Y. Simpson, Bt.," the distinguished Edinburgh surgeon.

A memoir of the novelist who has given us the creations of "Midshipman Easy," "Jacob Faithful," "Peter Simple," and other characters dear to our early youth, appears in the "Life and Letters of Captain Marryatt," edited by his daughter; "Modern Leaders," a series of biographical sketches, by Justin McCarthy, reprinted from *The Galaxy*, should not be omitted in this category. A perusal of the work cannot fail to instruct and entertain the lovers of literary gossip.

If our civic fathers could be hired and paid to read Dr. Bastian's "The Beginnings of Life," (London and New York: Macmillan & Co.) the sanitary condition of the city, we opine, would be more satisfactory. The results of the researches of the author are curious and interesting; if it is not alarming to know how amazingly productive Street *debris* and decaying vegetable matter is. In the approaching elections, let each alderman be provided with this valuable work; or with a good microscope, let him investigate for himself the phenomena of life-evolution from any specimens he may find in the back-lanes of the city. In the interest of sanitary science, if not of literature, let Dr. Bastian's work be perused.

"The True History of Joshua Davidson," (Strahan & Co.) is a work that will set society by the ears. It professes to be written by a Communist of the working classes; but the style and matter of the book would indicate a workman in the higher walks of literature. It is earnest and out-spoken, and deals some heavy blows at the oppression of the upper classes. Its humour carries a bitter sting.

Humour, in literature and art, combines to make "The World of Wit and Humour," (London: Cassell, Petter & Galpin) an acceptable volume. The collection is a good one, and the pictures add seasoning to the dish. "Humorous Poems," selected and edited by W. M. Rosetti, (Moxon & Co.) is a selection of over two hundred pieces of rare, versified fun, in the series of Moxon's popular poets. "Judy Comicalities" is a gathering of droll odds and ends, profusely illustrated from the pages of *Judy*, and uniform with the "Essence of Fun" expressed from *Fun*—both English Comic Weeklies.

Messrs. Scribner, of New York, have brought out an authorized reprint of the first volume of Mr. Froude's "The English in America in the Eighteenth Century," which is to be completed in another volume. Mr. Froude's presence on this side the Atlantic, on the Quixotic sort of mission on which he has come, together with the ever active interest in the fruitful theme of "Irish grievances," will incite many to read the work. Whether the reader, however, will make out that he has been reading history, fiction, or mythology, when he has finished the perusal of the volume, we will not be bold enough to say.

Messrs. Appleton & Co. send us Mr. Darwin's new work on "The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals," which, no doubt, will be eagerly read. The book has the attraction of a number of interesting photographs, illustrating physiognomical expression, which will be found very curious. We trust to notice the volume, critically, in our next issue.

The People's Edition of Thomas Carlyle's Works, lately issuing from Messrs. Chapman & Hall's press, is to be continued by the publication, in the same cheap form, of the author's "History of Frederick the Great." Volume I is now issued.

Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co. have been entrusted by the eminent orator and divine, the Rev. W. Morley Punshon, LL.D., with the publication of a collected volume of his famous Lectures, together with several much admired Sermons. The work, which is designed to be a memorial of the distinguished gentleman's residence in Canada, is to appear in March, and prior to the author's return to England.

In "Memorials of a Quiet Life," by Augustus C. Hare (Strahan and Co.), we are introduced into one of the finest types of English home-life—the domestic world of the Two Brothers, Julius and Augustus Hare, the authors of "Guesses at Truth." The "Memorials" appear principally in the form of letters and journals illustrating the family life of these devout and scholarly men, and the picture is one which cannot fail to deeply impress every reader.

The Miscellaneous and Posthumous Works of Henry Thomas Buckle, whose death limited the author's "History of Civilization" to a mere fragment of what was intended to be a colossal undertaking, are now ready. The new volumes are mainly made up from Mr. Buckle's commonplace books; and the abstracts here given reveal the various quarries in which the author had worked, and makes one more than ever regret the incomplete character of his great design.

Mr. Proctor's "The Orbs Around Us," is intended as supplementary to the author's recent volume on "Other Worlds than Ours." The subject of the plurality of worlds and of their habitable condition is discussed in the work, as well as the nature and meteoric properties of the planets, comets, &c.

"The Social Growths of the Nineteenth Century," by Mr. F. R. Statham, is the substance of several lectures, delivered at Edinburgh, on the principal social movements of the day. The science of sociology is certain, in these utilitarian times, to become the most engrossing of studies.

The late Mr. Seward's diary of his "Travels around the World" is announced for early publication by Messrs. Appleton, of New York. The work can hardly fail to prove of interest, as it is heralded