

OUR TABLE.

COLONIAL EDITIONS OF BRITISH MAGAZINES AND REVIEWS.

The prohibition of the importation of American reprints of British Reviews and Magazines has been productive of the happiest results. By it the publishers at home have been induced to issue a cheap edition, expressly for circulation in the colonies—a consummation most devoutly wished for, and for which the Canadian public are principally indebted to the enterprise and spirit of Messrs. Armour & Ramsay, by whom the publications are for sale.

It is unnecessary to expatiate upon the merits of these Reviews and Magazines. Every one is more or less acquainted with them, and there are few who are not aware that through them a great proportion of the most valuable literature of the day is ushered into the world. Many of the best tales and novels which have for several years appeared, have been first published in the Magazines—while, in the Reviews, almost every question of interest to the world has been discussed, in the masterly style which forms the distinguishing characteristic of these periodicals, to which the mightiest talent of the day contributes.

The January and February numbers of these Magazines and Reviews are now before us. In the latter we have scarcely looked, but their tables of contents convince us that they are amply stored with the choicest articles. The former, which we have had the pleasure of perusing, are filled with excellent papers, on a great variety of literary and political subjects. Blackwood, the Edinburgh Quarterly, and the Dublin University Magazine, have each a lengthy paper on the present interesting position of Ireland. The authors, representing the views of different parties, of course take opposite sides of the question, which they discuss at length, if not with perfect fairness, at least with as much impartiality as can be looked for from writers so thoroughly imbued with party feelings as all of them necessarily are. The whole of the causes of the unhappy quarrel are, however, laid bare to the reader's view—the faults and errors of both Government and people are clearly pointed out—and remedies suggested, with a distinctness and sincerity which afford the best evidence of the intentness with which the question has been studied, and the deep importance attached to its early settlement. Those who desire to see the matter in all its bearings will do well to become possessors of the books, and carefully to peruse them. They may find positions taken, and opinions advanced, from which they may dissent; but they

can scarcely fail to rise from the perusal with a clearer view of the true sources of the difficulty than can be obtained by almost any other means.

Only a very small portion, however, of these valuable periodicals is occupied with this subject, although, at the present moment, it is to many the most interesting one. The literary papers and tales, to the general reader, will not be less entertaining or instructive. Indeed, the books are a perfect mine of literary wealth, from which we may each draw largely, without diminishing the store for others. They are well worth the price at which they can be purchased, many times told; and, without speaking of the justice of rewarding the enterprise to which the colonists are indebted for them, we may, in all sincerity, recommend the reader of taste and judgment, for his own sake, to give the Canadian publishers such encouragement as the purchase of the series will afford.

On the cover a notice will be seen, from which the prices of the several publications may be learned.

NEW SKETCHES OF EVERY DAY LIFE—BY FRIEDRIKA BREMER—TRANSLATED BY MARY HOWITT.

Such is the title of one of the most delightful books we have for some time had the pleasure of perusing. The fair authoress paints with the skill of a master of the subject, the "every day life" of the highly interesting country of which she is a native, as well as of that to which it is now politically united. Nor are we less indebted to our own accomplished countrywoman, for the spirit and fidelity which she has displayed in the translation.

In the preface, Mrs. Howitt complains, we presume with justice, of the cupidity of a certain publisher, who, on discovering the vast popularity of her translations of Miss Bremer's former works, has entered the field as her competitor, and is endeavouring to drive her from it, by issuing wretched translations of translations; or, in plainer terms, translating badly from the German, what has been already badly translated into that language from the Swedish. The justice and gallantry of the British people, we trust, will preserve her from suffering from the consequences of such a wretched attempt, and that the ungenerous conduct of which she complains will not be repeated. Mary Howitt has opened a mine of entertainment for the English people, and, in our humble opinion, will be no more than adequately rewarded by having the entire British literary market, as far as these works are concerned, to herself.

This book is for sale by Mr. R. W. S. Mackay, 115, Notre-Dame Street.