

Character-Sketches. By ABEL STEVENS, LL.D. Cr. 8vo, pp. 397. New York: Phillips & Hunt; and Methodist Book Rooms, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax. Price, \$1 50.

In this volume Dr. Stevens has collected a series of admirable studies in biography and criticism. The subjects are some of the most noted in the entire range of literature, except the first which belongs rather to heroic action.

Under the somewhat incongruous title of "Pastor and Colonel," Henri Arnaud, was at once the spiritual and military leader of the exiled Vaudois in their glorious return to their mountain homes. The world never witnessed a more brilliant achievement. Three hundred and sixty-seven men withstood a siege of eight months, shut in by 22,000 soldiers, and were victorious on eighteen engagements. Xenophon's Retreat of the Ten Thousand was a trivial exploit compared with this return of the Vaudois. Macaulay, or the Literary Life, gives a resume of the most extraordinary literary career of modern times. Klopstock and his *Meta*, or Love and Literature, is a touching story of the tender domestic relations of the author of the *Messiah*. Mary Somerville, or Woman and Science, is a record our girls should all read, showing how a woman kept her house, taught her children, practiced music and painting, studied languages, literature, poetry, and wrote some of the profoundest scientific works of the day, and in her ninety-second year wrote "I am still able to read books on the higher algebra four or five hours in the morning." The cameo sketch of Madam de Stael is a graphic account of the brilliant writer whom the despot Napoleon feared and hated more than a hostile army and whom he persecuted with all the malignity of his spiteful nature. The account of Voltaire's literary life among the Swiss, gives one a more favourable idea of the arch-skeptic than many have entertained. We should not forget his passionate championship of the Huguenot martyrs, Calas

and Sirven, and the reversal which he secured, after years of persistent effort, of their unjust condemnation.

The sketch of Channing "Heretic and Reformer," reveals a man of saintly character, of purest philanthropy, of most lovable spirit, who in spite of a doctrinal aberration must be dear to the heart of every lover of the beautiful, the pure, the true. One of the most noteworthy essays is that on John Wesley, for which the studies of a life-time have given the author the amplest preparation.

We know of no work of its extent which gives so succinct yet adequate a view of the so many of the great characters of history and literature who are best worth knowing about.

Schelling's Transcendental Idealism, A Critical Exposition. By JOHN WATSON, LL.D., F.R.S.C., Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Queen's University, Kingston. Pp. 257. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$1.25.

This is the second volume of "Griggs' Philosophical Classics," the most important philosophical series yet projected on this continent. Each volume is designed to give a critical exposition of some one masterpiece of German philosophy. The first of these, an exposition of Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, has been received with a chorus of approval. We augur for this second volume of the series a similar reception. It is to us a matter for congratulation, that a Canadian scholar contributes such an admirable volume to this important series.

Friedrich Wilhelm von Schelling is one of the most noteworthy of the modern school of German philosophers. At the age of twenty, before he left the University of Tubingen, he had found the principle of his peculiar system, which was to supersede the critical philosophy of Kant, and the subjective idealism of Fichte. At the age of twenty-four he gave at Jena a course of brilliant lectures, which aroused the highest enthusiasm; and at Munich he subsequently