

LITERARY NOTES.

As we go to press we are again startled with the intelligence, conveyed in a cable despatch, that the great explorer, Dr. Livingstone, of whose safety we had so recently been assured by the indefatigable Mr. Stanley, was now no more. Heroic in the utter loneliness of his position, and undaunted by perils and misfortunes, the graphic picture which Mr. Stanley has drawn of the old traveller's devotion to his mission must have won the admiration of every reader whose mind has lingered on the scene. To little purpose, it would seem, has the *terra incognita* of his labours been made to give up the secrets of long-cherished projects and aspirations, should death have now intervened not only to prevent the accomplishment of his purpose, but to hinder his restoration to the world again, and to the society of his admiring countrymen. But, without further confirmation, we cling to the hope that the report of Dr. Livingstone's death may prove untrue.

A cablegram brings us also the news of the decease of Mr. Adam Black, the Edinburgh publisher. There is here no room for doubting the reliability of this event, as the late worthy head of the great Scottish publishing house of Adam and Charles Black must have approached his hundredth year. His has been a long career, marked by many vicissitudes, yet it was one of which any of the modern guild of publishers might be proud. His connection with the proprietorship and publication, for many years back, of the "Waverley Novels," the "Encyclopædia Britannica," and many other important publications, marked him a notable bookseller of his time; while his civic and parliamentary career, in the representation of the "Modern Athens," brought him into universal contact.

Messrs. Dawson Bros., of Montreal, have made arrangements to bring out a cheap edition of Capt. Butler's new work, "The Wild North Land." The same author's earlier book on "The Great Lone Land" has met with an extensive sale. In the new volume, the interest attaching to the "exhaustless waste" stretching from the Valley of the Saskatchewan to the frozen regions of the north, will doubtless elicit the same eager expectation.

Messrs. Edmonston & Douglas issue a vademecum for young men and students on "Self-Culture, Intellectual, Physical and Moral," by Prof. Blackie, of Edinburgh University. It is a strong and vigorous book, and will well repay perusal.

Dr. Edward Freeman's Lectures on "Comparative Politics," now to hand, will be eagerly read by all thoughtful students of history and of the science of politics. They are an attempt, says the author, to claim for political institutions a right to a scientific treatment of exactly the same kind as that which has been so successfully applied to language, to mythology and to the progress of culture.

Messrs. Macmillan announce in preparation two new volumes from the pen of Sir Samuel Baker, concerning the recent expedition to Africa of this great traveller.

Two elegant little volumes reach us from Messrs Henry S. King & Co.—the one an exquisite selection of "English Sonnets," and the other an extremely tasteful collection of "Lyrics of Love," both of which must find favour with students of the muses.

Mr. Anthony Trollope, we know, entertain exalted opinions of the *raison d'être* of the writer of fiction. He illustrates in his own person at present his high sense of the important services of the novelist. For we find him weaving a triple thread of narrative. In Harper's *Weekly*, "Phineas Redux" is appearing serially; in Harper's *Bazaar*, we have "Harry Heathcote, of Gangoil," and, in shilling monthly parts, his English publishers are issuing "The Way We Live Now."

Messrs. Harper Bros. will issue during the month the Evangelical Alliance Report for 1873, embracing the essays and orations prepared for and delivered at the late General Conference held in New York, with a history of the Conference and other official documents.

The new issues of Messrs. Trubner, whose publications are unmistakably of the advanced school of thought, embrace an autobiography, entitled "Threading My Way," of the Spiritualist, Robert Dale Owen; and the first volume, on the "Foundations of a Creed," of a work under the title of Problems of Life and Mind, by George Henry Lewes.

Messrs. W. Isbister have ready a translation of Ludwig Haussler's great work. "The Period of the Reformation," and they announce new works by Sir Arthur Helps, Samuel Smiles, W. F. Rae and Mrs. Lynn Linton. The first volume of the important "Memoir of Dr. Guthrie," by his Sons, issued by this house, has passed at once into a second edition.

Messrs. Cassell issue, in their usual attractive style, the first volume of their new serial publications, "Old and New London," by Walter Thornbury; "The Races of Mankind," by Dr. Robert Brown, and "British Battles on Land and Sea," edited by Mr. James Grant, the well-known novelist.

"The Parisians," the last production of the late Lord Lytton, comes to us in a native reprint from Messrs. Hunter, Rose & Co., Toronto. We shall take occasion to review it next month, in connection with "Kenelm Chillingly," to which the new story bears the relation of twin-brother.

Messrs. Collins, Sons & Co., of Glasgow, introduce a novelty in educational literature in the shape of a periodical to be called "The School Newspaper: a Monthly Record of News and Extracts, for reading in the Upper Classes of Schools." Educationists will have to look to their laurels, or the Fourth Estate will crowd the fossil text-books out. The same publishers introduce to British schools the recent class-book on Algebra, prepared by Mr. Dean Loudon, of University College, Toronto, by arrangement with the Canadian publishers of the work, Messrs. Adam, Stevenson & Co.