

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

REDSKIN AND COWBOY: A Tale of the Western Plains. By G. A. Henty. Price \$1.50. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto: W. Briggs. 1891.

Mr. Henty is the King of Story-tellers for boys; and this place must be assigned to him not merely because he tells excellent stories in an excellent manner, which he does, but because he gives a true picture of many times and many phases of human life under the form of his fictitious narratives. Mr. Henty assures us that the picture which he gives of the life of the cowboy may be relied upon, and that the adventures and dangers of that life are in no degree coloured, since he has taken them from the lips of a near relative of his own who was for some years working as a cowboy in New Mexico. He was an actor in many of the scenes described, and so far from the author having heightened or embellished them, he has rather toned them down lest they should seem too improbable to be true.

Through Buffalo Bill and other sources of information we have now got to have a pretty full and accurate knowledge of the cowboys; and we are quite sure that the picture presented here by Mr. Henty is a faithful one. These pictures form the principal part of the book, but the beginning and the end deal with an episode which will perhaps engage the chief interest of the reader. It is the story of a man, who was the heir to an estate in England, being shot and killed by a gambler, who personated him and got possession of his property. This part of the book has a special interest of its own, and enhances the value of the story. Whether the readers of this book want an exciting story, or whether they want to know about cowboys and red Indians, in neither case will they be disappointed.

CONDUCT AS A FINE ART. (1) "The Law of Daily Conduct." By N. F. Gilman; (2) "Character Building." By E. P. Jackson. Price \$1.50. Boston and New York: Houghton and Mifflin; Toronto: Williamson and Company. 1891.

In this volume we have two Prize Essays, or rather two sets of essays which were deemed so equal in merit that the prize offered was equally divided between their authors. The contents of the books were naturally determined by the proposal of the prizegivers, the American Secular Union, a national association having for its object the complete separation of Church and State, who wanted something to assist teachers in the Public Schools, professing to be unsectarian, in teaching morality without religion. The essays contained in this volume, and published also in separate volumes by their respective authors, are therefore intended chiefly for the use of teachers, and a number of hints are given at the end of each essay in the first series for the guidance of teachers. The essays and the notes are both of value. The subjects are well chosen, and many good things are said on them. We must also concede the possibility of ethical teaching without a theological basis. Yet we are quite sure that, in practice, this cannot be successful. Secularism may have its uses if it recalls men to a careful study of the laws of their nature and of the world, if it helps to put a stop to superstition and the like. But we do not believe that beautiful human characters can be formed without religion—without a recognition of God; and therefore we find the contents of this volume chilly. If any persons like this chilly kind of ethical teaching, this volume will suit them entirely. By the way, we had almost forgotten to say that the two writers are "friends to religion." We suppose this ought to be reassuring.

EOTHEN. By A. W. Kinglake. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. Toronto: Williamson and Company.

The publishers of this English classic deserve the hearty thanks of the literary world for including it in the chaste and beautiful series of small volumes known as "Knickerbocker Nuggets." The comparatively recent death of the justly celebrated historian of the Crimean War gives an added interest to this exquisite edition of his equally celebrated work. It seems idle at this day to write of the merits of one of the most graphic, interesting and unique volumes of Eastern travel, or to dwell upon its clear and sparkling style and faultless English. Kinglake's "Eothen" and his friend Warburton's "The Crescent and the Cross" are two of the most delightful books of Eastern travel that have ever been written. Old lovers of "Eothen" will gladly welcome their favourite in its new and dainty dress. The artistic cover of blue, with gold tracery, the excellent paper, the clear and captivating print and its compact and convenient form will make it a more than welcome addition to their lettered treasures. Those who are as yet unfamiliar with the book should at once obtain it in this edition. We can readily fancy their delight as they linger over its alluring pages, from "Over the Border," with its inimitable interview between the Pasha and Traveller, aided by the Dragoman. The vivid description of that extraordinary Englishwoman, "Lady Hester Stanhope," and her remarkable life and surroundings. The memorable journey through "The Desert," when the English traveller was met, and "except that we lifted our hands to our caps and waved our arms in courtesy, we passed each other as if we had passed in Bond Street." To the last chapter "The Surprise of Satalieh,"

where, with imperturbable audacity, the Russian General and the author broke the Turkish quarantine, compromised the dignity of the authoritative Pasha, and left the absorbed and delighted reader in a state of aroused and unsatisfied expectancy.

BOOKS ON GAMES. THE HANDBOOK OF GAMES. "Card Games." Price 3s. 6d. London: G. Bell and Sons. 1891. "Baseball." By Newton Crane. Price 1s. "Skat." By L. V. Diehl. Price 1s. Same Publishers. "Chess." A Manual for Beginners. Edited by H. E. Bird. Price 1s. London: Dean and Son.

The first volume on our list belongs to the celebrated Bohn series, and is an established authority on games of cards. When we mention that the subject of Whist is handled by Dr. Wm. Pole, Solo Whist by Mr. R. F. Green, Piquet, Ecarté, Euchre, Bézique and Cribbage, by the gentleman who is known as "Berkeley," and a great number of Round Games by Baxter Wray, we have said enough to ensure the accuracy and value of the contents of the volume. The present edition has been carefully revised with the aid of well-known experts, first among them Mr. Henry Jones, known as "Cavendish," the "highest living authority on many of our games of chance and skill." Of the twenty games contained in the volume, the Editor tells us eleven are entirely new, not having been included in the old edition; and most of the remainder have undergone such alterations, as regards both matter and arrangement, that they have been practically re-written. As a consequence the book is about as good as it could be. We may mention that the parts dealing with particular games or classes of games are published separately, one shilling each.

"Baseball" is a separate treatise from the same publishers. We cannot honestly say that we like to see Baseball taking the place of Cricket, and we hope it will not oust the nobler game. If, however, it is to be played, it is better that it should be played scientifically, and Mr. Crane's book will help to this result. With great candour the author prints a memorandum from the Prince of Wales, after witnessing a game of Baseball, in which His Royal Highness says he considers it an excellent game, but Cricket as superior—which we also think.

Another book from the same publishers, belonging to what they call the Club Series, is a treatise on "Skat," by Mr. Diehl. We suppose that many of our readers have never heard of Skat, and we are afraid our space will not allow of an adequate exposition of the subject. The author of this volume declares that "Skat is, without exaggeration, one of the most fascinating, exciting and interesting card games of modern times." It originated in Thuringia about the beginning of the present nineteenth century, but various improvements have been introduced into the game in other parts. So great has its popularity become that in many parts of Germany it has displaced Whist. For further particulars we must refer to the handbook.

Last on our list is a handy treatise on "Chess" for the use of beginners. The terms and laws are clearly explained, and the leading forms of attack and defence elucidated. Those who wish to be initiated into the deeper mysteries of the game will naturally have recourse to books like those of Staunton; but Mr. Bird will help them to a good beginning.

THE *Writer* is always a favourite with persons of literary tastes, and holds its own well this month. Among the most readable articles are "Joaquin Miller at Home," by Edna Verne; "How to Write History," by Jas. C. Moffet. Chas. E. Hurd and J. E. Chamberlain write of the young American author, Hamlin Garland, whose portrait adorns this issue.

OCTOBER'S *Overland Monthly* opens with a pleasant sketch of "The Leland Stanford, Junior, University," by Millicent W. Shinn. This University is a gift to his State by the well-known Governor Stanford. It is in process of erection, and upon the death of the donor will have a foundation, it is said, of \$20,000,000. The article by Professor David Starr Jordan, "The Church and Modern Thought," will be read with more than ordinary interest from the fact that the writer is the President of the Stanford University. "The Fruit Canning Industry," by Charles S. Greene, is an instructive illustrated article. Stories, poems and other articles complete the number.

THE sketch of William Cobbett in *Temple Bar* for October would do good service if it only induced its readers to buy and study "Cobbett's Grammar of the English Language," a remarkable grammar written by a self-made master of the English tongue; "Some Particulars concerning Rev. William Cole" are personal gleanings from the MS. note-books of a good old Anglican parson of the eighteenth century, to which note-books, we are told, the pedigree hunter, archaeologist and historian have been deeply indebted; W. R. Purchas contributes a pleasant article on "The Compleat Angler." The serials, "Mr. Chanis Sons" and "Love or Money," sustain the reader's interest.

THE *English Illustrated Magazine* for October has for a frontispiece a picture of Judge Hughes, the author of "Tom Brown at Rugby," and two very interesting articles on the famous Rugby School, one by T. Hughes, the other by H. Lee Warner. Benjamin King contributes a capital article on "The Birds of London." The "Broad Gauge Engines" are treated of by A. H. Malan, who regrets the

sum down and 8 per cent. of the gross receipts. Instead they accepted a light opera by Strauss and "The Lovers of Teruel," by Breton, who last season introduced some of the music to London. Meanwhile the first production of "L'Ami Fritz" has been secured by the intendant of the Berlin Opera.

FREUND'S *Music and the Drama* writes of De Koven's "Robin Hood" as follows: "It is not too strong to say that the production of 'Robin Hood'—De Koven's melodious opera—at the Standard Theatre, was a revelation in the line of English opera in this city. The troupe, save in one instance, is well balanced, thoroughly drilled and rehearsed, and includes even for the minor parts artists of great ability and experience, whose merits have been promptly recognized by the New York public. Of course, they were known by reputation, but had not been heard here. They came, they sang, they conquered."

CAMILLE SAINT-SAENS has been spending the summer months on the shores of Lake Geneva, busily engaged in writing several *morceaux* for the piano and orchestra. He is fond of travel. He will disappear unexpectedly and his nearest friends will not be informed of his destination. He went recently to Africa, his long absence and silence causing much anxiety. Of late the work of Saint-Saens has been prominent in the best concert programmes. Vocalists last season gave much prominence to the aria from "Samson and Delilah." He won his first musical reputation as organist of the Madeleine Church in Paris.

Truth tells the following story: "A poor man suddenly became stone deaf, and thus lost his means of livelihood. Some charitable people therefore subscribed, and, not without a touch of gentle sarcasm, bought him a barrel-organ. After the man had been on his rounds a month or two, one of the subscribers, a confirmed practical joker, surreptitiously removed the cylinder, so that the machine would not utter a sound. The organ-grinder, on the very first day after this operation had been performed, brought back thrice the amount of money he usually took. Whether the people entered into the spirit of the joke, or whether the offerings may be attributed to public gratitude, is a question upon which it would be idle to speculate."

SPEAKING of Pachmann's farewell recital in America, the *Home Journal* says: "At him critics alternately smile and frown, concerning him amateurs rejoice and lament. But he is *sui generis*. A magnetic, egotistic, shoulder-struggling piano acrobat, through whom, in some mysterious manner, filters the pure essence of Chopin's poetry; falling upon the listener's heart in storm-breeding tones of rich sonority, or tinkling in pearly, glittering, dew-drop touches that hint of summer moonlights when blue-green shadows are scented with the signs of dying lilies, and the pain of living is lightened by warm fragrance of the opening roses." And this comic gush counts for high art criticism in certain quarters! The "storm-breeding tone of rich sonority" may furnish a text to Rubinstein for yet another movement to his Ocean "Symphony."

MR. FREDERICK BOSCOVITZ may well have been delighted with the reception afforded him Thursday week in the hall of the Toronto College of Music. Those who had heard him many years ago were pleased to hear him again, and the younger generation were evidently enthralled by the graceful and sympathetic playing of the distinguished pianist and composer. Of course Mr. Boscovitz brings to his work a very marked individuality, and an occasional disregard of *tempo* and *meance*, which might not prove acceptable to persons of severe and scholastic taste, this being very noticeable in several of the Chopin numbers and the "Harmonious Blacksmith." In pieces of a dreamy nature, such as "Clair de Lune," he exhibited great delicacy of touch, and gave especial pleasure by performing several of his own popular compositions. One of these, the "Chant de Martin," has long been known as one of the most popular teaching pieces ever written. Mr. Schuch sang two fine songs by Mr. Boscovitz in good firm style, and M^{de}. de Chaderédes revealed unexpected piquancy and charm in a pretty French trifle. Mr. Boscovitz will doubtless be shortly heard again under the auspices of the Toronto College of Music.

Few have recognized in the Princess Joseph Windishgrätz, whose death at Vienna has just been announced, the famous ballerina Maria Taglioni. Born in 1833, the daughter of the composer of "Satanella," she made her debut in London in the year 1849, and immediately won for herself the eminence enjoyed by Grisi and Therese Esler. The Queen was one of her warmest admirers. She subsequently became the *première danseuse* of the grand operas of Vienna and Berlin, and among her best friends and admirers was Emperor Nicholas of Russia. Just about the same time that Prince Adalbert of Prussia contracted a morganatic marriage with her friend and comrade, Therese Esler, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwerin became infatuated with her charms, and made her an offer of marriage. La Taglioni was, however, far too proud to be contented with a morganatic union. A few years later, in 1866, she contracted a regular marriage at Vienna with Prince Joseph Windishgrätz, who held the rank of colonel in the Austrian army. The marriage proved out exceedingly happy, and a few weeks ago she celebrated her silver wedding. She is sincerely mourned not only by her husband, who is now a general of cavalry and captain of the Archer Guard of the emperor, but by her son, Prince Seraphin Windishgrätz, and by Viennese society.