

of an Indian burial mound which Uncle Roseladies' grandfather had promised the Shawnees should never be disturbed as long as grass grew and water ran. There are many amusing incidents in the book, which will doubtless please the boys and girls for whom it was written, although it gives no indication of the ability which the author displays in the *Romance of Dollard* and other works.

THE BOOK OF CHRISTMAS—Descriptive of the Customs, Ceremonies, Traditions, Superstitions, Fun, Feeling and Festivities of the Christmas Season. By T. K. Hervey. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

The Book of Christmas is a collection of the Christmas lore of all ages, put together cleverly and with a tender hand by a true lover of the season and all its accompaniments. The book is divided into two parts. The first, after an introductory chapter, contains an account of the Christmas season, its mingled origin and celebrations, ancient and modern; reflections on the feelings of the season, religious influences, church services, &c.; also domestic preparations; carols, decorations, and many curious customs. The second part is devoted to the festive days in particular as they come, from St. Thomas' Day on the 21st December, to Twelfth Night on the 6th January, this period being the acknowledged "Christmas Time." The book as a whole will be found most valuable for reference, and is besides most entertaining and pleasant reading. It is well got up, with numerous illustrations by R. Seymour.

PRINCE VANCE. The Story of a Prince with a Court in his Box. By Eleanor Putnam and Arlo Bates. Boston: Roberts Brothers.

This very pretty fairy story tells of a little prince, "only son of his parents, and sole heir to the kingdom," who neglects his lessons, refuses to learn obedience, boxes his tutor's ears "because the poor old man wanted him to learn the boundaries of what would some day be his own kingdom," and behaves so outrageously that his good fairy godmother left him, declaring he should not look upon her face again until sorrow had made him wiser. The prince said he would not miss her very much, with her scoldings and fault-finders; and soon after made the acquaintance of the Blue Wizard, who gave him a box of bon-bons by which he was enabled to play a sad trick on his royal parents and the whole court, changing them to pigmies—a change which the Blue Wizard coolly tells him can be undone by nobody but the Crushed Strawberry Wizard. In his search for the Crushed Strawberry Wizard the prince has some rough experiences, in the course of which he learns many salutary lessons. The story is a veritable fairy tale, charmingly told. The numerous illustrations are by Frank Myrick, and in binding, paper, and typography the book is everything a holiday book should be.

ALDEN'S CYCLOPAEDIA OF UNIVERSAL LITERATURE. Vol. XI. New York: John B. Alden.

The new instalment of this handy Cyclopaedia of literature deals with a section of the letter H., and as the work goes on it becomes increasingly valuable to the literary student. As we have said hitherto, in speaking of this work, it is not only a biographical and critical dictionary of authors, but a store-house of excellent selections from the writings of the authors represented, and a selection that gives the student a fair idea of the author's style and work. The present volume deals with some seventy-five literary men of all ages and countries, among whom are Herodotus, Homer, Horace, Hesiod, Hood, Horne, Houghton (Monkton Milnes), Howells, Howitt, Hook, Holmes, Holland, Hogg, Hobbes, Heyse, Herrick, Herschel, and Hervey, a goodly array of notable men in the different departments of literary work. Nothing could well be more useful to the student of literature than this popular and readily accessible publication, and its speedy completion will doubtless be looked for eagerly and with interest. Each volume is an excellent half-dollar's worth. Cheapness is not always a desirable gain in literary enterprises: here, however, it is combined with positive merit, with regard both to the excellence of the editor's work and to that of the enterprising publisher.

THE STORY OF BERYL. By Charles Woodward Hutson. Cloth, pp. 157, 30 cents.

A SEA ISLAND ROMANCE. By William Perry Brown. Cloth, pp. 161, 50 cents. New York: John B. Alden.

These are both stories of South Carolina. In the first, Prof. Hutson presents a very pleasing picture of Southern life before the great Civil War. In the second we are shown some aspects of social life in the Palmetto State after the war had freed the slaves and left the planters impoverished but irreconcilable. The interest in *The Story of Beryl* hinges somewhat on an old family feud which was happily healed by the marriage of Beryl La Clide and Philip Brailsford; in that of *A Sea Island* on the pride of a once opulent planter and his stubborn prejudice against the "Yankee," both of which are completely broken by the wreck of the "Mist" leaving him, as he thought, childless and hopeless in his old age. Both are love stories, but of the wholesome sort, without a suggestion of coarseness or of the sensuousness so common in modern novels. Nor is there any lack of incident. In *The Story of Beryl* the chapters describing the highwaymen's attack on young Ramsay and the latter's pursuit and capture of the survivor

of his assailants are stirring and animated and not wanting in humour. There is perhaps more of humour and of pathos too in *A Sea Island Romance*. The gloom which settles down on the old planter's home and on that of his objectionable Connecticut neighbour after the disastrous Christmas pic-nic affects even the critical reader and is only dispelled by the general happiness with which the story closes. This is said to be Mr. Brown's first novel, and if so some very superior work may be expected from him hereafter.

B. C. 1887: A RAMBLE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA. By J. A. Lees and W. J. Clutterbuck, authors of "*Three days in Norway*." London: Longmans, Green & Co. and New York.

B. C. 1887 is not an abstruse archaeological work, as its first title would suggest, but a very interesting and amusing account of the rambles of three Englishmen (by two of their number) in British Columbia, in the summer and autumn of 1887. In the introduction, the *raison d'être* of the book is set forth under the heads, "Who, Why, Where, How, and What," and the first chapter describes the embarking of the party at Liverpool in the *Sardinian* of the Allan line. The description of an Atlantic voyage does not give much scope for originality; and the first impressions of the travelling Englishman respecting the St. Lawrence Gulf and River, Quebec, Montreal, Toronto and, in fact, Canada generally, have been graciously bestowed upon a long suffering (if somewhat ungrateful and wholly unregenerate) country *ad nauseam*. But our present authors have steered entirely clear of all the old sand-banks, and in knowing, as it were, "when to stop" have managed to invest even that time worn and threadbare subject, "An Atlantic Voyage" with a freshness and interest quite uncommon. The Allan line (and apparently with much reason) comes in for a share of adverse criticism; while the most interested promoters of the C.P.R. could hardly express a firmer belief in the future of the road, or more admiration for the enterprise and engineering skill which has given to this young Canada of our's the greatest railway of the age. The scene of the rambles proper is the south eastern portion of British Columbia, from the railway to the boundary line, which the rambles cross, and taking the Northern Pacific Railway to the coast, thence by sea to Victoria, return via C.P.R. With the account of the rambles themselves, the reader cannot fail to be charmed. Being undertaken chiefly for the purpose of sport, they are almost entirely on foot or by canoe, and make us familiar in a very real and delightful measure with the beauty and vastness of the Pacific Province. In the last chapter the authors say: "This simple account of our commonplace doings in the west has been written in the belief that by it a better idea of what life in the country is really like, and what the facilities for travel, sport, and farming are, than from any work which simply aims at telling the reader like a dictionary all that can be said on those subjects." Which half apology is in our opinion wholly unnecessary; as having read *B.C. 1887* with much interest and even more entertainment, we can only say to all "whom it may concern." "Go thou and do likewise."

TURBANS AND TAILS: or, Sketches of the unromantic East. By Alfred S. Bamford, B. A. London: Sampson Low, Marston & Co.

The contents of this entertaining volume of Sketches of the East are classified under two headings, one, "The Mild Hindoo," dealing with humanity in the East Indies; the other, "The Man of Han," dealing with life in China among the "Celestials" of the Flowery Land. The writer, who is a keen and practised observer, introduces us to scenes in the east a little out of the way of the ordinary traveller and "globe-trotter." He writes brightly and entertainingly, but at the same time manages to impart a good deal of instruction to the reader on a variety of topics in the interesting countries visited by the author. Occasionally, a quiet humour is manifested, which gives spice to the narrative, as in the following incident, describing how a Bengal student at the University of Calcutta fooled the academic Dons and obtained the papers set for examination by a bit of native nonchalant cleverness. Says the author: "The Bengali is allowed by all to have a certain smartness, and this is too often seen in the skill with which he will reap that whereon he has bestowed no labour. Some years ago the questions for the various examinations were lithographed in the city, and innumerable were the tricks of fertile brains by which the candidates obtained illicit knowledge of them. One of the examiners in the art course told me of an ingenious youth who, by some means having gained access to the room where the lithographing was going on, seized a favourable opportunity of sitting down upon the stone, and walked home in the happy consciousness that on his own person he bore a private printing-press with which he might print off the secrets of the dread examiners. The University now attempts to secure itself against such tricks by obtaining the questions from the examiners in time to permit of their being sent to England to be printed, the printed copies returning by post direct to the hands of the authorities." The author gives us other amusing instances of oriental craft, as well as of other characteristics of a people whom he has evidently studied closely and well. Equally entertaining are the chapters devoted to a study of the "Heathen Chinese." The social life of these children of Han is capably depicted, and the reader will gather a very vivid idea from the author's sketches of life in the Flowery Land. The picture of "Chinese official-

dom" is a picture hardly less true of the official corruption which prevails nearer home. Bribery and extortion flourish apace in China and official greed is not a pleasing study there for the moralist. The salaries of officials, remarks the author, are in China the smallest part of their income and the least worth thinking about. "Courtesy demands," he adds, "that they accept what the government pays them; but the exigencies of their position demand that they pay themselves. The only thing that is really required of them is that they pay themselves discreetly: that they set a tolerable limit to their squeeze. As long as they do this, every one is satisfied; the people below submit cheerfully, and the greater men above in their turn squeeze comfortably and proportionately. But were a mandarin squeezes so inconsiderately and recklessly as to provoke discontent, he is imperilling the peace of the empire, and it will go hard with him."

The publishers of *The Canadian Advance* (Toronto) have issued a neatly-bound volume of 250 pp. containing over twenty of the Sunday morning sermons delivered by Rev. Joseph Wild, D.D., during the past year, and not heretofore published. The contents comprise a wide range of subjects of general religious interest. The price of the work is \$1 and can be obtained from the publishers of *The Advance*.

MR. C. C. BLAKE, the weather prophet of Kansas, sends us a pamphlet containing his tables of weather predictions for 1889. The table of precipitation in rain and melted snow includes every State in the Union and the Canadian Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba, but in the table of temperature Ontario and Manitoba seem to be omitted. Mr. Blake predicts a severe drouth next year throughout the New England, Middle Atlantic and Western States, abundant rain and good crops on the Pacific Coast and a superabundance of rain in the Southern States. The coming winter will not be a mild one. It will be a good, steady, old-fashioned one, moderating in February, through snow, sleet and rain, to warmer temperature.

We have received from the author *Facettes of Love: From Browning*, being the introductory address of the Browning Society of the New Century Club of Philadelphia, November 12th, 1888. It is a thoughtful study of Browning's treatment of the master passion—

The gem
Centuply angled o'er a diadem.

The author quotes from the poet "detached passages of concentrated passion," but adds, "you cannot name me a single whole poem, short or long, which breathes this spirit throughout. Somewhere in it there is sure to be a note of coldness which jars. This is not an idiosyncrasy of mine. The general public feels it. I do not know any one song of his which is popular as a love ditty. All his dramas turned on love, yet every one of them failed to win applause, because it failed to touch the heart of the audience. This is the real reason why Browning is not read but by a limited class. It is not his obscurity, as is generally supposed, but because his intellectual nature constantly interferes with the full and free expression of the emotions." Browning is seen at his best in the portraiture of the "intellectual facettes of love," to which the author devotes a considerable portion of his address.

THE *Nineteenth Century* for November devotes considerable space to education questions. "The Sacrifice of Education to Examination" is the subject of a numerously signed protest and of articles by Professors Max Müller, Freeman, and Frederic Harrison, followed by a very sensible paper on "The Cry for Useless Knowledge," by Lord Armstrong; "Frederick the Third and the New Germany" by R. E. Prothero; "The memoirs of Comte de Brienne," by Baron Ferdinand Rothschild, and "Queen Elizabeth and the English Church," by Mr. Gladstone, are some of the other important papers in this number.

Saturday Night was born about a year ago, and now celebrates its second Christmas season by the publication of a handsome Christmas number. Mr. E. E. Sheppard contributes "The Dance at Deadman's Crossing, a Christmas story of the Canadian North-West," and Mr. H. K. Cockin a short sketch, "Christmas Eve in a Madhouse," and two poems, "Christmas Tide," and "How the Children Saved Naumburg." Professor Goldwin Smith has a neat translation from Martial, entitled "A Roman Gentleman's Idea of Happiness." Other contributors of prose and verse are Hon. Wm. Macdougall, A. F. Pirie, Ethelwyn Wetherald, E. W. Sandys, Minnie Irving, Isabel Holmes, E. Pauline Johnson, Henry Pica, John R. Robinson, Esperance, Helen M. Merrill, and E. F. Clarke, M.P.P. Two fine pictorial supplements, "Summer Pastimes" and "Winter Sports," are given away with the number. 25 cts.

THE Christmas number of the *Globe* deserves special commendation. It is highly creditable to the publishers both for its typographical appearance and for its artistic and literary excellence. They have procured stories, sketches, and poems from some of the very best of Canadian writers, most of whom are well known contributors to THE WEEK. We need only mention such names as George Iles, Wilfred Chateauclear (W. D. Lighthall), Seranus, Louisa Murray, William McLennan, T. G. Marquis, and Bel Thistlethwaite (whose tender and perfectly finished sonnets appear from time to time in THE WEEK over her own name), to indicate the literary quality of the number. In addition to the illustrations throughout the text there is a fine reproduction of Mr. L. R. O'Brien's "Stanley Park, Vancouver, B.C.," and two smaller plates,