

necessity of recording our decided disapproval: on the "Typical Systems of Nature and Revelation." We abstain from further comment in the mean time; but earnestly hope that the able and (generally) judicious authors will revise the chapter referred to, and that future editions of so valuable a production as that which we have had under review, will be purged from the only considerable blemish which the work, in its present state, exhibits.

G. P. Y.

*Bothwell: A Poem in six parts.* By W Edmondstoune Aytoun, D. C. L., Author of "Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers, &c," W. Blackwood and Sons. Edinburgh and London, 1856.

*Leaves of Grass.* Brooklyn, New York, 1855.

In the works named above we have two not unmete representatives of the extremes of the Old and of the New World poetic ideal: "Bothwell," the product of the severely critical, refined, and ultra-conservative author of the "Lays of the Scottish Cavaliers;" and "Leaves of Grass," the wild, exuberant, lawless offspring of Walt Whitman, a Brooklyn Boy, "One of the Roughs!"

The historical poem has been heralded by rumor with her hundred tongues; and expectation has been whetted by anticipations naturally suggested by the promise of a work destined for posterity, from the caustic pen already glittering in the "Bon Gaultier" ranks, and trenchant in the satiric pages of "Firmilian; a Spasmodic Tragedy." He who has lashed, with such biting keenness, the poets and the critics of his day; and laughed to scorn, alike the metaphysical poetries of an "In Memoriam," the morbid tristness of "A Life-drama," the transcendental theosophy of a "Festus," and all the vagaries of a Carlyle, a Ruskin, or a Gilfillan: must be assumed to offer something which he, at least, believes to approach more nearly the true requisites of poetic perfection. More than one of the *dramatis personæ* of "Firmilian" have a character for critical reprisals, not overlooked by the caustic author of that "spasmodic tragedy;" yet here he enters the lists, and, doffing all quaint humor and satiric guise, he gravely flings down his knightly gauge of battle, as if he had never sported with the mummers, and made game of the literary guild of modern cavaliers.

The hero of Professor Aytoun's "Bothwell," is that grim Scottish Baron, the murderer of Darnley, and the ravisher of the unhappy Mary of Scotland: in himself dark enough for all the shadow that