

Insects—beetles, grasshoppers, flies, bees, wasps, mosquitoes, with the wheat fly, or "weevil," and the Hessian fly, which are the dread of farm-

ers. *Mollusca*—oyster, clam, muscle, &c. *Radiata*—Star, cuttle, and jelly fishes, &c.

REVIEWS.

Our spring freshet of books is come. The renewal of steam communication with our American Athens, has brought us such treasures of literature, that its plenty bewilders us. It is too late also to avail ourselves of for this month, so we must be content with a cursory glance at the tables of contents. We have to draw attention to the four *British Reviews*, two numbers of the *Atlantic*, *Blackwood*, &c., among the serials; and *Dawson's Archaia*, *McClintock's narrative* of the hapless Arctic adventurers, &c., among the books.

Among the many topics of interest which the Reviews take up, POLITICAL MATTERS are represented by the article on Government Contracts, and a fanciful allegory on the Social Organism in the *Westminster*; by an article on Reform Schemes in the *London Quarterly*; and by two on British Taxation and Legal Reforms, in the *Edinburgh*. SCIENTIFIC students will read with pleasure the article on Coal, and that on the Acclimatisation of Animals in the *Edinburgh*; and those called "Fossil Footsteps," and "Colour and Taste," in the *North British*. RELIGIOUS MATTERS, as usual, take much space in the last mentioned Review. The articles in it on the Silence of Scripture, and on Methodism, will repay perusal. The Revival attracts the favorable notice of the *Quarterly*, and the reverse from the *Westminster*—the latter, placing most prominently the physical accompaniments, pronounces it due to superstition and hysteria, while the former commends it. COLONIAL MATTERS occupy much space. China becomes of interest in connection with her present relations with the Western Powers. Late works have thrown much additional light on the political affairs of that mysterious land. The *Quarterly* bitterly blames Admiral Seymour for not affording that assistance to Lord Elgin

that might have been expected. Ceylon has recently been well illustrated by a work of Sir Emerson Tennent's, on which all the critics lavish praise. The increasing value of this tropical possession is shown by the fact, that its export of coffee to Britain has multiplied thirty fold within thirty years, being now about 70,000,000 lbs. This growth in material prosperity is, however, dwarfed, when compared with the expansion of Australian resources, within the last quarter of a century. Austria forms the subject of a long article in the *North British*, and the Roman Walls in England are noticed in the *Quarterly*—which throws doubt on the common opinion, that Adrian and Severus successively built them, but refers them to a later date, when the Roman arms were much weaker than under those able and prosperous emperors. BIOGRAPHY is the theme of several articles. The *North British* deals with Erasmus as a satirist, and reviews briefly the many scientific labors of Professor George Wilson; while the *Quarterly* takes up the sad story of Cowper, and argues, that neither pietism or poetry induced the melancholy state of his mind at intervals, but that it was innate. The same Review dwells on the story, almost as sad, of those men who, by successive steps, let to that wonderful application of machinery to manufactures, which has placed England at the head of all countries in an economical point of view. It is singularly shown here, by a recital of the lives of quite a dynasty (we beg pardon of any reader who may be a purist as regards the use of words) of inventors, how often their fate has been—in common with unpractical men of poetic temperament—to labour, and struggle, and, at last, to die, like Moses on Pisgah, with only a bird's-eye view of the prosperity they had brought their country to, but which they themselves were